

# Independent

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QUETTA: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses to his supporters during the public gathering meeting on the occasion of PPP 56th Foundation Day, at Ayub Stadium in Quetta.

## Grand public meeting held marking 56th foundation day of PPP: Bilawal calls for burying politics of hatred, division; desires to introduce new style of politics to end rivalries

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has called for "burying" politics of hatred and division in line with the vision of his father Asif Ali Zardari's reconciliatory politics.  
Bilawal said: "we have to do politics wherein we should think about unity and not of division. The PPP wants to start a new kind of politics in the country".  
He was addressing a grand public rally held to mark the PPP's 56th foundation day in Quetta.  
The grand public meeting marking the 56th founding day of PPP was held at the spacious football ground located in the Ayub Sports complex.  
Besides PPP's central leaders including its President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, other prominent leaders of the party who participated in the event were included: Faisal Karim Kundi, Syed Khurshid Shah, former Chief Ministers of Sindh, Syed Qaim Ali Shah and Syed Murad Ali Shah, Nafisa Shah,

Nayyar Bokhari, Manzoor Wassan, Ms. Shazia Marri, Sharjeel Memon, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Nisar Khoro besides the party's leaders from different other parts of the country.  
The prominent provincial leaders participated in the party's public gathering were included its provincial President, Mir Changez Khan Jamali, General secretary, Rozi Khan Kakar, Nawab Sanauallah Zehri, Lt. General (Retd) Abdul Qadir Baloch, Ali Madad Jatak Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Iqbal Shah besides others.  
The senior leader of PPP from Sindh, Nisar Khoro as well as provincial leaders including Mir Changez Jamali, Nawab Sanauallah Zehri, Abdul Qadir Baloch, Ali Madad Jatak, Rozi Khan Kakar, Sadiq Umrani and others addressed the public meeting. The party workers and leaders from all over the province participated in the public gathering.  
They reached the jalsa gah in form of big caravans and groups mostly carrying the party flags and portraits of their leaders.

## Youth & students exchange program between Thailand & Pakistan to be made effective, says caretaker CM

Mir Ali Mardan Domki says federal government to be approached for resolving pending trade affairs between Thailand and Pakistan; welcomes Thai desire of becoming part of CPEC projects

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the youth and students exchange programme between Thailand and Pakistan would be made effective.  
The Chief Minister was speaking to the delegation of Thailand who called on him under leadership of its Consul General, Naruts Soontarodom, here at the Chief Minister secretariat on Thursday.  
Also present in the meeting were the caretaker

Provincial Minister for Sports, Youth Affairs and Culture, Mir Jamal Raisani and other high ups of the provincial government.  
During the course of meeting, matters about the relations between Thailand and Pakistan besides others of mutual interests were discussed.  
Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister said that Balochistan is the custodian province of hospitality and traditions.  
He hailed the announcement regarding provision of better educational opportunities for youth of

## PM Kakar for utilizing Loss & Damage Fund on merit to cope with climate change issues

DUBAI (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday stressed the need to immediately operationalize the Loss & Damage Fund, ensuring its utilization on merit to cope with the issues of climate change.  
He said the utilization of Fund should not be linked with the development funds and loans from multilateral financial entities, but the funding should be additional and tangible.  
The prime minister, in an interview with CNN on the sidelines of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP28, said

that currently Pakistan's focus was on transformation from the coal-based power plants to renewable energy projects to contribute towards minimizing the climate change impacts in the region and beyond.  
"This is the area which could attract interest of countries here in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the settled economies and democracies on the Western side, so it is an opportunity for all of them and all of us," he added. He said the climate change was no more a fashionable point to discuss as it hit Pakistan very hard last year.



QUETTA: A delegation of Thailand led by its Consul General, Naruts Soontarodom meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki. Caretaker Provincial Sports Minister Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani is also present.

## Governor Balochistan takes notice of increasing crime in Pishin

QUETTA (APP): Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar on Thursday took notice of the increasing crime and unrest in District Pishin.  
He also emphasized that the district administration should take immediate and effective measures to improve the law and order situation saying that protection of life and property and elimination of crimes could open the way for sustainable peace and development.  
He expressed these views while talking to the district Pishin Harmzai representatives delegation, led by Syed Abdul Bari Agha.  
On this occasion, the Governor said that it was the primary responsibility of the government to provide security to the people and end the criminal elements.  
He urged the people to cooperate fully with the district administration to ensure sustainable peace.

## We have formulas to strengthen country, Balochistan: Zardari pledges to make Pakistan stronger and great country after coming into power

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The President of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and former President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari has said that Balochistan is the heart of Pakistan, and it is very important to win this heart, and reaffirmed his resolve that he would, by bringing the entire nation together, make Pakistan a great country. He also urged that if Pakistan is to become an exporting country, Balochistan has to be supplied with water.  
Addressing the grand public meeting organized on the occasion of the party's 56th foundation day in Quetta, the former president said that Pakistan is rich in all virtues. He furthered that Pakistan is not weak, and added: "a nation does not rise by itself, it is led and raised by leaders. He said that when he was in prison, people often asked him what his activities were? "So I used to answer them that I dream for Pakistan," he added. He said that each and every one of the nation should work together to make Pakistan in real sense a Pakistan. "Such a Pakistan as 'Quaid-e-Awam' used to say that to make this country a great country, we have to emerge as a great nation on the map of the world," he added.  
President PPPP said that individuals sitting in Islamabad do not see that Balochistan is the heart of the country, but PPP sees (without doubt) that Balochistan is the heart of the country. "Today I want to tell everyone that there is a great sadness and sorrow spread inside the land of Balochistan, and we have to put ointment on it. We put some ointment during our time, but it is not enough," he said.

## Naval Chief emphasizes perpetual combat readiness to thwart any aggression

ISLAMABAD (APP): Middle East, deployment of Pakistan Navy Ship for the protection of Pakistan's merchant ships was discussed.  
Progress on Pakistan Navy projects including future plans was also reviewed and way forward was deliberated.  
The Naval Chief emphasized on maintaining perpetual combat readiness to effectively thwart any aggression against Pakistan.  
He lauded the initiatives undertaken towards capability development through acquisition of state of the art platforms and emerging technologies.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf chairs the Command and Staff Conference held at Naval Headquarters in Islamabad.

## Jamali urges Bilawal to empower women, youth of Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Balochistan President Changez Jamali has urged Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to empower and encourage women and youth of Balochistan by extending the party's all-out support to them.

## People's participation in state affairs to provide strong foundation for good governance: Governor

QUETTA (APP): Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar on Thursday said people's participation in state affairs could provide a strong foundation for good governance.  
He said that the focus of all policies and projects should be the creation of interest, therefore it is not possible to plan in the collective interest without knowing the public opinion.  
He said that access to information is essential for trust and understanding between the government and the people.  
The Governor said that it was important to provide an open public forum in society where the people could give free opinions on all important issues including their problems, government performance, and development planning.  
Today's pledge is the vow of freedom of information, it is considered essential to smooth opinion on all important issues and gain public trust, he said.  
Governor Balochistan said that the requirements of access to information should be fulfilled only as an example of diversity in free debate and unity in action.

## Sarfraz Domki, Naseebullah Marri, Liaquat Lehari join PPP

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The leader of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) and former Provincial Minister, Mir Sarfraz Khan Domki and leader of PTI, Mir Naseebullah Marri and some other politicians have joined the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) here on Thursday.  
Others who joined the party were included Mir Hyrbiyar Domki, Liaquat Lehari, Wali Khan Achakzai and Allaiddin Kakar.  
The President of PPP Parliamentarian, Asif Ali Zardari reached Malik Shah House. Mir Sarfraz Domki and others announced their joining in the party.  
Also present on the occasion were the senior leaders of the province including Nawab Sanauallah Zehri, Abdul Qadir Baloch, Rozi Khan, Sardar Umar Gorgej, Sarbuland Khan Jogejai and others.



QUETTA: President of Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians, Asif Ali Zardari addressing to a public rally to marks the 56th Foundation Day (Youm-e-Tasees).



GWADAR: Caretaker Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Communication and Railway, Capt. (Retd) Shahid Ashraf Tarar undertook a comprehensive two-day visit to the port city of Gwadar to closely monitor and evaluate the progress of development initiatives.

## Chaman protest dharna becoming anti-Pakistan platform, maintains Jan Achakzai

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has stated that the protest dharna being staged in border town Chaman is becoming anti-Pakistan platform.  
In an official statement issued here on Thursday, the Minister Information said that the Pashtoon Tahafuz Movement (PTM) and the anti-Pakistan groups have hijacked the protest sit-in being staged in Chaman.  
He said that the people can't be provoked against the state through hate

speech as a democratic right.  
If the organizers of protest are standing with the PTM and its provocative narrative then they should just forget about the trade and business of Vash market, adding Minister Information asserted.  
Needless to mention here is that the protest dharna is continued against the government's one regime document policy at the Pak-Aghan border for last around one month.  
Different political parties and tribal groups are participating in the protest dharna.

Addressing the 56th Foundation Day procession of PPP, held at Ayub Stadium Quetta on Thursday, he said that the youth of Balochistan is patriot and ready to play their pivotal role in the development of the country.  
"I am grateful to the PPP President Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto and other leadership for choosing Balochistan for Foundation Day celebrations," Jamali said.  
The huge gathering at Ayub Stadium of Quetta portrays the love and affection of the people with PPP.  
Paying homage to the martyrs of the party, he said that PPP has paid a huge price for the country.

Iranian Ambassador for ending political relations with Israel  
QUETTA (APP): The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pakistan, Raza Amiri Moqadam, urging the need for ending political relations with Israel said the problem of Palestine is a war between Islam and Western forces.  
It is admirable that Pakistanis expressed their sympathy for Palestine by going out on the streets.  
He said this while addressing scholars, intellectuals, journalists, and tribal elders at Khana Farhang Quetta on Wednesday.  
The ambassador said that there is a law to support the oppressed in the constitution of Iran. In this connection,



QUETTA: A delegation led by Executive Director CPDI Islamabad Mukhtar Ahmed Ali meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Avenfield verdict**

In a turn of fortunes, and for some a rightful reset of justice, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) has acquitted PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif in the Avenfield Apartments reference case. The high court had also recently acquitted Maryam Nawaz and her husband Captain @ Muhammad Safdar in the same reference. To many – both in the PML-N and independent legal observers – what had transpired in the Avenfield case in 2018 was a mockery of justice and the case had over the past years come to be seen as part of an aggressive anti-Sharif family campaign led by NAB, which eventually paved the way to the House of Sharif contesting the 2018 elections on a backfoot, weakened and broken for the most part.

The verdict can also be seen as yet another look at the way NAB had used weak and barely-there cases to gun for those out of favour with the previous PTI government.

The Avenfield legal saga had become a focal point of political intrigue, legal scrutiny, and public debate. At the heart of the matter was Nawaz Sharif and his family's ownership of luxury apartments in the upscale Avenfield House in London, the case having had far-reaching implications, impacting not only the political landscape of Pakistan but also the discourse surrounding accountability, corruption, and rule of law. The Avenfield reference stemmed from revelations in the Panama Papers. Nawaz Sharif and his family were implicated in owning luxurious properties in London through offshore companies. On July 6, 2018 the trial court had sentenced Nawaz to 10 years in jail upon conviction along with a fine of more than one billion rupees – for owning assets beyond known sources of income and an additional year for not cooperating with NAB, both of them to be served concurrently. Maryam Nawaz had been sentenced to seven years in prison with a fine, and one year for non-cooperation with NAB, while her husband was handed down a two-year rigorous imprisonment. The verdict led to Nawaz Sharif's disqualification from holding public office, further polarizing the political landscape in Pakistan. In 2020, the IHC had declared him a proclaimed offender in the case.

**The inequality equation**



By Kamila Hyat

Inequality has always existed in Pakistan for at least one-third of the population which lives below the poverty line. There is no evidence of a drastic change over the decades since the country came into existence. But there is speculation from top economists in the country that after 2018, things have taken a turn for the worse and inequality has grown with the poor falling lower down the ladder as they struggle with inflation, unemployment, and many other perils that come along with these.

In a country where 50 per cent of the children are already stunted, we cannot afford more inequality and a further lowering of the quality of life for the poorest half of society. But this is what we are seeing. We know of families that have had to remove children from school or move them to less privileged ones in order to make their household budget cover the cost of the family. We also know of children sent out to work instead of attending school.

We see poverty all around us. From the sight of someone eating a roti with mere water in his plate to dip it in, to the other sights we have grown so familiar with, no one seems to care.

The golf courses which line many of our major cities spread out over acres at times, consume more water than the entire katchi abadis (informal settlements) and communities around them. It is the attitude to these katchi abadis which is more shocking. As they drive past these communities, people running the

golf clubs and those who use the clubs, suggest quickly that in order to beautify Lahore, Islamabad, Karachi, or some other city, the abadi simply be moved away, so they can drive in peace to their clubs rather than suggesting any effort to improve sanitation and housing and thereby help the people living there.

We see the same attitudes reflected in the way people treat domestic employees. We know of the deaths of maids, in some cases for no crime other than eating a morsel of food, after being kept on a starvation diet for days. In many houses, around big cities, we can see that housing for lower-income employees consists merely of a tin shack, sometimes without even toilet facilities or a fan. It is difficult to see how anyone can expect a human to live in these conditions, notably in the harsh summer months which hit the country or in the winter of the country's north.

Closing the equality gap is important to harmony and a greater sense of belonging in the country. Analysts who have looked at the matter believe that rising street crime and other such crime is linked to growing poverty, unemployment and bringing in earned incomes. Even when these incomes are available, the salaries given out to clerks, gardeners, postmen, drivers, and others are simply not enough to meet even their basic needs.

So what is to be done? There is a desperate need for a fairer system of taxation and taxation on land as well as some method to ensure that the rich pay out the taxes that they owe the country rather than drawing this tax only from salaried workers where it is cut at source.

More revenue needs to be well utilized. This would mean a policy stretching out over at least 15 years which looks at how uplift can take place and with this how the attitudes of what we call the 'elite' can change. Changing

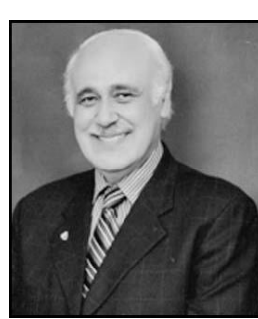
attitudes is important so that all citizens of the country get the dignity that is granted to them under the constitution of Pakistan but is rarely available in regular day to day life.

There are other measures too that need to be taken. One of them is improving the condition of our public schools so that all citizens everywhere can receive good education at affordable costs. The decline in standards of public schools is a huge setback in our efforts to grow and develop as a nation. Bangladesh has achieved much of its improvements in the economy and development by ensuring schooling, particularly for girls. To do so, it has roped in clerics and other people of influence so that the right message can go out to people. We need to emulate these examples.

The same applies to healthcare and its availability to people everywhere in the country. At present, it is not available. It must be made available, gained by upgrading public hospitals and clinics and by ensuring that there is some insurance scheme in place at more workplaces so that workers at all levels are covered. Again, the attitude of doctors and nurses needs to be changed too. No matter who seeks medical help, they must be treated in the same way and with the same degree of respect. This does not happen right now. A poorer person going in to seek care is often treated with an attitude of contempt even by medical staff who should understand how important it is to take care of everyone in the country and of the oath they have taken to do this as they became practicing doctors.

The journey for Pakistan will be a long and hard one. We must recognize that some of our top housing colonies are built atop the remains of katchi abadis and villages which have simply been decimated in order to accommodate these plush societies. —Courtesy The News

**Cultural escapism**



By F.S. Aijazuddin

Poised on the precipice of another Armageddon, one is reminded of the remark made in the 1940s by Sir Kenneth Clark, then director of the National Gallery, London. Asked why he arranged lunch-time concerts during the London Blitz, he retorted that it was necessary to remind people of the civilisation they were fighting to protect.

Living in a modern battle zone of sorts, one can be forgiven for recalling such moments of intellectual escapism. We live in a battered society where public protests attract penalties, political figures, like zoo animals, are safer behind bars, and festive paper kites are no longer visible in a sky smothered by fog.

My personal escape was in the late 1960s when, freshly transplanted from London to Lahore, I sought refuge from the dull world of accountancy and fled to the Lahore Museum. There, in the timeless world of miniature paintings, redolent with romance, populated by deities and demons, rulers and lovers, heroes and pining heroines, I discovered a world of courtly combat in which death was only symbolic, and blood merely a pigment.

These miniature paintings belonged to a period following the collapse of the Mughal empire in the 18th century when artists migrated to provincial courts, particularly it is believed to states in Rajasthan and the smaller Rajput principalities in the Punjab hills.

An earlier parallel of such pockets of artistic re-

naissance occurred during the 15th and 16th centuries in the north Italian states, notably Venice and Florence. American art historian Bernard Berenson in the 1890s developed a chronology of Italianate painting. His pioneering publications included Venetian Painters (1894), Florentine Painters (1896), and Central Italian Painters (1897) — all of the Renaissance. Berenson's approach was to identify the artist's personality and identity through his works, not simply through signatures. As another scholar put it: inscriptions lie; paintings don't.

In 1899, Berenson created a personality he called Amico di Sandro, "by looking solely at the works and not at documents". He placed unsigned pictures he attributed to this unknown artist between two contemporaries — Botticelli and Filippino. Later evidence proved that an artist named Sandro did, in fact, exist.

Subsequent scholars benefited from this approach to art history. In the 1950s, Dr W.G. Archer, working in London's Victoria & Albert Museum, used certain Pahari paintings as evidence to argue that Guler and not Kangra had been the crucible of Pahari painting. Subsequent research confirmed his view.

Archer had an almost symbiotic connection with paintings. His attributions were more accurate than his detractors cared to admit. I was witness to a test of his gift. In 1977, a number of us scholars were taken to San Diego to examine the Ed Binney III collection of miniatures. There Brijen Goswamy noticed that one of the paintings, a Kahlur/Bilaspur image of the casting of Krishna's horoscope, bore an inscription. It revealed a date of 1705. The scholars present scrambled to check the date Bill had made in his attribution, hoping he was wrong. To their dismay,

Bill, unaware of the colophon, had dated it purely on the basis of style to circa 1700!

Over time, Goswamy's familiarity with Devanagari, Persian and Urdu gave him an edge over Bill Archer and Western scholars, overshadowing their work. Gradually, their pupil matured into an Ustad. I was especially gratified, therefore, when during his visit to the Lahore Museum in 2016, Brijen urged its management to reprint my 1966 catalogue of its miniatures. It had withstood the test of time (50 years), and his scholastic scrutiny.

My next venture into art history was in response to another challenge — the identification of over 70 figures in the large canvas by August Schoefft titled 'The Court of Lahore' displayed in the Lahore Fort. Schoefft had visited Lahore in the 1840s. Dazzled by the splendour of the flamboyant Sikh darbar, he compressed the politics of the post-Maharaja Ranjit Singh era onto one expansive canvas. Looking critically at the painting, I noticed that Schoefft had cleverly grouped the figures according to their relationship with each other: princes with their peers, courtiers with their colleagues, foreigners with their fellow mercenaries, and assassins with their victims. This research too was published abroad as no publisher here wanted to handle Hindu or Sikh subjects. I returned to my spouse accountancy to pay for my affairs with art history. I learned from both, though, the importance of seeing, not just looking, of searching behind the apparent.

In today's environment when governments lie and sewage gushes through news channels, it helps to lose oneself in culture and art. "Art is not escape," the American poet Robert Hayden wrote, "but a way of finding order in chaos." —Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**President asks traders to adopt honesty, fairness to grab space in global economy**

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday urged the traders and businessmen in the country to strictly adhere to the principles of honesty and fairness to capture a space in the competitive global economy.

Addressing the achievement recognition ceremony of the Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries (ICSTSI), the president said it was difficult to have a successful business if the customers did not trust a brand or considered it dishonest.

President Alvi said in a competitive economy, businesses that fail to create an ethical reputation soon become extinct. "Sell your products

with fairness by maintaining the same standards which you show to your target audience while marketing," he told the gathering of traders, here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Besides adopting a profit-based approach, he said, it was equally important for companies to ensure an environment of empathy and compassion in society.

"Honesty in public dealing and developing trust between supplier and consumers can lead to an atmosphere in the society," he said.

maintaining integrity in public dealings.

He also noted that it was the responsibility of society to provide a harassment-free environment to women at workplaces to ensure their inclusion in all fields of life.

Dr Alvi said the promotion of small industries in the country could stimulate economic growth. The president highlighted the need for skill development through vocational courses to help the population earn the dividends of a skill-based economy.

"There is no dearth of talent and skills in the country, however, the situation needs provision of better opportunities to people," he said.

**Limited increase in business of PSM witnesses on last day of November**

KARACHI (Online): Pakistan Stock Market (PSM) was full of business on the last day of November, but limited momentum was seen.

Despite touching the level of 609020 points, the index closed at the level of 60500 points. An increase of more than 11 billion rupees was recorded in the market capital and 39.05% share prices also increased.

PSM on Thursday, although there was a bullishness in the opening session and the index touched a high of 60982 points, but selling pressure in some stocks for the sake of profit-taking limited the market momentum.

In the Pakistan Stock Market, the KSE 100 index recorded an increase of 29.27 points from 60502.00 points to 60531.27 points on Thursday, while the KSE 30 index increased by 13.01 points from 20175.44 points to 20188.45 points.

KSE All Shares Index closed at 40324.28 points from 40272.25 points.

In spite of business fluctuations, an increase of 11 billion 24 thousand 24 lakh 91 thousand 189 rupees was recorded in the market capital, as a result of which the total volume of capital increased from 87 trillion 18 billion 28 billion 7 lakh 75 thousand 42 rupees to 87 trillion 29 billion 52 billion 32 lakh 66 thousand 231 rupees. 46 crore 71 lakh 59 thousand shares worth 18 billion rupees were traded in Pakistan Stock Market on Thursday while 69 crore 22 lakh 20 thousand shares worth 27 billion rupees.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with the winners of the 2nd Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries achievement trophies at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

**Low income groups urged to apply in "BISP Savings Scheme"**

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) has urged the people belonging to the low-income groups to submit applications to become a part of the recently launched "BISP Saving Scheme", taking a step towards making them self-reliant.

According to an official source, the BISP has started receiving applications under this scheme from those applicants both men and women living in Islamabad, Muzaffarabad, Neelum, Peshawar, Lucky Marwat, Quetta, Qila Saifullah, Lahore, Multan, Karachi, Sukkur, Gilgit and Astore.

The applicants, having a PMT score below 40, are required

to apply through a web portal: [savings.bisp.gov.pk](http://savings.bisp.gov.pk) to become a part of this scheme without paying any fee.

The applicants will open a savings account in the bank to participate in the scheme. Those who will participate in the scheme will deposit money from 500 to 1000 rupees monthly in their rupee account.

The beneficiaries will get an additional 40 per cent of their savings from the BISP. The duration of the scheme is two years at the end of which the beneficiaries will be able to withdraw their entire amount. The beneficiaries will not be able to withdraw their principal amount during this two-year period.

**IEP Project to help tackle energy crisis, says Planning Minister**

ISLAMABAD (INP): The caretaker Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed said here on Thursday that the Integrated Energy Planning (IEP) Project for sustainable development would help in tackling the energy crisis in the country.

While chairing a meeting to review progress on IEP Project, the minister reviewed the work carried out by an Energy Planning & Resource Centre (EPRC) in the last two years, according to a press statement issued by the ministry.

According to the statement, the IEP is an effective and appropriate

tool for realizing the government's vision of developing a sustainable, cost-efficient energy sector that meets the country's strategic, socio-economic needs and rapidly growing energy demand.

In the continuation of this vision, an Energy Planning & Resource Centre (EPRC) has been established within IEP project. The EPRC team gave a comprehensive shared briefing of the policy reports published by EPRC including Pakistan Energy Demand Forecast 2021-30, Pakistan Energy Outlook Report 2021-30, Pakistan Natural Gas Policy Analysis and way forward and its upcoming work on the

financial viability of introducing large scale solar IPP's in the country.

During the meeting, Pakistan Energy Demand Forecast 2021-30 report was discussed. The report aims to start addressing the dire need for primary energy demand forecasting and provide the future energy demand (2021-2030) for all energy sources (oil, coal, natural gas, liquefied natural gas (LNG), liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), and electricity) across all economic sectors of Pakistan.

The report provides a review of existing energy sector forecasts published by various stakeholders in their official reports.

**Rupee gains 22 paise against Dollar**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Thursday gained 22 paise against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 285.16 against the previous day's closing at Rs 285.38.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 285.25 and Rs 287.8 respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by Rs 1.12 to close at Rs 312.37 against the last day's closing of Rs 313.49, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

**Tractor production increase 55% in Jul-Oct**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The production of farm tractors in the country witnessed an increase of 55.1 per cent to 17,098 units during the first four months of the financial year 2023-24, against the production of 11,027 units during the same months last year 2022-23.

During July-October, the production of trucks witnessed a decreasing trend as it went down from 1,267 units as compared to 597, showing a decline of 52.9 per cent, according to the Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA).

Production of pickups, Light Commercial Vehicles (LCVs) and Jeeps also dipped by 42 per cent to 6,797 units during the months under review from 11,712 units during the fiscal year 2022-23.

The production of buses witnessed a decline of 57.7 per cent from 336 units to 142 units during the fiscal year 2024, the PAMA added.

Meanwhile, the production of passenger cars also declined to 19,861 units against the production of 42,114 units during July-October, the data revealed.



Senator Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on National Food Security and Research presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Parliament House Islamabad.



## Baligh-ur-Rehman says Pakistan, China bound in a relationship of mutual trust, love

*Chinese Jiangsu police delegation calls on Punjab governor*

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Chinese Jiangsu Police delegation, led by Deputy Director General of Police Security Tan Yongsheng, called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at the Governor's House, here on Thursday.

The governor told the delegation Pakistan and China were bound in a relationship of mutual trust, love and unparalleled friendship, adding that the strong friendship was higher than the Himalayas, deeper than the sea and sweeter than honey.

He said the Belt and Road Initiative was a revolutionary project of

provide an opportunity for modern policing, he said and added that defence and other agreements between Pakistan and China were a reflection of mutual trust between the two countries.

Jiangsu Deputy Director General of Police Security Tan Yongsheng said that in addition to cooperation in the field of policing between Pakistan and China, economic cooperation and people-to-people contacts would also be enhanced. He said that Pak-China friendship would be further strengthened through investment and exchanges at the public level.



LAHORE: Chinese Jiangsu Police delegation, led by Deputy Director General of Police Security Tan Yongsheng, in a group photo with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at the Governor's House.

## Jamal highlights role of journalism in countering adverse effects of media

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Caretaker Minister for Information and Public Relations, Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel on Thursday highlighted the pivotal role of journalism in mitigating adverse effects of social media emphasizing the importance of ethical reporting.

He was addressing a gathering of journalists at Peshawar Press Club. The minister also highlighted the importance of journalism in countering the negative influence of social media. Referring to incidents such as the Kohistan incident, he stressed the need for responsible journalism as a crucial antidote to the

## 278,000 children vaccinated in 3 days of anti polio campaign

**CHINIOT (APP):** A total of 278,000 children have been vaccinated during the three days of the anti-polio campaign in the district on Thursday. According to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) office, DC Muhammad Asif Raza presided over the evening meeting of the District Polio Eradication Committee and reviewed the implementation of the anti-polio campaign.

## CM KP directs completion of computerization land records

**PESHAWAR (APP):** A progress review meeting of the Board of Revenue (BoR) was held with caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice @ Syed Arshad Hussain Shah in the chair. The meeting took stock of the implementation status of the Chief Minister's directives issued in the previous meeting and was informed that the progress so far made on the project regarding computerization and digitization of land records in the province.

Similarly, the number of manual Mauzas has reduced from 813 to 474 within one week. It was further told that during the last 11 days, a total of 31 Mauzas have been made live which include; 10 Mauzas in Bannu, six Mauzas in Abbottabad, seven in Charsadda, three in Peshawar, three in Kohat and one Mauza each in Swat and Shangla.

Caretaker Provincial Minister for Revenue and Finance Ahmed Rasool Bangash, Caretaker Minister for ST&IT Dr. Najeeb Ullah, Senior Member Board of Revenue Ikramullah Khan and other relevant authorities attended the meeting.

Briefing the participants, it was informed that after the Chief Minister's notice on slow implementation of the land record computerization project,

Whereas, during the same period, a total of 261 Mauzas have been notified for stoppage of manual mutations which include; 15 Mauzas in Haripur, 10 in Swat, 11 in Shangla, 44 in Bannu, 15 in Peshawar, 159 in DI Khan and seven Mauzas in Battagram.

## CM Punjab visits DG Khan cardiology hospital

**Independent Report**

DG KHAN: Punjab Chief Minister made visit to institute of cardiology along with the provincial ministers, Amir Mir and Ibrahim Murad here on Thursday.

CM ordered to make the hospital functional completely. He directed to appoint medics of the concerned diseases and nurses with paramedics in the institute on a priority basis. Mohsin Naqvi made a detailed visit to the basement, ground and first floors and OPD of the hospital in particular.

He reviewed CT Scan machine, MIR room and ensured that they were working properly.

Later during the visit, he held a little talk with the media where he expressed contentment that the hospital was providing good services to the people across Southern Punjab.



RAHIM YAR KHAN: Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi enquiring about health injured Constable at Sheikh Sheikh Zayed Hospital.

harmful effects of social media. Barrister Feroze affirmed the indispensable relationship between the Department of Information and Press Club and said that efforts are underway to further strengthen press clubs and support unemployed journalists through the Journalists Welfare Endowment Fund.

He visited various sections of the press club underscoring the commitment to providing journalists with a conducive and efficient working environment.

Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Secretary Information Syed Abdul Jabbar Shah.

## Empowering women dire need of hour

**MULTAN (APP):** Provincial Woman Ombudperson, Ms Nabila HakimAliKhan, emphasized the need to empower and build confidence in women on Thursday.

that women should not be deprived of their inheritance rights under any circumstances.

While speaking to the media at the Circuit House, she advocated for providing women with a conducive work environment at workplaces.

Empowering women is a dire need of the time, she said adding that facilities are being provided to women in regional offices. The Woman Ombudperson mentioned that the Punjab government was taking important initiatives for the betterment of women.

## One dead, 11 injured in high school truck Collision

**ATTOCK (APP):** A woman was killed and 11 passengers were injured in a traffic accident in Jand Tehsil of Attock on Thursday. According to Rescue Sources, the incident occurred near Namal village in Jundtehsil when a high school truck carrying female students collided with a stationary Ford loader vehicle.



MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar Haq is speaking in the session of the Legislative Assembly.

## Minister advocates hemophilia awareness

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister, Professor Dr. Javed Akram, emphasized the urgent need for hemophilia awareness during a seminar at the Children's Library Complex here on Thursday.

Dr. Javed Akram commended the Hemophilia Society's efforts, providing treatment facilities to over 1,100 patients across the province, with a significant number in Lahore. He stressed the importance of early diagnosis, stating that 40 per cent of complications can be avoided with timely detection.

# International News

## Nations urged to take 'great leaps' at UN climate talks

**DUBAI (AFP/APP):** The UN climate conference opens in Dubai on Thursday with nations under pressure to increase the urgency of action on global warming and wean off fossil fuels, amid intense scrutiny of oil-rich hosts UAE.

The two-week-long climate negotiations being held this year in the glitzy Gulf city come at a pivotal moment, with emissions still rising and this year likely to be the hottest in human history.

Britain's King Charles III, world leaders, activists and lobbyists are among more than 97,000 people expected to attend what is being billed as the largest climate gathering of its kind.

The UN and hosts the United Arab Emirates say these talks, known as COP28, will be the most important since Paris in 2015, when nations agreed to limit global warming to well below 2C since the preindustrial era, and preferably to a safer limit of 1.5C.

Scientists say the world is not on track to achieve these targets, and nations must make faster and deeper cuts to emissions to avert the most disastrous impacts of climate change.

"Right now, we're taking baby steps where we should be taking great leaps and great strides to get us to where we need to be," said UN climate chief Simon Stiell on

Wednesday. A central focus will be a stocktake of the world's limited progress on curbing global warming, which requires an official response at these talks.

On Friday and Saturday, about 140 heads of state and government—Pope Francis had to cancel last minute due to the flu—are expected to articulate their ambition after a year of devastating floods, wildfires and storms across the globe.

The UAE sees itself as a bridge between rich developed nations most responsible for historic emissions and the rest of the world, which has contributed less to global warming but suffers its worst consequences.

But the decision for it to host has attracted a firestorm of criticism, particularly after the appointment of Sultan Al Jaber—the head of UAE oil giant ADNOC—to steer the talks as COP president.

The 50-year-old Emirati, who also chairs a clean energy company, has defended his record and resisted pressure from European and US lawmakers to stand aside.

Fears of a conflict of interest were given fresh life on the eve of COP28 when Jaber was accused of using the presidency to pursue fossil fuel deals in meetings with governments—accusations he strenuously denied.



Palestinians check damage following a raid in Jenin in the Israeli-occupied West Bank

## Gaza truce is not enough, say residents of bombed-out neighbourhood

**News Desk**

**KHAN YUNIS:** Returning home to find their neighbourhood wrecked by bombs, residents of Abu Ta'imah, on the outskirts of Gaza's Khan Yunis, said the Palestinian territory needed a permanent ceasefire, not just an extension of the truce between Israel and Hamas. Local people fled the area on the eastern edge of the city at the start of the fighting and did not return until the truce, which was in its sixth day on Wednesday.

"We were shocked to see this destruction. We were shocked to see our homes, our streets, our lands, our yards and everything demolished," said Gihad Nabil, who was recently married and had been living in Abu Ta'imah with his wife. Standing on a roof with a view of ruined buildings and mounds of rubble as far as the eye could see, he said the area had been home to about 5,000 or 6,000 people before the Hamas raid. He asked where they would go. "My house is completely destroyed. My brother's home, my uncle's, my neighbour's, all of them destroyed. We don't need this truce, we need a complete ceasefire," he said, likening what he was seeing to an earthquake zone.



Tarek al-Anabi, a 25-year-old Palestinian, gives English lessons to displaced children at a school in Rafah, which is used as a temporary shelter.

## Ex-US secretary of state Henry Kissinger dies at 100

**CONNECTICUT (INP):** Former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger, known for his influential role in shaping post-World War II global dynamics, passed away on Wednesday at the age of 100, as announced by his consulting firm. "Dr. Henry Kissinger, a respected American scholar and statesman, died today at his home in Connecticut," Kissinger Associates announced in a statement late on Wednesday.

While the statement did not disclose the cause of death, it noted that the family would hold a private funeral, with a memorial service planned for later in New York.

Kissinger remained active even in his centenarian years, travelling to China in July to meet President Xi Jinping.

China was one of Kissinger's most lasting legacies. Hoping to shake up the Cold War fight against the Soviet Union, Kissinger secretly reached out to China, culminating in a historic 1972 visit by then-president Richard Nixon and later the US establish-

ment of relations with Beijing.

After the Watergate scandal brought down Nixon, Kissinger served under his successor, Gerald Ford. Unprecedentedly, Kissinger served both as the secretary of state and national security adviser.

His involvement in negotiations to end the Vietnam War also earned him the Nobel Peace Prize even though the conflict continued afterward and his North Vietnamese counterpart declined to accept the prize.

However, Kissinger's realpolitik approach and involvement in controversial actions, such as undermining Chile's elected president Salvador Allende and supporting General Augusto Pinochet's coup, have left a lasting and divisive legacy. He is also said to have supported Indonesia, a close anti-communist ally, as it seized East Timor in 1975, and turned a blind eye to Pakistan's alleged mass atrocities as Bangladesh won independence in 1971, seeing Islamabad as a valuable go-between with China.

## War-ravaged Gaza City now a 'ghost town', UN aid agency

**UNITED NATIONS (APP):** Amid hopes of a deal to extend the pause in Israeli attacks on Gaza, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, reported on Wednesday that humanitarian assistance had reached its shelters in northern Gaza for the first time since conflict erupted last month.

"As we drove through Gaza City it was like a ghost town; all the streets were deserted," said Thomas White, Director of UNRWA Affairs in Gaza.

"The impact of heavy airstrikes and shelling was so visible. Roads are riddled with craters, complicating aid deliveries," he said.

Wednesday marks the sixth and final day of a truce between Hamas and Israel that was facilitated by Qatar, a rising diplomatic star at the world stage.

Humanitarian officials have urged the two sides to support repeated international calls to extend the pause in fighting, which has facilitated the reported release of at least 85 hostages by Hamas, and of more than 180 Palestinians detained by Israel.

The pause has also enabled humanitarian actors, primarily the Egyptian and Palestinian Red Crescent Societies and UN agencies, to "enhance" desperately needed aid deliveries into and across Gaza, according to the aid coordination office, OCHA.

The UN office's latest aid update noted that a Palestine Red Crescent Society convoy had reached the north on Tuesday carrying food, medical supplies, water, and non-food items, although the bulk of aid distribution has focused on the south, where most displaced Gazans now live.

In a statement, UNRWA said that on Monday a six-truck convoy had reached Jabalia, the largest and most built-up refugee camp in Gaza, located north of Gaza City.

UNRWA colleagues in Jabalia continue to serve their communities day in, day out, including one of the agency's sanitation services chiefs - "despite the unspeakable grief of his wife and daughter being killed", White said. Some 200 aid trucks have been able to cross into the enclave via

Egypt every day since the pause in fighting came into force on Friday 24 November. Images provided by UNRWA on X on Wednesday showed volunteers unloading sacks of supplies into a warehouse and a static fuel tank being filled.

More than 15,000 Gazans have been killed during Israeli airstrikes, according to the enclave's health authorities, including about 6,000 children.

In a related development, the head of the UN health agency issued a fresh warning on Wednesday about the high risk of diseases spreading among those displaced by the violence. Writing on X, formerly Twitter, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus reiterated dire assessments that "given the living conditions and lack of healthcare, more people could die from disease than bombings".

Latest data from the World Health Organization (WHO) pointed to 111,000 acute respiratory infections, 75,000 cases of diarrhoea and tens of thousands of people suffering from scabies, lice, skin rashes and jaundice.





QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan and Chairman Provincial Task Force on Population Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Provincial Task Force on Population.

## Balochistan CM chairs second meeting of Provincial Task Force

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Caretaker Chief Minister and Chairman Provincial Population Task Force Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki on Thursday said that the provincial government would utilize all available resources to formulate and implement an effective strategy as per the decisions of the Council of Common Interests (CCI).

He expressed these views while chairing the second meeting of the Provincial Task Force at the Chief Minister's Secretariat.

Secretaries of various departments and development partners participated in the meeting.

Secretary Population Welfare Department Asghar Harifal made recommendations to the participants of the task force for setting

priorities according to the data of the growing population and the decisions of the Council of Common Interest.

Addressing the provincial task force meeting, Caretaker Chief Minister Domki said that joint measures are indispensable for achieving national goals, we have to balance population and resources.

If the population rate continues to grow at the same rate, the population of Pakistan will double in the next 30 years, the provincial government will use all available resources to formulate and implement an effective strategy as per the decisions of the Council of Common Interest, he said.

He said that there is a need to change the formula of distribution of resources on the basis of population, family planning and good

manpower ratio provision of resources is essential.

The Caretaker Chief Minister said that the health department and the population welfare department could be combined to achieve the goals and reduce the amount of departmental non-developmental expenses. Along with this, in those districts of the province where the offices of the Population Department are in rented buildings, the problems faced can be permanently solved by shifting them to the offices of the District Administration, he said.

In the second meeting of the provincial task force, Caretaker Provincial Ministers Sardar Ejaz Ahmad Jafar, Amjad Rashid, Qadir Bakhs Baloch, Chief Secretary Balochistan Shaheer Qadir Khan, Principal Secretary to CM Rashid Razaq, Special Secretary Isfandiyar Baloch, Secretary Population Welfare Asghar Harifal, Secretary Higher Education Zafar Ali Buledi.

Chairperson of Commission on Status of Women Balochistan Fauzia Shaheen, Former provincial minister Khurshed Roshan Brocha, former speaker provincial assembly Balochistan Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani, development partners Dr. Sarmad Saad Khan, Dr. Samiullah and others were present on the occasion.

## Govt promulgates four ordinances

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Government on Thursday promulgated four ordinances including the National Highway Authority (Amendment) Ordinance 2023, Pakistan Postal Services Management Board (Amendment) Ordinance 2023, Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance 2023, and Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance 2023.

The secretaries of all the ministries concerned briefed the President on the urgency of the ordinances as the matter was agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund in July this year regarding the four state-owned enterprises (SOEs), according to a Press Information Department news release.

The amendments in the laws of the above entities as signed by the President have been made to bring them in conformity

with the State Owned Enterprises (Governance and Operations) Act, 2023, promulgated in January 2023. The SOE law has been enacted in order to improve the governance and operations of SOEs for enhancing the quality of service delivery and to bring about fiscal discipline.

"The government is now in the process of extending the provisions of the SOE law to such entities that are governed by special statutes. This will make their operations efficient and transparent," the news release said.

"These amendments are a part of the SOE reforms agreed by the Government of Pakistan with the international partners, and are included in the SBA (Standby Agreement) with the IMF as a structural benchmark," it added.

It said through the new amendments, the offices of the chairman of the board and the chief execu



QUETTA: Provincial AIDS Control Program Manager, Dr. Khalid-ur-Rehman Qambrani addresses to media persons during press conference on the eve of World AIDS Day, at Quetta press club.

## Sadiq Umrani says PPP leadership ensures right to vote to people of Balochistan through democratic struggle

QUETTA (APP): Member of the Central Executive Committee of Pakistan Peoples Party, Mir Sadiq Umrani on Thursday said the leaders of PPP had ensured the right to vote to the people of Balochistan and adult voting through democratic struggles as earlier, instead of voting, decisions were taken in the Shahi Jirga of Sibi. Mir Sadiq Umrani said that after the martyrdom of Benazir Bhutto, Asif Ali Zardari bravely endured the hardships of prison, but never gave up the rights of the people. Today, Asif Ali Zardari, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and other leaders of the party have encouraged

the workers by sitting in the cold weather of Quetta, he expressed these views while addressing the public meeting organized on the occasion of 56<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day at Ayub Stadium.

He said that despite the violence in the prison, Asif Ali Zardari did not deviate from his position, now Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, is carrying forward the history-making struggle of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto.

He said that the Pakistan Peoples Party is celebrating its 56<sup>th</sup> foundation day in Quetta today resulted that the struggle for people's rights will be more intense.

## NJAC forms committee to formulate SDEP draft for judiciary

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Judicial Automation Committee (NJAC) on Thursday constituted a committee to formulate the initial draft of the Standardized Data Exchange Policy (SDEP) for the Judiciary to use information technology and artificial intelligence.

The draft would be finalized after deliberations in the next meeting, said a press release.

Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan/Chairman, National Judicial Automation Committee (NJAC) convened a meeting in the Conference Room of the Supreme Court of Pakistan to consider how information technology and artificial intelligence can best be utilized to improve the working and efficiency of the judiciary. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan/Member, NJAC also attended the meeting.

Dr. Umar Saif, Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, and other eminent IT Professionals from the Public and Private Sectors were invited to share their views.

## Sanaullah Zehri expresses confidence to form govt in center, provinces

QUETTA (APP): Central Leader of Pakistan Peoples Party and former chief minister of Balochistan, Nawab Sanaullah Khan Zehri on Thursday said that the PPP chief Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will become the new prime minister and PPP would achieve the chief minister seats in all provinces after February polls.

He while addressing a public meeting on the occasion of the 56<sup>th</sup> foundation day of the PPP at Ayub Stadium said that the Pakistan Peoples Party is a party of martyrs and gave huge sacri

fices.

Sanaullah said, "We have cut off our heads, but we have not bowed down to the oppressors."

"On behalf of the PPP workers, we would like to thank former President Asif Ali Zardari and former Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for holding the 56<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day rally in Quetta and honoring us," Sanaullah Zehri said.

He said that we have been in the people and our life and death are with the people.



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh alongwith Country Director of UNODC in Pakistan inaugurating Police Khimat Markaz in Kuchlak.

## Jogezai terms favorite leader of people of Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Secretary Information, Pakistan Peoples Party Balochistan Chapter Sarbuland Khan Jogezai on Thursday said that President PPP Asif Ali Zardari is the favourite leader of the people of Balochistan.

He expressed these views while addressing the 56<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of PPP here.

The participation of thousands of political workers in the event was proof that the people of Balochistan reposed trust in the PPP and its leadership.

## AC Taftan took action against shopkeepers for overcharging, hoarding

CHAGAI (APP): Assistant Commissioner Taftan, Waqar Ahmed, conducted a surprise market visit on Thursday and took action against several shopkeepers for overcharging and hoarding.

According to the Commissioner's office, AC fined several stores for improper cleaning, expired products, and weighed bread in a bakery to make sure accuracy.

## "Police Khidmat Markaz" inaugurated to improve policing in Balochistan

QUETTA (INP): The European Union (EU) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) have jointly inaugurated of "Police Khidmat Markaz" in Kuchlak, Quetta. This collaborative venture with Balochistan Police marks a pioneering era in community-focused law enforcement, embodying a transformative approach that places a premium on accessibility, responsiveness, and community engagement. Funded through the EU's Deliver Justice Project, a pivotal component of the broader Rule of

Law Roadmap (RoLR) in Balochistan, this initiative supports reforms aimed at ensuring people-centered justice, equitable access to justice, particularly for women and marginalized groups, and enhancing the service delivery of the security sector in alignment with constitutional safeguards and international standards. The establishment of the Police Khidmat Markaz underscores the joint commitment of the EU, UNODC, and Balochistan Police to empower local communities through improved policing services.

## Secretary Mines & Mineral Dev: Govt decides to establish Mineral Development Bank in Balochistan

QUETTA: The Secretary Mines and Mineral Development Balochistan, Atiq Shahwani has stated that the provincial government has decided to establish Mineral Development Bank in the province.

Speaking at the open katchehry in Chagai the other day, the Secretary Mines said that the soft term loans would be provided to the mine owners

by the Mineral Development Bank in the province.

He also announced that five villages located near Saindak project would be developed as the model villages in future.

Moreover, the youngsters of Chagai would be imparted technical training, he maintained. He said that the skilled youth would be able to get jobs in the Rekodik project once complete their training.

## PM reiterates govt's resolve to further strengthen HIV response

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday reiterated the government's commitment to further strengthen the HIV response to ensure an AIDS-free Pakistan.

"Let us synergize our efforts to achieve our shared goal of an AIDS-free Pakistan. Together, we can build a future where healthcare is a right for everyone, and no one is left behind," the prime minister said in his message on the occasion of the World AIDS Day 2023.

He said HIV/AIDS was not only a health issue but had grave socio-economic implications. "Sadly,

as we reflect on the prevailing HIV epidemic in Pakistan, we see a gloomy picture - wide gaps in HIV testing and treatment coverage. Let us ponder for a minute and reflect: are we reaching those who need to be reached, are we testing those who need to be tested and are we strategically looking in the right direction?" he added. He said years of collective efforts, resources and programming had been just not enough to halt the epidemic trajectory.

The prime minister said the critical barriers and challenges for impactful programming continued to persist. "This reality com

pels us to intensify our commitment and resolve to combat the HIV epidemic with innovative, impactful and sustainable programming. The Government is cognizant of the need for greater stewardship and dedicated to prioritizing both the political and financial aspects of HIV prevention." He said one of the primary objectives was to address the gaps within the service cascade, especially in preventing mother-to-child HIV transmission.

"By redoubling our efforts in this area, we aim to create a society where every child is born free from the burden of HIV. As we

embrace new prevention tools, we understand the importance of swift and widespread implementation," he said adding "It is our duty to ensure that these services reach every corner of our nation, leaving no room for disparities in healthcare access, particularly those segments of the society that are at the increased risk of HIV."

The prime minister called upon all the partners engaged in the HIV response to join forces with the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination to take timely action in safeguarding the well-being of our future generations.



ISLAMABAD: Justice Mansoor Ali Shah Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan/Chairman National Judicial Automation Committee (NJAC) convened a meeting at Supreme Court.

## President for enhanced partnership with WHO to overcome health challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday called for further enhancing the partnership between the World Health Organization (WHO) and health authorities in Pakistan to effectively overcome various health challenges, being faced by the country. The president, talking to outgoing Country Director of WHO, Dr Palitha Mahipala, who called on him, appreciated the role of WHO in strengthening Pakistan's primary healthcare system, besides providing support to various government initiatives.

During the meeting, Dr Palitha Mahipala highlighted the role of WHO in improving Pakistan's healthcare system and supporting efforts to revitalize

healthcare facilities in the country, especially during last year's floods.

He said that the WHO would continue to support Pakistan for improving the health of its people.

President Alvi emphasised the need for creating awareness about the importance of mental health and early counselling at the household level.

He remarked that the availability of a mental health toolkit to deal with mental stress in the families needed to be ensured.

He said that establishing mental health support systems and enhancing people's accessibility to quality mental health services in the country, required the input of multiple stakeholders.

The president expressed satisfaction over the fact that Pakistan's society had witnessed a positive change in its attitude towards the rights of persons with disabilities, adding that concerted efforts were needed to ensure their rights. Dr Palitha Mahipala lauded the commendable role played by President Alvi and First Lady Samina Alvi in raising awareness about various health issues, including breast cancer, mental health and the rights of persons with disabilities.

The president appreciated the role and commitment of Dr Palitha Mahipala for strengthening the health sector of Pakistan and wished him success for his future endeavours.

## DC reviews steps of ongoing anti polio drive

CHAMAN (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Chaman, Captain Raja Athar Abbas chaired the evening review meeting of the fourth day of the ongoing anti-polio campaign in district Chaman at the DC office on Thursday.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Sadar Habib Ahmad Bangulzai District Health Officer Dr. Amil Khan Mandukhel Deputy DHO Dr. Abdul Rasheed NSTOP Officer Dr. Shahzad and other health department heads and representatives.

In the meeting, NSTOP Officer Dr. Shahzad gave a detailed briefing to Deputy Commissioner Chaman Captain Retired Raja Athar Abbas regarding the performance of the fourth day of the anti-polio campaign and the problems faced.

## Woman, her 'paramour' killed in Jaffarabad for honour

JAFFARABAD (INP): Two people, including a woman, were gunned down near Dera Allah Yar in Jaaffarabad for honour, police said on Thursday.

Police said the assassin after committing the crime fled from the spot.

Giving further details, they said that a man named Ali Dost shot dead his wife and her alleged paramour Baqa Muhammad with a shotgun in Goth Muhammad Ibrahim.

The Force said that soon after learning about the incident the cops reached the crime scene and shifted the bodies to the Civil Hospital, Dera Allah Yar, which were later handed over to their families.

Police said they were investigating the case.

## Indonesian Dy FM pledges support for interfaith dialogue with Pakistan

JAKARTA (APP): Indonesian Deputy Foreign Minister and Director General for Information and Public Diplomacy, Siti Nughra Mauluddin, in a diplomatic exchange on Thursday, expressed her commitment to fostering religious inclusion and interfaith dialogue between Indonesia and Pakistan. During discussions with a Pakistani delegation comprising scholars and intellectuals, she emphasized the fraternal bond between Indonesia and Pakistan as fellow Muslim nations. She underscored the potential for joint efforts in promoting

peace in South and Southeast Asia, with far-reaching positive impacts globally. The deputy minister highlighted the substantial student exchange programmes between the two countries and expressed interest in organizing a trilateral dialogue involving Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Indonesia.

Leading the Pakistani delegation, Chairman of the National Rahmatul-lil-Alameen Authority, Khurshid Ahmad Nadeem, affirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to interfaith harmony and dialogue.



LAHORE: Quaid PML (N) Nawaz Sharif exchanging views with President (PML-N) Shahbaz Sharif.

## Justice Naqvi challenges second show cause notice in SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi has challenged the second show cause notice in Supreme Court (SC).

He has filed petition in SC praying that the show cause notice issued to him on November 24 be nullified.

It has been said in the petition he was appointed as judge in Lahore High Court (LHC) on February 19, 2010. He was promoted as SC judge on March 16, 2020. If SC has complaints against any judge these are to be told to the president. Campaign based on mala fide intent was

launched against him on February 16, 2023. Complaint was registered in SJC. Second show cause notice has been issued to remove defects in proceedings against him. In his preliminary reply he had highlighted defects in proceedings. SC has been requested to nullify SJC proceedings in the petition.

It has been further said in the petition campaign based on ill intent against him is attack on judiciary. The details of his tax return cannot be given to any one. The record acquired illegally is not acceptable evidence.



QUETTA: Secretary Information Imran Khan addressing the participants of a ceremony held regarding RTI.