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Quetta

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## Grand tribal Jirga invites "enraged" Balochs to join national mainstream to play effective role in dev. of country

**Caretaker Chief Minister urges all elders to take personal interest in resolving burning tribal disputes; asserts kindness of State cannot be considered as it's weakness at all; says no one to be allowed to spoil peace**

Independent Report

QUETTA: The grand tribal Jirga has called for resolving all long-standing tribal disputes and invited the "enraged" Balochs to join the national mainstream. The Jirga unanimously decided to expedite the efforts for establishing sustainable peace in the province. The Jirga was of the strong view that the solution can be found out to resolve the issues being faced, and invited the angry Baloch leaders to come on the dialogue table. The tribal Jirga was held at the Chief Minister secretariat here on Wednesday. Prominent among those present in the tribal Jirga

were the caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki, tribal elder Nawab Muhammad Khan Shahwani, Sardar Umar Khan Gorgaj, caretaker Provincial Minister for Youth Affairs, Mir Jamal Khan Raisani, Minister for Home, Mir Zubair Jamali, former militant commander, Gulzar Imam Shambay besides other notables. Addressing the participants of Jirga, the caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki regretfully pointed out that Balochistan is entangled in the long-standing tribal disputes. He said that the efforts can be expedited to end the tribal clashes through elders.

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki expressing his views at Grand Jirga regarding peace and reconciliation process in the province



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the inaugural session of the Islamabad Conclave 2023 titled "Pakistan in a changing world", at the Institute of Strategic Studies.

## Pakistan needs dynamic approach to address threats to regional peace: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday said amid the challenging global scenario, Pakistan required a dynamic approach to address the threats to regional peace. Addressing the inaugural session of Islamabad Conclave 2023 themed 'Pakistan in a changing world' organized by Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), he said Pakistan must consciously rediscover its vision in the wake of super power rivalries and interference of neighbouring states. The president, in this regard, emphasized close liaison among politicians and parliamentarians, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence for effective deliberations

and policy-making. President Alvi said Pakistan's strategic shift from geo-politics to geo-economic and the regional situation in the wake of India's belligerence needed the policies in line with regional and systemic developments. President Alvi said the civilized world today had forgotten the principles of morality and was witnessing prevalence of wars waged by powerful against weaker segments. The situation in Gaza, he said, was an alarming sign of the apathy of the world which could not stop the massacre of innocent people including women and children.

Continued on page 2

## Nation should have no doubt about general elections on February 8: PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said that the nation should not have any doubts about the general elections, scheduled to be held on February 8, 2024. "I have no doubt about it... The concerns are often associated with our political system. We have a history of our own," he remarked in an interview with Independent Urdu, published on Wednesday. The prime minister expressed the hope that the elections would be held in free and fair manner. To a question, he said he did not consider the general elections of the 70s as a benchmark either as many

people had different opinions about those polls. "Of course, they were very transparent. At that time, it was already decided before the elections which way they would go to, so I consider it a problem," he added. He said as the arrangements were in place, and he was hopeful that the caretaker government would be able to give results in a relatively better way. The prime minister said that he endorsed the Election Commission's denial of any delay in the polls. "They (Election Commission) have to conduct (elections). We are with them." He said as per the Elec-

tion Commission, the election schedule will cover 56 days, based on which the schedule should be announced by December 14. Asked about the notions of elections being associated with the decline in Imran Khan's popularity and his exclusion from the electoral process, the prime minister termed it a political analysis. However, the elections would judge the popularity of any political leader, he commented. To a question about the participation of Imran Khan or his party in the general elections, he said there was no restriction on him as yet.

Continued on page 2

## Military College Sui manifestation of our national unity: Governor

**Exhorts cadets of Military College to take wholehearted part in development and construction of country and brighten name of province**

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that the Military College Sui is manifestation of our national solidarity, adding he exhorted the cadets to take wholehearted part in the development and construction of country and nation brightening name of the province. The Governor was speaking to the cadets of Military College Sui during an annual ceremony at the Military College Sui on Wednesday. The Commandant of Military College, Brigadier Waseem Qaiser, members

of faculty, cadets and their parents were present at the ceremony. The Governor said that what we are seeing regarding ability of the students of Military College Sui and its overall performance is the dream that comes true for it was established some 12 years ago. He said that the marvelous achievement of the cadets is guarantee of the bright future of Military College Sui. He stressed that the time has come that we may use physical and mental potential of our younger generation in the best inter-

Continued on page 2

## PM orders emergency polio eradication plan for high-risk areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday directed formulation of an emergency polio eradication plan and launch of integrated programmes in high-risk urban councils. Chairing a meeting on Task Force on Polio Eradication, he emphasized monitoring of polio vaccination campaigns by using modern technology. Expressing the recent report of police cases, the prime minister regretted that the crippling disease, which was eradicated from the globe, still existed in Pakistan and Afghanistan. PM Kakar said regarding the use of Inactivated Polio Virus (IPV) vaccine, best international practices and research needed to be taken into consideration. He directed resumption of the regular polio immunization campaign across the country.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting on Task Force of Polio Eradication.



Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar addressing participants of a ceremony at Military College Sui

## Decision taken to fix for hearing presidential reference regarding murder of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto

ISLAMABAD (Online): Decision has been taken to fix presidential reference regarding murder of former Prime Minister (PM) Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto for hearing soon. Important progress has come to fore on hearing of presidential reference on the matter of murder of former PM Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. The reference for declaring the execution of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto a judicial murder is likely to be fixed for hearing in next week. A larger bench of Supreme Court (SC) under the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJO) Qazi Faez Isa will hear the presidential reference. It is pertinent to mention here former president Asif Ali Zardari had filed presidential reference in SC in 2011. 6 hearing of the reference have taken place so far.

## Advocate killed, one injured in Mastung firing

QUETTA (APP): The unknown armed men gunned down an advocate and injured his colleague in Mastung town area of Balochistan on Wednesday. According to police sources, the victim identified as Muhammad Waris Advocate along with his colleague Haji Habibullah was on way to the Session Court from his house when armed assailants opened fire at them and fled from the scene near Major Chowk area. As a result, Muhammad Waris died on the spot after receiving

## Afghan authorities close Torkham Border for crossing

PESHAWAR (INP): The Afghan authorities on Wednesday closed the Torkham Border crossing on their side after raising an objection over installation of a "Welcome to Pakistan" signboard by the Pakistani authorities on its side. The border officials said the Afghan authorities have closed the border crossing for every kind of movement on their side as a protest. The Pakistani authorities were installing a signboard inscribed with "Welcome to Pakistan" at Torkham zero point upon which the Afghan authorities raised an objection and in protest closed the border. The border authorities said the situation has led to closure of all kinds of trading and transit traffic and pedestrian crossing at the border. The officials further said that the Afghan move may adversely affect the regional trader and cause commercial and financial losses to the traders on both sides.

## IHC rejects Imran petition seeking withdrawal of his appeal plea against EC decision

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice (CJ) IHC Aamer Farooq here Wednesday. The court rejected PTI chairman Imran Khan petition seeking withdrawal of his appeal plea against Election Commission (EC) decision in Toshakhana reference. The court announced reserved judgment on PTI chairman petition to withdraw his appeal plea against EC October 21, 2022 decision. The decision was announced by Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamer Farooq here Wednesday. The court rejected PTI chairman Imran Khan petition seeking withdrawal of his appeal plea against Election Commission (EC) decision in Toshakhana reference. It is pertinent to mention here chairman PTI had challenged EC October 21, 2022 decision. Chairman PTI wants to withdraw the appeal from IHC and run it in Lahore High Court.

## Inclusion of Justice Ijaz in SJC as member challenged in SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): The inclusion of Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan as member in Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) in the matter of proceedings against Justice Mazhar Ali Naqvi has been challenged in Supreme Court (SC). Mian Dad advocate has filed a constitutional petition in SC making federal government and secretary SJC respondents. Complete order sheet of former CPO Ghulam Muhammad Dogar case is attached with the petition. The application regarding objections on Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan in SJC is also attached with the constitutional petition. Mian Dad has said the reference of corruption and misconduct against Justice Mazhar Naqvi is pending hearing in SJC.

## Security forces kill terrorist in Kulachi operation

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Security Forces on Wednesday gunned down Terrorist Habib Ur Rehman during an intelligence-based operation conducted in general area Kulachi of Dera Ismail Khan District. According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the Army troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location, as a result of which terrorist Habib Ur Rehman was sent to hell. The killed terrorist had remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces as well as innocent civilians in the area. Weapon, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the terrorist.

## Nawaz Sharif visits Ch. Shujaat after 15 years

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday visited the residence of Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain after 15 long years. PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz, Rana Sanaullah, Ayaz Sadiq and Azam Nazeer Tarar accompanied the party supreme. The two parties have discussed electoral alliance and seat adjustments on Gujrat seats. PML-N has decided to support PML-Q candidates on two National Assembly and three provincial assembly seats. Chaudhry Salik and Tariq Bashir Cheema will contest election on National Assembly seats from Gujrat.



LAHORE: Muslim League (PML-N) President, Nawaz Sharif along with Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President, Chaudhry Shujaat during meeting to discuss electoral alliance and seat adjustments on Gujrat seats, in Lahore.

## Solangi unveils 24-hour PTV Multan Center, vows to ensure transparent polls

Says PTV Multan transmission through satellite to open new avenues of opportunities for poets, artists. MULTAN (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Wednesday that general elections would be held on February 8, 2024 and full preparations were underway to accomplish the task in a fair and transparent manner. Talking to media persons at the inaugural ceremony of the 24-hour regional transmission of Pakistan Television Multan, he said that the people would ultimately decide the next government of the



MULTAN: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi unveiling plaque to inaugurate the PTV National Multan 24/7 transmission at PTV Centre.

## SC seeks reply in appeal against census in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) Wednesday sought reply from additional attorney general and advocate general Balochistan in an appeal against census in the province. A three-member bench of the top court presided by Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan heard the case. At the outset of hearing, Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan noted that the petitioner had objected over the participation of acting chief minister in the meeting of council of common interests. Additional Attorney General Aamer Rehman said that the decisions of the top court were clear related to the CCI. He argued that the objection was not raised by any relevant person. Petitioner's lawyer Kamran Murtaza said that fundamental rights of the citizens were connected with the census. Addressing the lawyer, Justice Ahsan said that the Chief Minister whom you elected did not object to the census.

## Dr Shamshad awarded with 'Most Influential Woman in Islamic Business and Finance 2023'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Cambridge IFA. Dr Akhtar's outstanding contributions to the field were recognized, especially her unwavering commitment and groundbreaking efforts in advancing Islamic finance and economics globally. The Ministry of Finance Wednesday posted on X. CARETAKER MINISTER FOR FINANCE, REVENUE, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DR SHAMSHAD AKHTAR WAS HONoured WITH THE PRESTIGIOUS AWARD OF THE 'MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMAN IN ISLAMIC BUSINESS AND FINANCE 2023' AT THE 5TH ANNUAL WOMANI EVENT HELD IN DUBAI, ORGANIZED BY



## Samina Alvi for inclusive approach to mainstream persons with disabilities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Samina Alvi, wife of President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday emphasized the need for providing opportunities to persons with disabilities to help them become part of mainstream economic activities.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony of the Network of Organizations Working with Persons with Disabilities (NOWPDP), Pakistan (NOWPDP), she said it was the joint responsibility of the State and the society to accommodate such people by ensuring the inclusive approach.

Samina Alvi said persons with disabilities comprised 10 to 12 percent of the country's population, however, they lacked enough representation in

society and public domains. She regretted that due to negative attitudes towards disability, the families restricted their such members to homes and avoided their outdoor activities. Also, the lack of infrastructure such as access ramps at public buildings and parks restricted the mobility of persons with disabilities, she added.

Samina Alvi urged for providing education to such students at mainstream schools to ensure their inclusion in society.

She stressed for the training of teachers and sensitizing society that persons with disabilities could play a positive role in society if provided with ample opportunities including assistive technology and

rehabilitation services. She recalled that a comprehensive awareness campaign was launched from the platform of the Presidency to raise awareness about mainstreaming persons with disabilities.

She mentioned that the campaign was supported by non-governmental organizations, chambers of commerce, and the media. Also, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority relayed 120 million short messaging services on sensitization about persons with disabilities. She urged the public and private sector departments including banks, chambers of commerce, and welfare foundations to adopt inclusive policies to accommodate persons with disabilities.



First Lady Begum Samina Alvi giving certificates to students with disabilities at the graduation ceremony of the Network of Organizations Working with Persons with Disabilities Pakistan (NOWPDP) students, in Islamabad



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkiye to Pakistan Mehmet Pacaci along MD Bait-ul-Mall Amir Fida Parcha and others are visiting the different stalls during an event "Pakistan Bait-ul-Mall at a Glance" at Fatima Jinnah Park in Federal Capital.

## NAC reviews performance of affiliated institutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 6th meeting of the National Accreditation Council (NAC) of NAVTTC, reviewed the performance of the institutions affiliated to the council across the country. The meeting held here yesterday under the chairmanship of NAC Chairman Mian Waqas Masood, while Executive Director of National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) Aamir Jan also addressed. During the meeting NAC also discussed the measures to further improve the performance of accredited institutions.

The meeting was also attended by the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Education, DG National Accreditation Council Dr.

Fida Bazai and representatives of public and private institutions. In the meeting, the affairs of the organizations affiliated to NAVTTC were also discussed.

In the meeting, the affairs of accredited institutions with the council were finalized. During this time, the affiliated institutions belonging to other regions including the four provinces were also evaluated regarding the performance and improvement measures.

Speaking at the meeting, NAVTTC Executive Director Aamir Jan emphasized the need to resolve all issues amicably and said that concrete steps will be taken to further improve the quality of the Accreditation Council.

## AIOU ranked in top 300 world greenest campuses

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has been ranked 8th amongst the greenest Pakistani universities while it stood at 293th position worldwide in ranking of 'UI's GreenMetric' for the year 2023.

According to AIOU, as far as the federally chartered universities of Pakistan are concerned, the AIOU stood 3rd amongst the ranking of these universities.

Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood has expressed his gratitude for the honor and stated that the credit of this achievement goes to the Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) and the gardeners of the University for which they deserve congratulations.

He further said that the University will pay special attention to make the campuses greener so that we can get a better position next year.

As compared to previous year's ranking, the Allama Iqbal Open University has significantly improved its position worldwide by taking practical steps to green the main campus as well as the regional campuses.

In the ranking of global universities in 2021, the AIOU was ranked 485th among the greenest universities in the world, while in 2022, the University was ranked 331st among global universities.

## CDA decides to start bus service in Islamabad sectors

ISLAMABAD (Online): CDA Administration has decided to start bus service for the first time in sectors of Federal Capital Islamabad.

Selection of 13 routes between centers of the sectors will be connected to Orange and Green lines.

CDA has signed an agreement with Transport Industry Pakistan, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Defense, to run public transport on 13 routes.

160 electrical vehicles will be operated on 13 routes.

## IHC sends delimitation matters to ECP

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday sent the matters to Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) pertaining to the delimitation in various constituencies of the country.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the case filed by senior lawyer Ahsan Bhoon regarding the delimitation in Hafizabad.

At the outset of hearing, the ECP's lawyer adopted the stance that he was in court in another case, adding that the department has not received court notice in this case.

The chief justice inquired that when the ECP was going to announce schedule for general elections. He said that several

people have challenged the delimitation before the court.

The court said that these were just minor issues which should be addressed by the electoral body as early.

Ahsan Bhoon Advocate said that there was no any constituency in the country where the population was more than 1.3 million. He said that the total population of Hafizabad was 1.319 million but only one constituency was made.

The court asked the ECP to address the issues after hearing the complainants as soon as possible and pass orders along with. The court sent the matters to the ECP.

## Dr Nadeem launches app for drugs' registration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan on Wednesday launched an app for online registration and licensing of drugs.

The step was taken to revolutionize drug registration and licensing system in the country.

According to spokesperson of the Ministry of Health, pharmaceutical companies will be able to submit online applications for registration and license.

Earlier, applicants had to visit DRAP to apply for registration or licensing of drugs, he added.

He said that registration and licensing of new multinational companies is also digital under the new system.

He said that auto-

mated system will lead to increase in export and enhanced confidence of international organizations in Pakistan's medicines.

The minister said the foundation of merit and transparency has been laid in DRAP.

Due to merit and transparency, the efficiency of institutions increases significantly. This initiative will increase public confidence in the regulator.

Dr. Nadeem Jan said, "We are vigorously pursuing the implementation of reform agenda in the Ministry of Health." This initiative will promote transparency.

A complaint app was also launched by Dr. Nadeem Jan to ensure direct communication with the regulator.

## Trial of Imran, Fawad will be held in Adiala Jail: EC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Important progress has come to fore in contempt of Election Commission (EC) and Chief Election Commissioner matter.

Election Commission (EC) has announced reserved judgment regarding trial in Adiala Jail.

Decision was read out by Deputy Director of Law Saima Janjua.

According to details, EC has approved to have trial of Founder Chairman PTI and Fawad Chaudhary in Adiala Jail.

Hearing will be held in Adiala Jail on 13 December.

In the decision, Interior Ministry has been directed to prepare administrative report and submit it in EC within 2 days.

## Senate Secretariat, IPC sign MoU

ISLAMABAD: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Secretariat of the Senate of Pakistan and the International Parliamentarians' Congress (IPC) for Institutional Cooperation.

Secretary of the Senate Mohammad Qasim Samad Khan and Secretary General of IPC Sitara Ayaz signed the MoU, marking a pivotal step towards increased cooperation in areas of mutual interest and recognizing the need for

closer collaboration, said a news release issued here.

The signing ceremony, preceded by detailed discussions, reflects the commitment of both entities to forge a deeper partnership for addressing global challenges and promoting collaborative initiatives. The MoU outlines a range of joint initiatives, including the enhancement of international representation, collective advocacy for global human rights, exchange of research-based materials to bolster legislative support, addressing the impacts of climate change on food security, and collaboration on health-related initiatives to tackle global health challenges. This collaborative effort between the Secretariat of the Senate of the Islamic



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## Qawwali legend Aziz Mian remembered on his 23rd death anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Legendary Qawwal, poet and musician Aziz Mian was remembered Wednesday on his 23rd death anniversary where people from all walks of life through various media platforms paid glowing tributes to his lifetime unforgettable services in the entertainment industry. Aziz Mian was born as Abdul Aziz in Delhi in 1942. The exclamation Mian, which he often used in his qaw-walis, became part of his stage name. He was also famous for singing ghazals in Qawwali style.

## Senate body on Maritime Affairs convenes

ISLAMABAD (APP): Meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Maritime Affairs was held at Parliament House on Wednesday with Senator Rubina Khalid in Chair.

The Senate Committee deliberated on the acquisition of the remaining land for the railway track from Gwadar Port to the Railway Container Yard. The said project was approved by ECNEC in 2007. Officials apprised that the rail-ways have yet to acquire approximately 340 acres of land required for the project.

The ministry is in negotiations with the District Administration, Gwadar Development Authority and Gwadar Port Authority for the acquisition of the remaining land. Railway officials highlighted the issue of 5 acres of railway land that overlapped during the construction of the Eastbay Expressway. Senator Rubina Khalid stated that the railway track is the backbone of the Gwadar project and should be completed at the earliest.

The committee recommended the ministry to form a committee comprising of relevant stakeholders and resolve the issue within 15 days.

Furthermore, the committee discussed the current status of the Gwadar Shipyard Project. Dr. Iram Anjum Khan, Secretary Maritime Affairs, informed that the Ministry of Defence Production (MoPD) initially marked the Kappara area for the shipyard. However, due to its location 50 km away and above sea level, MoPD changed the site from Kappara to Sur Bandar in October 2023. Senator Rubina Khalid inquired why these factors were not considered beforehand, stating that the whole process reveals the incompetence of the department. The Committee referred the matter to the Senate Standing Committee on Defence Production for further deliberation.

The Senate body was briefed on the hurdles in the execution of the Korangi Fisheries Harbour Authority, Modification of Fish Auction Hall, Establishment of Business Park, and Establishment of Cold Storage and Freezing tunnels.

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## I'abad Capital Police host farewell for outgoing SP

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police hosted farewell for the outgoing Superintendent of Police (SP) Islamabad Muhammad Ayub who retired from his services after serving the force, a police public relations officer said.

Nasir Khan appreciated the services of SP Muhammad Ayub and said that the officer had served in



He said that the farewell ceremony was attended among others by Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan and all other senior officers.

ICCP Dr. Akbar

Islamabad Capital police with dedication and commitment adding that his services to make Islamabad capital police as an ideal force will be remembered forever.

SP Muhammad Ayub joined Islamabad capital police as a Probation ASI and served various posts including Deputy Superintendent of Police and Superintendent of Police.

## Police implement enhanced measures at high security zone

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have diligently deploying all available resources to fortify security within the federal capital, with a particular focus on the high security zone.

Police spokesperson said that Islamabad police have actively ensured comprehensive data registration, meticulous examination of identification documents, and searches of individuals entering the high security zone on a routine basis. Notably, the police took action against 2,905 vehicles and 1,613 motorcyclists for violations related to helmets and over-speeding. Stringent directives have been issued to police officers and officials stationed at high security zone checkpoints, emphasizing the need for responsible duty execution.

Paramount importance is placed on the protection of crucial public and private properties, as well as embassies situated in the high security zone, police spokesperson added.

In the preceding

month, the Islamabad Capital Police undertook measures such as removing tinted glasses and improper number plates from 2,849 vehicles, impounding 56 vehicles lacking proper documentation, and issuing challan tickets to 1,613 motorcyclists for violations related to helmets and over-speeding. Stringent directives have been issued to police officers and officials stationed at high security zone checkpoints, emphasizing the need for responsible duty execution.

Paramount importance is placed on the protection of crucial public and private properties, as well as embassies situated in the high security zone, police spokesperson added.

## FGEHA invites bids for horticulture & landscaping in sectors G-13, G-14

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) has invited sealed bids from reputed firms for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of horticulture and landscaping development work in sectors G-13 and G-14/4 of the federal capital.

"The horticulture and landscaping development work in the sectors included green belts, parks, playground and the green areas," an official in the FGEHA told APP here. About the conditions, he said the firms should be eligible to handle the work and to have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in relevant fields of specialization along with valid income tax registration with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

The official said the detail of tender notice can be seen on the FGEHA website [www.fgeha.gov.pk](http://www.fgeha.gov.pk) and PPR website [www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk) while the valid PEC registration in category C-5 and above along with relevant codes CE-09 CE-10 (v).

He said the Single

## DG PNCA grieved over demise of Ustad Gullu

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Director General (DG) Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) Ayub Jamali on Wednesday expressed his heartfelt grief over the demise of renowned classical maestro singer Ustad Hussain Bakhsh Gullu, he was a shining star of musical world who felt the nation and country proud with his art.

Director General PNCA Ayub Jamali said that the world of music has lost a shining star with the passing of Ustad Hussain Bakhsh Gullu, a renowned classical singer who captivated audiences with his mesmerizing voice and soulful renditions and his death marks an end to an era, silencing a voice that echoed the essence of classical music. Hailing from the illustrious Sham Chaurasi Gharana, Ustad Gullu was the son of the legendary Ustad Nathu Khan, who himself was the teacher of the revered Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan. He was born into a lineage of musical brilliance, Ustad Gullu inherited the profound mastery of his forefathers.

## Shehla Raza urges political parties not to make election process controversial

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior PPP leader and former Deputy Speaker of the Sindh Assembly, Shehla Raza Wednesday urged all political parties to avoid making the election process controversial and transparent elections are the only way to ensure political stability in the country.

Talking to the PTV news channel, she said despite all allegations, PPP only focused on election campaigns, and all parties need to allow sufficient space for each other in the electoral process.

She said that people are increasingly conscious of upcoming elections, and we must trust our voters instead of blaming to others.

PPP always efforts to improve the conditions of the common man during their governance, she highlighted.

"The MQM only



ISLAMABAD: A view of the awareness placards on Pole at Jinnah Avenue regarding the "Corruption Free Pakistan" by National Accountability Court in Federal Capital.

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want delimitation in line with their desires, which is not possible, she said, adding, that only PPP standing with the people and would form the next government.

Shehla also expressed confidence that the People's Party would sweep Sindh, adding, that national action plan implementation is also need of hour with letter and spirit. Replying to a query, she said every budget will be unconstitutional and discriminatory until the National Finance Commission (NFC) is given.

She further said that the PPP would not compromise on the economic rights of the people, the constitution of Pakistan and equal distribution of funds to all provinces.

To another question, she said the PPP had worked a lot in Sindh for the development of the people, while the other parties only paid lip service.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Syed Ali Zafar, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Law and Justice presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament Lodges.



## Cope with requirements of modern era Vital to adopt new technology, especially artificial intelligence, says Punjab Governor

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman today inaugurated the first International Electrical Vehicle Expo 2023 at the University of Lahore and attended the event as a special guest.

Punjab Governor while addressing the ceremony stated that it is very important to adopt new technology, especially artificial intelligence, to cope with the requirements of the modern era.

He said this exhibition has provided a platform for many national and international companies to showcase their products and collaborate with one another. Governor Punjab said that today, the world is going through the fourth industrial revolution in which technology and collaboration play a very important role.

He said that better results can be achieved by working together. He said that governments also work together with public-

private partnership and institutions on various projects, which yield good results.

Governor Punjab said that in this exhibition, electric vehicles including motorcycles and cars have been displayed, which will promote environment-friendly transport. He said that the interaction of academia and industry in this exhibition is a welcome thing. He further said that the promotion of electric vehicles will help in tackling issues like smog.

He said that he is happy to see that international companies in electrical vehicles and artificial intelligence are bringing their expertise and technology to Pakistan, which will help us accelerate the adoption of these technologies in our country and create new opportunities for our citizens. Governor Punjab said that the expo is a testament to the power of innovation and collaboration and shows that when government.



**KARACHI: A man drive thru Dust in area of Karachi, according to reports the Karachi Ranked Most Polluted city in the world in term of air quality, The various forms of pollution have increased at Karachi which has caused widespread environmental and health problems.**



**LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman inspecting the stall after inauguration of first International Electrical Vehicle Expo 2023 at the University of Lahore.**

## Decision taken to increase the number of city council committees to 37: Mayor

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that it has been decided to increase the number of city council committees to 37, and will work together with the political party that supports them to solve the basic problems of Karachi.

He expressed these views while addressing the press conference held on Wednesday at the lawn of the KMC head office.

On this occasion, Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, People's Party Parliamentary Leader Najmi Alam, Chief Whip Karamullah Waqasi, Deputy Parliamentary Leader Dil Muhammad,

Juman Darwan, and other officials were also present. Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that he wants to bring everyone together in the wider interest of Karachi and the unanimously approved resolution of the city council will have more priority to solve the long-standing important problems faced by the city. He expressed confidence that the City Council needs to play its role, and he is very hopeful that tomorrow's (December 7) meeting of the city council will be held in a pleasant atmosphere.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that the main task of the city council.



**FAISALABAD: Provincial woman ombudsman Nabila Hakim Ali Khan leading a walk for the protection of women's rights at Government College Women's University.**

## LHC issues written order on contempt of court petition against Parvaiz Elahi's arrest

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has issued written order on contempt of court petition filed against arrest of Former Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Chaudhary Parvaiz Elahi despite Court order.

Justice Sultan Tanvir Ahmad of LHC has issued written order for hearing on petition of Parvaiz Elahi's wife Qaisara Elahi.

It has been said in written order the court kept restored warrants of IG Islamabad.

Copy of written order should be sent to Secretary Establishment Islamabad

and he should appoint an officer for judicial assistance in this matter.

Court has written in the order that it is suspected that IG Islamabad and SSP were wrongly advised of the jurisdiction.

Repeated arrest warrants and non-bail warrants were issued to IG Islamabad and SSP.

It has been further said in court order that neither both the officers appeared in the court nor did they give any reply.

Court will hold further hearing on December 18.

## Minister directs to expedite work on Journalists WEF

PESHAWAR (APP): Minister of Information, Firoz Jamal Shah, has directed the swift resolution of journalists' issues and expedited efforts on the Journalists Welfare Endowment Fund to address their financial concerns.

During a meeting of the Journalists Welfare Endowment Fund, he emphasized urgent action on journalists' requests, urging a comprehensive presentation of these requests to the committee for timely assistance.

He acknowledged the

challenging roles journalists play in ensuring transparency in government affairs and facilitating the dissemination of government actions to the public.

President of Peshawar Press Club, Arshid Aziz Malik, highlighted financial issues faced by journalists in the meeting.

The minister reassured that necessary support would be provided to ailing journalists and those in old age unable to work.

## KP Governor directs resolution of problems of IRNUM hospital's entrance

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali here Wednesday directed the authorities concerned to resolve problems related to the main entrance of the IRNUM cancer hospital.

He passed these directives while presiding over a high-level meeting about problems at the central entrance of IRNUM hospital, Peshawar.

The meeting exchanged views on parking problems and bringing ease in communication between patients, relatives, and

other people at the main entrance of the hospital.

He directed the Director General Peshawar Development Authority, high-ups of the police, and Peshawar University to address these problems at the earliest. The Governor praised the long services of the hospital regarding the treatment of cancer patients.

The hospital is working under the aegis of the Pakistan Atomic Commission providing various kinds of healthcare services to oncology patients of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



**FAISALABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf is addressing a press conference at Samundri Road.**

## PPP to contest election on its performance: Kundi

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): PPP Information Secretary Faisal Karim Kundi said that his party has a comprehensive plan to steer the country out of crisis and to put it on its way to progress and prosperity.

He said that PPP's revolutionary measures were not hidden from the masses and PPP would take part in elections based on its track record of best services towards them.

He was talking to the party worker at his residence, Kundi remarked that people were faced with difficulties due to inflation and poor economic conditions in the country. He claimed that PPP would address

people's issues by eliminating inflation.

He said that law and order, economy, inflation, and unemployment were main issues and PPP has the solution of all these issues.

He maintained that the PPP always demands free and fair elections on time in the country and his party considers transparent elections quite vital for the political and economic stability of the country. Kundi said that 65 percent country's population consisted of youth and PPP Chairman was representing the youth. He said that this time if the selection process is adopted instead of transparent elections.

## PML-N policies revolve around strong economy, national security, well being of people: Awais

RAJANPUR (APP): General Secretary Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Punjab Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari has said that the Party's policies always remained focused on strengthening the national economy, passing on its benefits to the ordinary people and securing the country's national interests.

While talking to APP here Wednesday, the former federal minister said no one can overlook the fact that whenever PML-N came to power, its coordinated strategy kept the economy stronger, national

development process in motion, national interest safeguarded and extended the fruits of development to the people by providing relief to them.

The PML-N tenures are considered as the periods of prosperity, Awais Leghari said adding that the Party, whenever in power, always extended relief to the poor segments of the society at grass roots level. He criticized the PTI government tenure saying that it aired big slogans but ended up causing harm to the country due to its failures on the foreign affairs front and the national economy. They

hurt the image of the country, he added.

Awais Leghari said that in its last short term tenure, PML-N accepted the challenge of repairing a troubled economy and improved country's image at international level.

He said that PML-N Quaid Mian Nawaz Sharif will never step back from offering any sacrifice needed for the country and its people. PML-N was the only party that rise above all prejudices in serving the country and its people under the leadership of Mian Nawaz Sharif and that is why the noted political personalities.

## Women should take legal ways to claim their rights: Ombudsperson

FAISALABAD (APP): Woman Ombudsperson Punjab Nabila Hakim Ali Khan said on Wednesday that women should not remain silent for their rights, instead they should adopt legal ways to claim their rights where they were denied.

She was addressing a seminar for the protection of women's rights here at Govt College Women University, Madina Town. RPO Dr Abid Khan, SSP Operation Dr Rizwan, Incharge Protection Center Gul Naz, faculty members and students were also present on the occasion.

The Ombudsperson said the government was taking all possible steps to ensure women rights in the province, so do not allow anyone to take away your rights or abuse you by keeping silent.

"If you (women) do not get a share in the inherited property, file a complaint for your share with the local administration and if you are not listened then report to the office of the Woman Ombudsman Secretariat," she said.

The Woman Ombudsperson said that today was the day of

women, their development and rights.

She urged the students and women to bring out their hidden abilities and improve their confidence. She further said that several initiatives were being taken by the government at national and provincial level for women rights and their protection.

The Nabila Hakim thanked the government for taking initiatives regarding women rights and providing strong support to women in today's era through electronic media, cameras, various apps and social media.

## IDPD day observed in Peshawar

PESHAWAR (Online): International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) 2023 was observed at the Special Education Complex (SEC) in Hayatabad, Peshawar.

Dr. Aneela Mehfooz Durrani, Secretary Zakat, Ushr, Social Welfare, Special Education, and Women Empowerment Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, was the chief guest at the occasion.

Dr. Awlad Hussain Shah, Ms. Humaira Naz and Mukhtiar Gul of Sarhad Rural Support Program (SRSP), Taimoor Jahangir Provincial Advisor KP of PPAF, Ms. Mehjabeen Qazi of UNFPA.

## Minister hails medical team over recovery of domestic violence survivor

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Punjab Health Minister Professor Dr. Javed Akram expressed gratitude to the dedicated team of doctors and nurses who played a crucial role in the recovery of Rizwana, a victim of domestic violence.

In a press conference at Lahore General Hospital on Wednesday, the minister highlighted that Rizwana underwent 13 surgeries during her four-month treatment at the hospital and was now on the path to recovery.

Addressing Rizwana as the "daughter of the

nation," Dr. Javed Akram announced her referral to Child Protection and Welfare Bureau and Social Welfare and Baitul Mal for education and training. A committee, comprising the Chairperson of Child Protection and Welfare Bureau and officers from the Department of Social Welfare and Bait ul Mal, has been formed to ensure continued care for Rizwana.

Principal Ameer-ud-Din Medical College Professor Dr. Sardar Zafar Al Farid highlighted Rizwana's remarkable progress.



**KARACHI: Pakistani fire fighters struggle to control a fire which broke out at furniture shops, apartment building at Aysha Manzil in Karachi.**

## Two people killed as trailer hit motorbike

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Two people were killed in a collision between a trailer and motorbike at Alipur Jhang road on Wednesday.

According to the rescue source, the incident occurred due to the negligence of the trailer driver in which two persons died on the spot.

The heirs of the deceased refused to take legal action.

Police have registered a case and started investigation.

## Al-Qadir trust case Interim bail of former chairman PTI, Bushra Bibi extended

RAWALPINDI (Online): Accountability Court (AC) Islamabad has extended interim bail of former chairman PTI and his wife Bushra Bibi till December 13 in Al-Qadir trust case.

The court has fixed the next date for giving final arguments on the petitions. The AC was led by Judge Muhammad Bashir. Chairman PTI and his wife Bushra Bibi were present in the court during

the hearing of the case. The court has also started proceedings for declaring 3 accused as proclaimed offenders who are nominated in Al-Qadir trust case because of their persistent absence.

Sardar Latif Khosa counsel for former chairman PTI and NAB prosecutor Sardar Muzaffar Abbasi alongwith his team appeared in the court.

## Money distribution under BISP continues to be transparent: DD BISP

JHANG (APP): Deputy Director Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Ahsan ullah Kamboh said on Wednesday that the distribution of money to poor and deserving women under BISP was continued in an excellent manner throughout the district Jhang. While talking to journalists, the Deputy Director BISP said that all

possible arrangements had been managed for transparency in distribution of money and role of touts had been eliminated from the registration of needy women for the program.

Action had been taken against all those retailers who were taking illegal money cuts while distributing money.



**PESHAWAR: A delegation of Public Representatives from District Bannu meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.**

## Dr. Alvi for marketplace to promote Pakistani startups through linkages

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi here Wednesday called for establishing a marketplace to provide Pakistani startups a platform for promoting their indigenously developed products through linkages with the investors as well as the global markets.

The president, addressing the Angels Investors Summit & Startup Showcase, said the startups needed to effectively market their products and enhance their outreach for benefit of the local population as well as the innovators.

The president appreciated the 11 shortlisted startups for the way they were developing the intellectual properties.

He lauded the 'tremendous' innovative ideas of the startups who also gave presentations on their products which are gradually getting recognition in the market.

The president suggested the summit organizers to record detailed video messages of the startups so that they could better explain their products to the people as well as the potential investors.

He told the gathering that in the initially, the developed countries had also been benefiting from the foreign ideas by modifying them in accordance with their local needs. Emphasizing the use of technology and artificial intelligence in the health

sector, President Alvi said the telemedicine was the only solution to Pakistan's health care problems as it would save the poor from paying the transport and other hassles besides reducing burden on the system.

He also called for utilizing the AI and other technologies to address the issue of mental health as around 24% of the population suffered any form of stress. Around 60-80% of college students were also under mental stress which sometimes led to violence or suicides.

He also stressed the need for addressing the taboos associated with the diseases like breast cancer, which he said was being overcome through frequent

messaging and awareness drives.

Chairperson of Aspire Pakistan Hassan Syed apprised the audience of the journey of bringing the startups under the network, the establishment of the National Ideas Bank, Pak Angels and Startup Pakistan platforms.

He said around 8,000 trainings had taken place under the National Ideas Bank and 11 shortlisted startup had to go through screening process which examined their ideas and scope of their products.

Founder of Pak Angels Anwar Khan, in his remarks, said the innovation was a must for a prosperous Pakistan as it could boost the country's exports.



President Dr. Arif Alvi being briefed about innovative technological startups and their products, at the Angels Investors Summit & Startup Showcase held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatization Mr Fawad Hasan Fawad chairing a meeting of Privatization Commission with the Financial Advisor and management of First Women Bank Limited.

## MOITT announces initiatives to empower freelancers

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MOITT) has announced a groundbreaking initiative, offering interest-free loans to freelancers to empower independent professionals by enabling them to establish e-working centers, addressing the critical challenge of inadequate workplaces.

According to official of MOITT under the comprehensive plan, "Each freelancer is set to receive financial assistance of Rs 100,000 to establish their own e-working center. This strategic move is anticipated to revolutionize the freelance landscape in the country, significantly enhancing the economic contributions of freelancers."

Highlighting the initiative's significance, ministry official said, "Despite approximately 1.5 million freelancers in Pakistan having undergone government training, many still face challenges in acquiring essential resources like computers and dedicated work spaces."

"To address this issue, the government has allocated an impressive Rs 50 billion investment to establish private-sector co-working spaces, benefiting half a million freelancers nationwide. The goal is not only to provide necessary infrastructure but also to create an ecosystem fostering creativity and productivity," he informed.

Expressing optimism, official hope that, with the support of this initiative,

## CG Indonesia visits SCCI

SUKKUR (APP): Consul General of Indonesia Dr June Kuncoro on Wednesday visited the Sukkur Chamber of Commerce and Industries (SCCI) Sukkur.

While exchanging the views during meeting, the Indonesian CG said that We have to deeply understand the patterns and structure of challenges hindering trade between the two countries.

He congratulated the newly-elected president of SCCI Sukkur and hopes to see his contribution towards enhanced Indonesia-Pakistan cooperation.

He said that as the Indonesian government was always keen to support business people, hence, the Indonesian Consulate and its embassy in Islamabad remain extensively engaged beyond the call of duty in identifying opportunities and fully facilitating businessmen of both countries. To enhance Indonesia-Pakistan trade ties, he advised the business community of Karachi to participate in trade fairs, meet Indonesian business people and send business delegations so that the Indonesian business community could be acquainted about trade opportunities.

## Efforts to promote technological innovation for crops growth

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Minister for National Food Security & Research Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik on Wednesday said that maize is a strategic crop concerning national food security needs and the ministry will make all efforts to promote the latest technological innovation and provide an enabling policy for the crop's continued growth.

He expressed these views during the meeting with the CropLife Pakistan delegation, which apprised the minister of their contribution to the seed sector, in particular, maize, where over the past two decades yields have grown four-fold and overall production has increased from a little over 1 million metric tons to an impressive 10.5 million metric tons in 2022-23.

The minister said that various steps have been taken to this end, including the enactment and implementation of the Plant Breeders Rights Act, DNA fingerprinting to ensure transparency in the intellectual right protection of seed companies and independent breeders, and streamlining of operating standards for seed companies to improve the overall quality of seed research and supply.

The CropLife representatives further added that its member companies collectively market more than 80% of Pakistan's hybrid maize seed and have invested significantly towards introducing the latest high-yielding hybrids and farmer education programs.

## AHK representative Germany keen to expand business ties with Pakistan

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan's representative in the German Emirati Joint Council for Industry and Commerce (AHK) Muhammad Usman, Wednesday, said that the German government and businesses were keen to strengthen business and investment ties with Pakistan.

Germany desires to expand ties of German Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) with Pakistan and it would be fully facilitated by AHK that has established Pakistan's desk in Dubai, said Muhammad Usman who led the AHK trade delegation during its visit to the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI).

Deputy Head of

Mission at the German Consulate in Karachi Andreas Wegner, President KCCI Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh, chairmen of the chamber's subcommittees and KCCI Managing Committee members were also present on the occasion, said a statement issued here.

Muhammad Usman stated that AHK was extending cooperation for connecting the business communities of the two countries through networking, business-to-business meetings and visits of trade delegations.

He informed that Germany-based AHK was represented in 93 countries through more than 130 Chambers of Commerce and in March 2022 it expanded services to

Pakistan by opening a Pakistan desk in Dubai.

Agreeing with President KCCI's suggestions about potential sectors, he said that the German Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action also underlines Renewable Energy as one of the potential sectors along with sustainable textile and leather sectors.

"We are working on different initiatives of the German government especially the market development program of German SMEs who will be fully facilitated and encouraged to collaborate with Pakistani counterparts," he said adding that as most of the German Companies are based in Dubai.

## Pakistan's exports to Afghanistan increase by 2.65% in 4 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's export of goods and services to Afghanistan witnessed an increase of 2.65 per cent during the first four months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

The overall exports to Afghanistan were recorded at US \$180.686 million during July-October (2023-24) against exports of US \$176.019 million during July-October (2022-23), SBP data revealed.

On a year-to-year basis, the exports to Afghanistan also surged by 6.57 per cent from \$48.862 million in October 2022, against the exports of \$52.077 million in October 2023.

Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to Afghanistan rose by 29.49 per cent during October 2023 as compared to the exports of \$40.217 million in September 2023, the SBP data revealed.

Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed an increase of 1.13 per cent in the first four months, from US \$9.666 billion to US \$9.776 billion, the SBP data revealed. On the other hand, the imports from Afghanistan into the country during the months under review were recorded at US \$1.898 million against US \$10.151 million last year, showing a decline of 81.30 per cent in July-October (2023-24). On a year-on-year basis, the imports from Afghanistan witnessed a decrease of 57.60 per cent.

## Meeting held to discuss plan of action for privatization of FWBL

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Privatization, Fawad Hasan Fawad here on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Privatization Commission with the Financial Advisor and Management of First Women Bank Limited (FWBL). The minister was briefed regarding the proposed plan of action for the privatization of FWBL. Farrukh Iqbal, CEO and President of FWBL apprised the meeting on the status of audited accounts and the management accounts, said a press release. The minister directed the Financial Advisor and the management to expedite the process and to ensure that there are no delays. The timelines for completion of necessary prerequisites for pre-qualification.

## PAJCCI expresses concern over closure of Pak-Afghan border for trade at Torkhem

PESHAWAR (APP): Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) has expressed concern over closure of Pak-Afghan border at Torkhem for trade for the last almost 24 hours.

In a press statement issued here on Wednesday, Coordinator PAJCCI, Zia ul Haq Sarhadi said the border crossing at Torkhem has been closed for goods laden trucks at around 4:00 p.m. of Tuesday.

Regarding reason behind closure, Zia shared that the decision of closing border has been taken after erection of a signboard at

zero point inscribed with wording of 'Goodbye Pakistan'. He also informed that pedestrian crossing is open, but trucks are not allowed to cross border from both the sides.

Coordinator PAJCCI said it is very concerning for business community because closure of border inflicts heavy losses on business community of both the countries.

He said a lot of trucks are carrying perishable goods which can be rotten if delayed for a couple of days, burdening businessmen with huge losses.



HYDERABAD: Labourers busy in sorting good quality corns at Vegetable Market.

## SBP launches 'RAAST' Person to Merchant payment service

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Wednesday launched an interoperable RAAST Person-to-Merchant (P2M) payment service to facilitate digital payment acceptance for merchants and businesses.

As part of Raast implementation project, the SBP instructed banks, Micro Finance Banks (MFBs), Electronic Money Institutions (EMIs), Payment System Operators (PSOs) and Payment Service Providers (PSPs) to enable Raast

P2M service for their customers, said a statement issued here.

The Raast P2M system will enable merchants to accept payments through different modes including Unified Quick Response (QR) Codes, Raast Alias (such as mobile phones), bank accounts (IBAN), and Request to Pay (RTP). The technical specifications in this regard have already been shared with RES.

A circular issued by SBP's Digital Finance Group requires all regulated entities (RES).

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Five ships, MSC Jemima, MSC Greenwich, Maersk Chicago, Meratus Jayawijaya and Ardmore Cherokee Carrying Containers and Palm oil, berthed at Container Terminal and Liquid Terminal respectively on Tuesday.

Meanwhile two more ships, FMT Efes and Eget Bulker carrying Coko and Chemicals also arrived at outer anchorage of the port during last 24 hours.

Double Eagle, Marathopolis, MSC Rania, CM ACGM Nabucco, Al-SDhafra and Umm Al-Amad Golden Denise. A total of 11 ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them, a chemicals carrier Horizon.



ISLAMABAD: Members of Crop Life Pakistan Executive Committee Tallal Hakeem, Muhammad Asim, Irfan Ul Haq, Azeem Niazi, called on the Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik at Minister office.

## Top Chinese cotton producer welcomes collaboration with Pak

BEIJING (APP): "Our cotton consumption still falls short of achieving complete self-sufficiency, leading our company to consider importing cotton. In the future, we plan to collaborate with leading cotton-producing nations globally, tailoring our partnerships based on specific variety requirements," said Ms. Zhang Yan, the interim CEO of WinnerMedical.

"While we do not directly procure from cotton farmers, our approach primarily involves utilizing platforms like China Cotton to select the most suitable global supply chains. Collaboration with major cotton-producing nations like Pakistan is

entirely feasible," she said at the conclusion of the inaugural China International Supply Chain Promotion Expo, in an interview with China Economic Net. As a leading Chinese cotton product manufacturer, in response to the national "Belt and Road" initiative, the Winner Group has expressed strong interest in collaborating with cotton-producing giants like Pakistan, extending its trade network worldwide.

Pakistan's domestic cotton industry faces various challenges, including the need for research and development of high-quality cotton varieties and innovative approaches to cotton product manufacturing.

## Saif expresses gratitude for warm hospitality by Qataris

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Dr. Umar Saif, Wednesday expressed gratitude for the warm hospitality and professional reception extended by Qatari authorities and business groups.

A delegation from the Ministry of Information Technology, led by Dr. Umar Saif, has returned to Islamabad after a fruitful 4-day visit to Qatar.

The government delegation included representatives from the Special Investment Facilitation Council and notable IT companies, including PASHA, said a news release. During the tour, Dr. Umar Saif held crucial meetings.

## COAS vision sparks \$9 million donation from Tanweer Ahmed to NUST in boost for Pakistan's IT

ISLAMABAD (APP): An Endowment Fund for unprivileged students which will benefit nearly 200 students who would be able to get scholarships every year.

University - \$9 million is one of the single largest donations by any overseas Pakistani for any Pakistani. Expressing enthusiasm, Tanweer Ahmed stated, "Learning about the visionary stance of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir, particularly his fervour for the IT sector, left me excited and thrilled. I firmly believe that the active involvement of the Army in the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

Tanweer Ahmed, a prominent businessman of American-Pakistani origin, has contributed \$9 million to Islamabad's National University of Science & Technology (NUST), motivated by the dedicated vision for Pakistan's IT sector expressed by Army Chief General Asim Munir.

Houston-based businesswoman Tanweer Ahmed has donated \$9 million to NUST to help students from poor backgrounds gain access to quality education through scholarships.

NUST has confirmed that Tanweer Ahmed has entered into a partnership with the university through



HYDERABAD: Growers hold banners and placards during a protest rally against rise in the rates of fertilizers and shortage in markets, under the banner of Sindh Abadgar Ittehad, in City.

## Putin, escorted by fighter jets, lands in Saudi Arabia for MbS talks

**Monitoring Desk**  
RIYADH: Russian President Vladimir Putin landed in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday for hastily arranged talks with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on oil, Gaza and Ukraine.

It was not immediately clear what Putin, who has rarely left Russia since the start of the Ukraine war, intends to raise specifically about oil or geopolitics in a face-to-face meeting with the crown prince of the world's largest crude exporter.

Advertisement: Scroll to continue Putin's meeting with MbS, as the prince is widely known, comes after oil prices fell despite a pledge by OPEC+, which groups the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and al-

lies led by Russia, to further cut output.

The Russian defence ministry showed the Kremlin chief's Ilyushin-96 aircraft flanked by Sukhoi-35S fighter jets on its flight from Russia to the United Arab Emirates, his first stop.

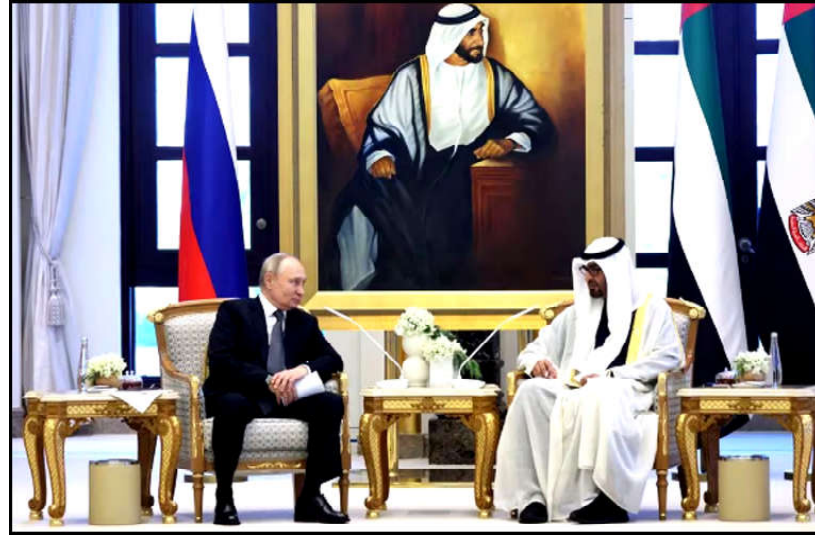
In Abu Dhabi, President Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan welcomed his "dear friend" Putin, while UAE jets greeted him with a fly-past trailing the colours of Russia's flag. "Our relations, largely due to your position, have reached an unprecedentedly high level," Putin told him. "The UAE is Russia's main trading partner in the Arab world."

Putin said Russia and the UAE cooperated as

part of OPEC+, whose members pump more than 40% of the world's oil, adding that they would discuss the Israeli-Hamas conflict and Ukraine.

After the UAE, Putin flew to Saudi Arabia for his first face-to-face meeting with MbS since October 2019. His last visit to the region was in July 2022, when he met Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Iran.

The trip to meet MbS, only days after a key OPEC+ meeting was delayed, appeared hastily arranged. One source had told Reuters beforehand that MbS had plans to visit Moscow. The Russian delegation includes top oil, economy, foreign affairs, space and nuclear energy officials.



President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Russian President Vladimir Putin attend a meeting at Qasr Al Watan in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

## COP28 deal may demand phase-out of fossil fuels

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Countries at the COP28 climate conference are considering calling for a formal phase-out of fossil fuels as part of the UN summit's final deal to tackle global warming.

The proposal is set to spark heated debate among the nearly 200 countries, with some Western and climate-vulnerable states pushing for the language to be used and many oil and gas producers keen to leave it out.

The draft of what could be the final agreement from COP28, released by the UN climate body on Tuesday, proposed "an or-

derly and just phase-out of fossil fuels" which if adopted would mark the first global deal to end the oil age.

But even as NGOs slammed the record number of fossil fuel lobbyists at the UN climate talks this year, the industry showed it wouldn't be browbeaten, with the OPEC cartel hosting a chat on "climate initiatives" and one of the heads of the "Big Oil" majors sparring with activists.

On the COP28 main stage, the CEOs of several major energy firms argued in favour of oil and gas, highlighting their progress in areas such as cutting the

greenhouse gas methane.

"We are big guys and we can do big things. We can deliver results and we will have to report them very soon," said Jean Paul Prates, CEO of Brazil's state-run oil company Petrobras. "The energy transition will only be valid if it's a fair transition," he added.

At least 2,400 fossil fuel lobbyists registered for this year's summit, an analysis of UN registration data published by Kick Big Polluters Out showed, outnumbering the delegates from the 10 most climate vulnerable countries combined.



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, President of Brazil, hold a press conference at the Federal Chancellery on the occasion of the 2nd German-Brazilian intergovernmental consultations, in Berlin.

## Turkey's Erdogan calls for reinforced trust before Greece trip

**Monitoring Desk**  
ATHENS: Greece and Turkey should reinforce trust and deepen cooperation on common challenges as they try to solve their differences, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Wednesday before a trip to Athens.

"There is no problem we cannot solve through dialogue on the basis of mutual goodwill," Erdogan told Kathimerini newspaper in an interview, a day before the two countries' fifth High-level Cooperation

Council (HCC) in Athens.

The neighbours and NATO allies have been at odds for decades over issues including where their continental shelves start and end, energy resources, overflights of the Aegean Sea, and ethnically split Cyprus. They reached the brink of war in the 1990s.

Erdogan and Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis agreed in July to resume talks and confidence-building measures.

## China says its fighters shadowed US Navy patrol plane over Taiwan Strait

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: China's military said on Wednesday it sent fighter jets to monitor and warn a US Navy patrol aircraft that flew over the sensitive Taiwan Strait, a mission that took place weeks before Taiwan holds elections.

China claims sovereignty over democratically governed Taiwan, and says it has jurisdiction over the strait. Taiwan and the United States dispute that, saying the Taiwan Strait is an international waterway.

The US Navy's 7th Fleet said the P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol and reconnaissance plane, which is also used for anti-submarine missions, flew over the strait in international airspace.

"The aircraft's transit of the Taiwan Strait demonstrates the United States' commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific."

## Indonesia rescuers evacuate all climbers from Marapi volcano after eruption killed 23

**Monitoring Desk**  
TANAH DATAR: Rescuers have evacuated all of the climbers who were trapped in Indonesia's Marapi volcano, a spokesperson for the search and rescue agency said on Wednesday, after it erupted this week, killing 23 people.

There were 75 climbers at the time on 2,891-metre (9484.91 ft) high Marapi, one of Sumatra's most active volcanoes, when it began spewing gray clouds of ash as high as 3 kilometres (2 miles) into the sky on Sunday.

Jody Haryawan, a spokesperson for the res-

cue team, said one missing climber was found on Wednesday afternoon. On Tuesday, the rescuers evacuated 22 bodies from the volcano. All the climbers were accounted for, following the rescue earlier of dozens, many of whom were wounded or burned by the eruption.

The evacuation process was hampered by the difficult terrain and seven small eruptions, Jody said.

On Wednesday, a funeral was held for 20-year-old climber Yasirli Amri in the village of Turawan in West Sumatra's Tanah Datar region.

## Iran sends up rocket with test living capsule

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Iran sent up a rocket with a test living space capsule on Wednesday, the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported, as the country pressed on with plans to send astronauts into space.

The announcement came 10 years after Iran announced it had sent two live monkeys into space and brought them back safely.

The capsule reached an altitude of 130 km (80 miles) on Wednesday, the report said.

## Qatar emir slams 'shameful' inaction on Gaza crisis

**Monitoring Desk**  
DOHA: Qatar's ruler hit out at "shameful" international inaction over the Israeli aggression against Gazans as he opened a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) meeting in Doha on Tuesday.

"It is shameful for the international community to allow this heinous crime to continue for nearly two months, during which the systematic and deliberate killing of innocent civilians continues, including women and children," Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani said.

Qatar was a key mediator in negotiations that resulted in a seven-day

truce, which saw scores of Israeli prisoners exchanged for Palestinians prisoners and humanitarian aid, until it ended on Friday.

Its foreign ministry said that GCC summit was aimed at forming a united approach to end the aggression in Gaza.

"Now the ceiling should be raised to talk about a sustainable truce" that could lead to ending this unrest, Majed Al-Ansari, spokesperson for Qatar's foreign ministry, told Al Jazeera.

Qatar's ruler said his country was "constantly working to renew" the truce, but added this was "not an alternative to a permanent ceasefire".

## Germany and Brazil hope for swift finalization of a trade agreement between EU and Mercosur

**Monitoring Desk**  
BERLIN: The chancellor of Germany and president of Brazil expressed hope Monday that decades-long negotiations might soon yield a finalized free trade agreement between the 27-member European Union and a bloc of four South American nations. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva told reporters in Berlin that they support the trade deal for the EU and Mercosur, comprised of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. The two blocs are holding a summit Thursday in Rio de Janeiro, but final approval of a preliminary trade agreement has remained elusive.

"We are strongly committed to ensuring that the agreement is now final-

ized swiftly," Scholz said after a meeting of senior officials from both countries in the German capital.

Lula also vowed to fight for the deal, and said he hoped for a breakthrough at the Rio de Janeiro meeting. "As long as I can believe that the agreement is possible, I will fight for it," the Brazilian president said. "I'm not giving up."

Such a trade deal would create one of the world's largest free trade zones, with more than 700 million inhabitants. The EU and Mercosur states have been in talks for more than 20 years. A basic agreement between the sides that was reached in 2019 was not implemented due to various concerns including the protection of the rainforest in South America.

## Israeli forces encircle main southern Gaza city

**Monitoring Desk**  
GAZA STRIP: Israeli forces were encircling southern Gaza's main city on Wednesday, battling Hamas militants through streets and buildings in some of the most intense combat of the two-month war.

The focus of the conflict has shifted into the besieged territory's south following fierce fighting and bombardment that reduced much of the north to rubble and forced nearly two million people to flee their homes.

Israeli tanks, armoured personnel carriers and bulldozers were seen on Tuesday near southern

Gaza's city of Khan Yunis, forcing already displaced civilians to pack up and flee again, witnesses told AFP.

"Our forces are now encircling the Khan Yunis area in the southern Gaza Strip," Israel's army chief Herzi Halevi said late Tuesday.

"We have secured many Hamas strongholds in the northern Gaza Strip, and now we are operating against its strongholds in the south."

The fighting on Tuesday was "the most intense day since the beginning of the ground operation" in late October.

## Hungary's ruling party submits resolution opposing Ukraine's EU accession talks

**Monitoring Desk**  
BUDAPEST: Hungary's ruling party has submitted a resolution to parliament calling on the government to not support the start of talks on Ukraine's EU accession.

The moves comes as Prime Minister Viktor Orban is stepping up pressure on Brussels ahead of a crucial EU summit next week. His ruling party said the start of accession talks with Ukraine should be based on a consensus among member states and "conditions are not there for that today".

AP adds: On Monday,

Orban demanded that Ukraine's membership in the European Union and billions of euros in funding meant for the war-torn country be taken off the agenda at a summit of the bloc's leaders next week.

In a letter to European Council President Charles Michel, who will chair the Dec. 14-15 summit in Brussels, Orban insisted that a "strategic discussion" is needed first about Ukraine's European future and warned that forcing a decision could destroy EU unity.

## Electric vehicles accelerating end of oil age

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK: There is plenty of hand-wringing on display at the COP28 climate conference in Dubai about the slow pace of reducing the consumption of fossil fuels to fight climate change. But one positive that delegates can point to is the growing fleet of electric vehicles worldwide that is already making a surprisingly big dent in demand.

Growing sales of electric vehicles in recent years have led forecasters to speed their projections for when global oil use will peak, as public subsidies and improved technology help consumers overcome the sometimes eye-popping sticker prices for battery-powered cars, according to industry experts.

The Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA), a grouping of 29 industrialized nations, expects world oil consumption to hit its zenith at the end of this decade at 103 million barrels per day, after making regular adjustments from its 2017 forecast of a nearly 105 million

bpd peak in 2040.

"The game-changer has been the policy support for the shift to electrification quite substantially reducing oil demand from transportation sector, which has been the key driver of global oil demand growth," said Apostolos Petropoulos, an energy modeler at the IEA.

Oil giant BP (BPL) has pushed forward its global peak oil demand projections, while the governments of both the United States and China - the world's two biggest oil users - have ratcheted back their domestic consumption forecasts. Transportation is responsible for about 60% of world oil demand, with the United States alone accounting for around 10%, according to the IEA. That share should fall, as the IEA expects EVs will have erased some 5 million barrels per day of world oil demand by 2030.

Global EV sales now make up about 13% of all vehicle sales and are likely to rise to between 40%-45% of the market by the end of the decade.

## I won't be a dictator if I become US president again: Trump

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: Donald Trump said on Tuesday that he will not become a dictator if he becomes US president again except "on day one", after warnings from Democrats and some Republicans that America was in danger of becoming an autocracy if he wins the 2024 election.

Republican presidential candidate Trump had to be asked twice during a televised town hall event in Iowa to deny that he would abuse power to seek revenge on political oppo-

nents if re-elected to the White House.

"No. No. Other than day one," Trump said when asked to deny he would become a "dictator" if he wins the November election.

Trump said on the "day one" he referred to, he would use his presidential powers to close the southern border with Mexico and expand oil drilling.

Trump, seeking a second White House term in a likely election re-match with Democratic President Joe Biden.

## US official in New Delhi for talks on Sikh plot

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: White House deputy national security adviser Jon Finer led a US delegation to New Delhi on Monday where he noted the formation of an investigative panel by India to probe an unsuccessful plot to assassinate a Sikh separatist on US soil.

"Mr Finer acknowledged India's establishment of a Committee of Enquiry to investigate lethal plotting in the United States and the importance of holding accountable anyone found responsible," the White House said in a statement.

Finer met Indian foreign minister S. Jaishankar and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.

Last week, the US Justice Department alleged that an Indian government official directed an unsuccessful plot to assassinate a Sikh separatist on US soil.

## Chinese media calls Moody's 'biased', govt reaction seen more restrained

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: Chinese state media called Moody's "biased" on Wednesday for its negative rating outlook on the world's No. 2 economy, but some analysts said the government's official reaction was more restrained, signalling Beijing's own worries about surging debt.

Chinese officials often respond with aggressive statements to international scrutiny. After Moody's and S&P Global's previous outlook cuts in 2016, then

finance minister Lou Jiwei slammed the ratings agencies as "biased" during a G20 meeting in Washington.

But in the official statement responding to Moody's move on Tuesday, the ministry only expressed "disappointment."

On Wednesday, a foreign ministry spokesperson said China is capable of deepening reform and addressing its challenges, and that it welcomed "all friends" from "all over the world" to invest in its economy.

## Turkey arrests alleged British crime boss in Istanbul

**Monitoring Desk**  
ISTANBUL: Turkey said on Wednesday it had captured the leader of a British gang involved in drug smuggling, illegal gun trade and robbery in an operation in Istanbul. Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said Shaun Monaghan, leader of a gang operating in northeast England, was being sought by an Interpol red notice.

Monaghan arrived in Turkey in October and the Interpol notice was published on Tuesday, Yerlikaya said. Turkish police had found Monaghan to be living in Istanbul's Fatih district and captured him on Wednesday.

## Sudanese warring parties dig in as Jeddah talks falter again

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Saudi and US-brokered talks aimed at halting fighting between Sudan's warring parties have faltered again, and the country's army and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces have pressed on with military campaigns that have caused a major humanitarian crisis.

The lack of progress at the talks in Jeddah dashed hopes for resolution of a conflict that has displaced more than 6.5 million inside and outside Sudan, decimated the economy, and triggered ethnically driven massacres in Darfur.

Sudan's army has es-

calated its rhetoric and residents say it has intensified air strikes in the capital Khartoum, while its rival, the paramilitary RSF, has secured advances in the Darfur and Kordofan regions.

"They are firing artillery aggressively, and it often lands in civilian homes," said Ahmed Abdallah, a 51-year-old of Omdurman, a city that adjoins Khartoum where the rivals are battling over army bases. The RSF and army worked together to oust former ruler Omar al-Bashir in 2019 and stage a coup in 2021, but conflict erupted between them in April over a plan for a new transition.



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addresses to service members during award ceremony on Day of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kyiv, Ukraine.

## Pakistan urges India to ensure safety of minorities particularly Muslims

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has urged the Indian government to ensure the safety, security, and protection of minorities, particularly Muslims and their places of worship.

The Foreign Office in a statement issued on Wednesday, on the completion of 31 years to the demolition of the historic Babri Mosque said that the day was a sad reminder where a mob of Hindu zealots demolished the centuries-old mosque in Ayodhya city of Uttar Pradesh state in full view of Indian law enforcement authorities.

The statement said, it is lamentable that India's superior judiciary not only acquitted the criminals responsible for this hateful act but also allowed the construction of a temple on the site of the demolished Mosque.

The Foreign Office

said the temple was expected to be inaugurated in January 2024 - months before the next general elections in India. It said the anti-Muslim frenzy that caused the Babri Mosque's destruction remains unabated. A few weeks ago, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh publicly cited the Mosque's demolition as a template to reclaim parts of Pakistan. The statement said the elements belonging to the ruling dispensation in India continue to incite hysteria and hatred against Muslims. "Today, Hindu supremacist groups are demanding conversion of many other mosques into temples, including the Gyanvapi Mosque in Varanasi and Shahi Eidgah Mosque in Mathura," it said. The Foreign Office said that several mosques and shrines had already been demolished under the garb of different administrative measures or ju-



BEIJING: Mr. Cui Jun, President China Economic Net called on Ambassador Khalil Hashmi at Pakistan Embassy Beijing; discussed different areas of bilateral cooperation including media exchanges between China and Pakistan.

## Husband bound to pay 'mehr' whenever his wife demands: SC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Wednesday declared that the 'haq mehr' (dower) has to be paid to a woman whenever she demanded it from her husband.

The court imposed a fine worth Rs1,00,000 on petitioner for six-year delay in payment of the 'mehr' amount to his wife and also directed him to pay the expenditures of litigation to the woman. A three-member bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa issued the three-page written order in an appeal filed by a citizen Khalid Pervaiz.

The order said that 'mehr' is an Islamic concept and it is specifically recognised by the law of Pakistan. It has to be paid whenever demanded by the

wife, it added. The order said that the mehr (dower) can be demanded during the subsistence of the marriage, and that the husband is under an obligation to pay it.

It said that the woman had to file a suit for recovery of the 'mehr' and maintenance, and the petitioner unnecessarily involved her in litigation, which reached this Court after six and half years. The court said that this kind of frivolous litigation is paralysing the judicial system of the country. The petitioner took up an untenable defence, and perpetuated it probably because costs were not imposed upon him and the courts did not insist that the decision of the Family Court should first be complied with before entertaining a challenge to it.



QUETTA: Caretaker Human Rights Minister, Khalil George along with "Pastor Imran Afzal and others are cutting cake during a ceremony on the eve of Christmas Day 'coming ahead.'

## Lasbela Women Empowerment Summit sparks inspiration and development

QUETTA: In a momentous collaboration, the Ministry of Information Government of Balochistan, and Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Funds (PPF) join hands to host the Lasbela Women Empowerment Summit, a beacon of change aimed at uplifting women across diverse fields.

The summit, organized by Information Ministry and PPF, has garnered significant attention for its commitment to fostering inspiration and progress among women in the region.

Held in Uthal, Lasbela, the summit witnessed the presence of distinguished guests, with Mr. Naem Umrani, ADC (R) District Lasbela, gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest. Mr. Umrani, in his address, applauded the impactful strides taken towards women empowerment, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts to bring about positive change. He also distributed prizes, certificates and shields.

The summit, held un-

der the theme "Empowering Change," provided a platform for women to engage in meaningful discussions, share experiences, and gain insights from prominent figures in various fields. Workshops, panel discussions, and interactive sessions were designed to address challenges and opportunities, encouraging women to excel in their respective domains.

The Balochistan Government's commitment to supporting initiatives that empower women was evident throughout the summit. The Information Ministry and PPF played pivotal roles in ensuring the success of this collaborative effort, reflecting a shared vision for a more inclusive and progressive society.

The important highlights of the summit included discussions on entrepreneurship, education, healthcare, and technology, showcasing the multifaceted nature of women's contributions to society. Attendees were inspired by success stories.



ISLAMABAD: President of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazal-ur-Rehman, Chief of Jamat-e-Islami Siraj-ul-Haq, Moulana Taqi Usmani and others rises hand together to show solidarity with the oppressed Muslims of Palestine during "Hurmat-e-Al-Aqsa Conference" at Convention Center.

## US reaffirms to protect resettlement of Afghan Refugees to US

ISLAMABAD (Online): U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Julieta Valls Noyes visited Pakistan December 4-6 to reaffirm the United States' steadfast commitment to the protection and safe, efficient resettlement and relocation of eligible Afghan refugees to the United States.

In meetings with senior Pakistani government officials, Assistant Secretary Noyes discussed how both countries can work together to accelerate the processing of Afghan nationals eligible for relocation or resettlement in the United States, expressed the U.S. desire to continue working with the Government of Pakistan as we process individuals in U.S. resettlement pathways, and encouraged upholding international humanitarian principles, including non-refoulement, and protecting vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers.

## Delegation of Senators visits Iraq to enhance bilateral ties

BAGHDAD (INP): Headed by Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, a high-profile delegation of Senators arrived in Baghdad, Iraq on Wednesday with an aim to enhance bilateral relations between the two countries.

Undersecretary of the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mohammed Hussein Mohammed Bahraloom along with senior officials of the Iraqi Parliament warmly received the distinguished delegation.

During his stay in Iraq, Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani was scheduled to engage in meetings with senior Iraqi leadership and parliamentary heads including acting Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament.

## PHC eases rules for Afghan refugees marrying Pakistanis

PESHAWAR (INP): The Peshawar High Court on Wednesday relaxed the rules for Afghan refugees who have married Pakistani men or women.

The detailed judgment, penned by Justice Waqar Ahmed, spans 33 pages and marks a significant step towards facilitating the lives of Afghan refugees who have chosen to build their lives in Pakistan.

The court's directive allows Afghan nationals married to Pakistanis to apply for Pakistan Origin Cards (POCs), a document that grants them certain rights and privileges associated with Pakistani citizenship. This move aims to streamline the process for Afghan refugees seeking to regularize their status in Pakistan and integrate into society seamlessly. The decision emphasizes the importance of simplifying the marriage registration process for Afghan-Pakistani couples, eliminating the mandatory requirement of a passport and ID card for POC applications in cases of marriage. Additionally, the court mandates that POC cards be issued promptly following security clearance, ensuring that eligible individuals are not subjected to unnecessary delays.

## Religious scholars, leaders unite against Israeli aggression, call for global solidarity

### JUI-F chief urge Muslim World not to recognize Israel

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prominent religious scholars and leaders representing diverse schools of thought on Wednesday gathered at the Jinnah Convention Centre for the National Conference titled 'The Sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque and Responsibility of the Muslim Ummah.'

Organized by Majlis Ittehad-e-Ummah Pakistan, the conference saw a joint declaration expressing full solidarity with the freedom of Al-Aqsa Mosque and condemning the oppression faced by Palestinian brothers.

Addressing the gathering, the religious scholars and leaders highlighted Israel's relentless aggression, branding it as a violator of international law since its illegal establishment. They emphasized the recent brutal bombings in Gaza, resulting in the mar-

tyrdom of over 15,000 Palestinians, including 6,000 children and numerous women. They declared these actions as war crimes against humanity, targeting mosques, churches, hospitals, and even newborns. The Ulema and Mashaykh criticized Western powers for their complicity in supporting Israel's crimes through financial, practical, and military assistance. They called for an immediate end to the brutal bombings, war crimes, and all forms of support for Israel. They asserted that the entire land of Palestine belonged to its original inhabitants, condemning the unjust settlements established by Zionists. They urged the people of Palestine to resist this aggression, emphasizing the religious duty of Muslims to support the cause. Labelling the current conflict as a grand defensive

Jihad rooted in pure Islam, the scholars and leaders stressed liberating the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the land of the Last Prophet Peace Be Upon Him from Zionist dominance. They demanded basic rights for the people of Palestine according to United Nations resolutions, calling for an end to military intervention, the siege on Al-Quds, Gaza Strip, and the West Bank, and the permanent opening of the Rafah border. Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has urged the Muslim World not to recognize Israel. Speaking at the National Conference on "The Sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Responsibility of the Muslim Ummah" organized by Majlis Ittehad-e-Ummah Pakistan here on Wednesday, he asked international organizations to respect public opinion.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Sports and Culture Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani visiting staff during inaugural ceremony of Education Expo 2023-12-06.

## CPEC paving foundation of sustainable development of Pakistan: Chinese CG

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan and China achieved concrete progress under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor which is paving the foundation of sustainable development and economic growth of Pakistan.

The people of Pakistan started reaping the benefits of the CPEC journey as several major projects have been completed while many more were in the completion process.

These views were expressed by the Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Karachi, Yang Yundong in an exclusive interview with the Associated Press of Pakistan here at the Consulate.



QUETTA: Provincial Election Commissioner Sharifullah meeting with Secretary Finance Babar Khan.

## Chief Secretary directs DCs to ensure implementation of ECP's decision

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Secretary (CS) Shakeel Qadir Khan on Wednesday directed all Deputy Commissioners (DCs) to ensure the implementation of instructions given by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and to complete repair work of polling stations in their respective districts as soon as possible.

He shared these views while chairing a meeting of divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners regarding the prevention of smuggling, provision of quality education and best facilities in the health sector, price control committee, and Quetta water treatment plant, in which various related issues were reviewed. The meeting was at-

tended by Senior Member Board of Revenue Hafiz Muhammad Tahir, Additional Chief Secretary Interior Zahid Saleem, Secretary Imran Zarkoon, Secretary Health Abdullah Khan, Secretary Education Saleh Mohammad Nasir, Commissioner Quetta Hamza Shafaqat, Deputy Commissioner Quetta while other Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners participated it through video link.

Addressing the meeting, the Chief Secretary said that all the Deputy Commissioners (DCs) should ensure the implementation of the instructions given by the Election Commission and all DCs should complete the repair work of polling stations in their respective districts as soon as possible.

He said that provision of health facilities and quality education are essential for the betterment of society and in this regard, the provincial government was taking steps for improvement in both sectors.

He said that all deputy commissioners should visit hospitals, primary health centers, and educational institutions in the respective districts and ensure attendance of absent staff and the supply of medicines in hospitals should be ensured. On this occasion, the meeting gave a detailed briefing by all the divisional commissioners regarding their respective divisions and told that all the commissioners and deputy commissioners have made more than 1200 visits to all the districts.

## ADB approves \$658.8mln financial support for Pak sustainable development

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved this week three projects amounting to \$658.8 million to help Pakistan achieve its goal of more inclusive and sustainable growth and development.

The projects would focus on improving domestic resource mobilization; rehabilitating schools damaged by the devastating August 2022 floods; and enhancing agricultural productivity to improve food security, a news release said on Wednesday.

"This significant new wave of financing will help Pakistan recover from the impacts of last year's cost-of-living crisis and super-floods and return to the path of long-term development that is sustainable and inclusive," ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Yevgeniy Zhukov said.

"This multifaceted approach is part of ADB's strategic engagement in Pa-

kistan and cohesively deploys our program lending and project investments to enhance support for Pakistan's efforts to improve its economic situation and enhance the quality of life for its people," he added. The Improved Resource Mobilization and Utilization Reform Programme would support the government to realize its ambition of achieving economic growth that is sustainable, broad-based, and inclusive. The \$300 million policy-based loan would support the initiative's first subprogram, which focuses on laying the foundation for reforms to policies, laws, and institutional capacity that would improve domestic resource mobilization and utilization. The programme is helping to transform tax administration, public expenditure management, and other institutional structures to strengthen resource mobilization including non-debt resources.



QUETTA: Former Provincial Minister Umar Khan Jamali meeting with caretaker Home Minister Captain (Retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali.

## Education & Skills Expo begins: Interim Govt resolves to work on project of sending youth abroad for making them skilled

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Mir Jamal Khan Raisani stated that the interim provincial government is resolved to send youth of the province abroad to make them skilled so that they may play effective role in development of the country by learning skills in different sectors.

These views were expressed by the caretaker Minister Mir Jamal Khan Raisani while addressing the ceremony held marking inauguration of the Education and Skills Expo 2023 at Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) on Wednesday.



QUETTA: Ending violence Against Woman & Girls members hold awareness walk regarding "16 days of Activitism Against Gender Based Violence" outside QPC.

## Scrutiny of various dev. projects continues by CMIT in Usta Muhammad

QUETTA: The scrutiny of different development projects is continued by the Deputy Commissioner Usta Muhammad.

The concerned high ups briefed the meeting about the progress of different development projects being executed by their respective departments.

The Member CMIT expressed anguish over absence of few officers.

Addressing the meeting, Umeed Ali Khokhar stressed the need to resolve the issues being faced in early execution of the projects.

## Ismail Haniyeh for Pak support against Israeli occupation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior Political Leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh on Wednesday virtually addressed the National Dialogue on "The Sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque and Responsibility of the Muslim Ummah" held at the Jinnah Convention Centre and sought Pakistan's support against Israeli occupation.

Organized by Majlis Ittehad-e-Ummah Pakistan, he emphasized Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories, addressing the challenges faced by the Pal-

estinian people. Haniyeh stated that Israel's actions, including the arrest of approximately 16,000 Palestinians and desecration of holy sites, were a violation of international norms. He expressed disappointment over the non-implementation of the Oslo Accords, citing an increase in the occupation of Palestinian territories. Haniyeh warned against the establishment of diplomatic relations between Islamic countries.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan addressing Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners Conference.