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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 Sanaullah 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 Sanaullah 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.

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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.



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.

## 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 Parliamentarians (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 activi-

ties 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.

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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).

## 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,

we will continue our support to Palestine. All kinds of conspiracies were hatched against Iran in 44 years; he said adding that Iran fought all the conspiracies with bravery and unity.

The ambassador further said America's hostility towards Iran is not only because of its nuclear power but because it supports Palestine. "Iran has supported Palestine and will continue to do so", he added.

Quetta is a neighbouring city of Iran, therefore Quetta has special importance, Amiri said urging the need for promoting commercial and cultural relations with Pakistan.

## Governor Balochistan takes notice of increasing crime in Pishin

**Independent Report**  
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.

## Sarfraz Domki, Naseebullah Marri, Liaquat Lehri 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 Hyrbayar Domki, Liaquat Lehri, 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 Sanaullah Zehri, Abdul Qadir Baloch, Rozi Khan, Sardar Umar Gorgej, Sarbuland Khan Jogezi and others.

## 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 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.



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

## 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 expressed these views while talking to a delegation led by Director General Mukhtar Ahmed Ali of Center for Peace and Development Initiative Islamabad here at the Governor House.

Principal Secretary to Governor Balochistan Hashim Khan Ghilzai along with representatives of the federation and four provinces were also present on this occasion.

Balochistan Governor said it was a constitutional requirement that an information commission should be established as soon as possible in Balochistan on the pattern of the federation and other provinces so that common people could make decisions at the national and provincial levels and participate in policy-making.

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

**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 Balochistan in Thailand.

He said that announcement of Thailand government is welcoming for provision of better opportunities for youth of the province to acquire education in Thailand.

He said that it is also welcoming that the Thailand government would provide scholarships to youth of the province in three major universities of Thailand. Moreover, the professional training would also be imparted to the academic staff of universities,

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Command & Staff Conference of Pakistan Navy concluded here on Thursday which was chaired by Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf.

During the conference, matters related to national security, geo strategic affairs, combat readiness and training of troops were discussed, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

The conference assessed the evolving maritime situation in the region due to ongoing conflict in Middle East.

Under the prevailing maritime situation in the

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.



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.



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



## Solangi underlines need of state media reforms at pat with modern standards

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Thursday urged the Senate's Standing Committee to discuss and work out the plan for reforms in the state media institutions.

Addressing the Senate Committee on Information and Broadcasting, the minister underlined the need to carry out reforms in the state broadcasters to bring them at par with modern standards.

Senator Fawzia Arshad presided over the meeting which was attended by members of the committee including Senator Maula Bakhsh Chandio, Senator Irfan-ul-Haq Siddiqui and Senator Naseem Ehsan as well as Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Shaheera Shahid, MD Pakistan Television (PTV), Director General Radio Pakistan, and Managing Director Associated Press of Pakistan (APP).

During the session at Committee Room No. 1 of the Parliament House, the panel discussed the implementation of the recommendations, worked out in

its meeting on October 9, 2023.

The committee also took up the recommendations related to the appointment of 53 daily-wage employees during the meeting.

The information minister said the caretaker government could not make permanent appointments or decide about the closure of any institution.

He said services of different people were hired sometime back to mitigate the shortage of staff and run essential programmes, but hiring of daily wagers through advertisement, seemed to be a time-consuming process.

Murtaza Solangi said the committee's recommendations in this regard would be implemented in letter and spirit. The committee's guidance on advertising for daily-wage recruitment or any kind of hiring would also be followed, accordingly.

He said the committee might also direct the ministry to conduct an investigation into any department for probing into the recruitment of daily-wage employees.

He emphasized the im-

portance of clear guidance to avoid recurrence of such issue in the future.

The Information Minister highlighted the need for reforms in all state broadcasters, including PTV, and urged the committee to discuss a programme on reforms of the state media institutions.

He pointed out that 76 per cent of Radio Pakistan's overall budget was currently allocated to salaries and pensions, and there were still pending dues for numerous employees.

The minister said that Radio Pakistan was the oldest institution of the state and emphasized the need for reforms in the institution that had more numbers of pensioners than the existing workforce.

Solangi expressed gratitude to the committee members who showed confidence in him and said he would continue to seek their guidance in future as well.

The committee also discussed the issue of new recruitments, especially in PTV and Radio Pakistan, from August 9, 2023, until now. Both the federal minister and secretary briefed the committee on the issue.



QUETTA: A delegation of Thailand led by Caretaker Provincial Sports Minister Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## ECP adjourns contempt case hearing until December 6

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has adjourned the hearing of a case linked to contempt of the commission until December 6.

Nisar Durrani, an ECP member, chaired a four-member bench that resumed the hearing of a case, where Chairman PTI Asad Umer and Fawad Chaudhry face accusations of contempt of the Chief Election Commissioner and the commission.

The bench again deferred the indictment of PTI chairman in the contempt until next hearing.

Faisal Chaudhry, representing Fawad Chaudhry, and Shoaib Shaheen, counsel for Chairman PTI Asad Umer, appeared before the bench.

PTI counsel Shoaib Shaheen stated that they haven't received copies of the election commission's orders pertaining to PTI chairman.

A member of the ECP said, the Law Ministry has cited security concerns, stating that the PTI chairman cannot be brought before the commission.

Shoaib Shaheen expressed his desire to present arguments, stressing the importance of transparency by making the report public. Alternatively, if public disclosure isn't possible, he requested the commission to share the report with the

accused's counsel, especially as it is being used against PTI. In the event of a jail trial, he insisted that the entire proceedings should be conducted within the prison. Despite submitting an application, they are yet to receive a copy.

A commission member mentioned that over a year has passed, and charges can be framed at any time. The critical matter revolves around framing charges for the case.

Shoaib Shaheen highlighted that the PTI chairman was the leader of the largest political party in the country. An ECP member stated that the proceedings of the case must be conducted without taking into account the identity or status of the accused.

Shoaib Shaheen requested the bench to dismiss the case. A member stated that over a year has elapsed since the initiation of the case, and there should be a formal procedure for dismissing it.

Fawad Chaudhry's lawyer requested the commission to issue production order for his client. He said there was no security issue for his client.

Faisal Chaudhry, the counsel for Fawad Chaudhry, stated that their case should be handled separately since they were not encountering security concerns.

## Court told Nawaz joins investigation in Toshakhana reference

ISLAMABAD (APP): An Accountability Court (AC) on Thursday adjourned the hearing till December 20, of Toshakhana case against PML-N's Quaid Nawaz Sharif, former president Asif Zardari and former PM Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani.

The defence lawyer, during the hearing, informed the court that former prime minister Nawaz Sharif had joined the investigation, explaining answers to the questionnaire.

Qazi Misbah Advocate said that it was on the record that his client didn't demand the vehicle from Toshakhana.

On the occasion, the NAB prosecutor endorsed the stance of defence and said that former the prime minister had given answers to the NAB questions. He said that now the prosecution would view the statement of Nawaz Sharif and after it further action would be decided.

The court adjourned further hearing of the case till December 20. AC-I Judge Muhammad Bashir heard the case.

It may be mentioned that Nawaz Sharif and Asif Zardari were facing the charges of receiving vehicles from Toshakhana at the time when Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani was the prime minister.

## Pak hails historic achievement at COP28 as L&D Fund sees swift operationalization

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Thursday applauded the historic achievement at COP28 as the Loss and Damage (L&D) Fund sees swift operationalization, with an astounding USD 575 million pledged within the first hour of the conference's opening session along with USD 225 million committed by the European Union.

"This momentous occasion follows Pakistan's crucial role at COP27 in Egypt, where, as the Chair of the G77 and China group, it advocated for the establishment of the fund. Over the past year, Pakistan actively engaged as a member of the transitional committee responsible for finalizing recommendations on the operationalization of the fund. This success underscores Pakistan's commitment to addressing the impacts of climate change on vulnerable nations," a news release received here said.

In a statement, the Pakistani delegation expressed gratitude for the global community's rapid response, recognizing the fund's significance in mitigating climate-related challenges, especially for nations facing vulnerabilities.

Furthermore, this milestone marks just the beginning of a collective effort, as the global community emphasizes the urgency of increasing contributions to the Loss and Damage Fund. While the initial pledges amount to a significant sum of USD 575 million, it is recognized that these contributions fall short in addressing the immense challenges faced by climate-vulnerable nations. The call to action resonates with the understanding that additional financial support is imperative to effectively mitigate and manage the aftermath of climate-related disasters. As the COP28 proceedings continue, nations are urged to further elevate their commitments to ensure the fund's robustness in assisting those most affected by the impacts of climate change.

As COP28 unfolds, Pakistan reaffirms its dedication to actively engaging and leading developing countries on this critical issue.

The country remains committed to collaborative efforts with the global community to ensure the effective implementation and utilization of the Loss and Damage Fund.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulber Khan chairing the meeting with Awami Action Committee at CM Secretariat.

## SC moved for establishment of JC on return of Afghan refugees

ISLAMABAD (Online): Petition has been filed in Supreme Court (SC) for establishment of Judicial Council (JC) in connection with return of Afghan refugees to Afghanistan.

The petition has been filed by six citizens.

It has been said in the petition that Pakistan has been hosting 5 million Afghan refugees generously since the last 40 years. Afghan refugees came to Pakistan during 3 wars after war with Soviet Union. The government gave deadline for evacuation of illegal foreigners.

As per media reports Afghan refugees were al-

lowed to take with them Rs 50000. Government could not check every one individually that any person is threat or otherwise.

The plea has been taken in the petition that federal government failed to prove this that decision for returning Afghan Refugees to their homeland was taken under what authority.

It has been requested in the petition that the decision of federal government for deportation of Afghan refugees is against the basic rights. Therefore, an autonomous commission be constituted for transparent return of Afghan refugees to Afghanistan.

## Zardari pledges to...

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President Asif Ali Zardari, while addressing the people of Balochistan, said: "PPP wants to make you the owner of your land, whatever is in Balochistan is yours. Everything is yours, be it gas, petrol or any other mineral. I also have to deliver water to Balochistan. We have always served Balochistan." He said that if Pakistan is to be transformed into an exporting country, water must be supplied to Balochistan (for agriculture). Talking about the fertility of the agricultural land of Balochistan, he said that the lands of Balochistan are more fertile than other parts of the country.

President Asif Ali Zardari said that his son Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, as the youngest foreign minister of the country, has brought Pakistan's name to light everywhere in the world. "Earlier some people knew him (Bilawal Bhutto Zardari) because of his mother, some people knew him because of his maternal grandfather and some people knew him from my reference. But now, Alhamdulillah, he has a distinct identity of his own," he added. He said that now we have to support Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in every season and in every era, and added: "We have to make Bilawal the leader of today and tomorrow."

Meanwhile, in his response to chants of "Wazeer-i-Azam, Bilawal (Prime Minister Bilawal)" by workers at the gathering, President Asif Ali Zardari recited the Urdu poem "Zaban-e-Khalq Ko Naqara-e-Khuda Samjho" (the voice of the people is the voice of God), adding that Inshallah, that time will come, soon.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Health Balochistan Abdullah Khan visiting Health Service Academic (HAS) University

## Bilawal calls for burying politics of...

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An extraordinary enthusiasm was witnessed among the party workers.

The party workers kept on chanting slogans in favour of party and its leadership especially Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

The slogans were also included "Prime Minister Bilawal".

On the other hand, the venue of public gathering and outside place was decorated with the party flags, banners and posters.

While addressing the public gathering, the Chairman of PPP said his party wanted to promote a style of politics under which there is no rival party of the PPP.

"PPP is fighting against inflation and poverty due to which people are suffering. The old style of politics is based on hatred, division, and revenge. He said that the country's youth needs to bury such politics," the PPP chief added.

The PPP chief apparently lowered his rhetoric against his rivals in his first public interaction since his father Asif Ali Zardari's interview wherein the top PPP leader termed his son "inexperienced" while expressing displeasure over his tirade against the elder politicians.

Bilawal said his party wanted to promote a style of politics under which there is no rival party of the PPP.

"PPP is fighting against inflation and poverty due to which people are suffering. The old style

of politics is based on hatred, division, and revenge. The country's youth needs to bury such politics," the PPP chairman added.

In the same gathering, Bilawal also fired a broadside at his political rivals saying that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) is now known as the "mehangai (inflation) league" in the country. "People know that they are showbaz (big mouth) of politics," the PPP chief added.

Bilawal said Imran Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the PML-N want to roll back the provincial autonomy granted under the 18th Amendment.

"They want to occupy the resources of the provinces, but PPP will not let this conspiracy to succeed."

Bilawal also announced giving a surprise to the entire in the February 8, 2024 general elections saying the jiyala (PPP worker) will become the country's new prime minister.

Referring 18th amendment, Bilawal Bhutto said that the PML-N and PTI wanted to annul the amendment, but his party would not let anyone do it at all.

He also announced to introduce "Kisan" and "labourers" cards after coming into power.

He said that his party's competition is with poverty, backwardness and unemployment facing the general public instead of other political

parties. He vowed to extend Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) further once came into power.

He said that he will give more rights to the people of Balochistan and adding announced to establish modern cardiac hospital for free treatment of the patients.

He said that he is not seasonal democrat and would protect the country's constitution even he is in power or not.

He said that the implementation on Asif Zardari's project to resolve issues of the province was stopped.

He said that the Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline project would be resumed after coming in power.

He vowed to end poverty and unemployment if voted to power. Meanwhile, addressing the public gathering, the central leader of PPP, Asif Ali Zardari called for the support of his son to make him the country's youngest prime minister.

"We have to teach Bilawal what we know, we have to train him to make him a leader of the youth."

The PPP central leaders Asif Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari reached the jalsa gah together.

Most of the workers were also wearing the party flag coloured dresses and caps.

## Federal cabinet approves jail trial of PTI chairman in cipher case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Cabinet has accorded approval to jail trial of PTI chairman in cipher case.

According to media reports federal cabinet has approved trial of Imran Khan in Adiala jail in cipher case.

Approval has been obtained from cabinet regarding summary of ministry of law and justice through circulation under which the trial of former Prime Minister (PM), Shah Mehmood Qureshi and others will be conducted in Adiala Jail as per official secret act.

It has been said that approval was obtained from federal cabinet in the light of decision of judge Abul Hasnat Zulfqarnain of special court established an official secret act.

The cabinet was informed about Islamabad High Court (IHC) decision on nullification of jail trial of PTI chairman and others.

Later the government has met all legal requirements to establish courts in connection with cipher and 190 million pounds case.

## Pakistan cricket team departs for Australia tour

LAHORE (INP): The Pakistan cricket team departed for Australia from Lahore last night on Thursday.

According to details, the national squad will go to Sydney via Dubai.

The Pakistani team will play a four-day match against the Prime Minister's XI from December 6 before the start of the Test series in Australia.

Squad : Shan Masood ©, Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Faheem Ashraf, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Khuram Shahzad, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Noman Ali, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed (wk), Saud Shakeel and Shaheen Shah Afridi.

## Youth & students exchange...

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adding he hailed.

He also welcomed the desire of Thailand about participation of Thailand in the projects of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Referring the bilateral trade relations pending between Thailand and Pakistan, the Chief Minister said that the federal government would be contacted to settle the pending issues in

this regard. He said that the mutual relations would be promoted between Thailand and Pakistan in education and trade sectors.

About the sports, Mr. Domki referred the steps being taken by the sports department under leadership of caretaker Minister Sports and Youth Affairs, Mir Jamal Khan Raisani for promotion of sports in Balochistan.



QUETTA: Members of Balochistan Labor Federation are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Quetta press club



ISLAMABAD: Players in action as Pakistan Squash Federation in collaboration with PAF & Serena Hotels is organizing Chief of the Air Staff-Serena Hotels International Squash Championship for Men & Women at Mushaf Squash Complex. Besides Pakistan, a group of 23 world ranking Men & Women players from Malaysia, Hong Kong, Egypt & Spain are participating.

## World best batsman Babar, best bowler Shaheen Shah: Usman Khawaja

SYDNEY (Online): Usman Khawaja, a Pakistani-origin Test batsman from Australia, has said that Babar Azam is one of the best batsmen in the world.

Facing Shaheen Shah Afridi as an opener will not be easy, he added.

1st test of the three-match series between Pakistan and Australia will start from December 14, for which the Pakistani team has left for Australia via Dubai.

Pakistani team is led by Shan Masood, while the team includes Babar Azam, Sarfraz Ahmed, Mohammad Rizwan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Nouman Ali and Abrar Ahmed among others.

Before the Test series against Pakistan, Usman

Khawaja described Shaheen Afridi and David Warner's last tackle in the Lahore Test as the best example of the spirit of cricket. While David Warner batted brilliantly, Shaheen Afridi smiled and shook hands after dismissing Warner. The previous Test series between Pakistan and Australia was brilliant both on and off the field.

The Australian batsman said that this time Pakistan's strong batting line-up is coming to Australia, Pakistan has a player like Babar Azam who is considered as one of the best batsmen in the world, comparing Babar and Smith is like comparing Kohli and Smith. Abdullah Shafiq and Imamul Haq are also the best batsmen.



## Mushaal says: Indian military involved in genocide of Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Human Rights Mushaal Hussein Mullick on Thursday said Indian military was involved in the genocide of Muslims in illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK).

Addressing a seminar titled "Repression on minorities in India and atrocities in Kashmir," she expressed deep concerns over the human rights violations in the held territory.

She said people of the occupied valley could never be defeated through oppression and negative tactics like jailing the political leadership.

The seminar, was jointly organized by Kashmir International and Kashmir Media Service (KMS).

Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights, Khalil George deplored that India had adopted the same policy in the occupied territory which Israel was following in the Palestine.

He said that the main objective of the Bharatiya

Janata Party government was to turn the majority of Muslims in IOJK into a minority but the people of the occupied territory would foil all such nefarious designs of the Modi regime.

The minister said that India was a so-called democracy where minorities were being mistreated and victimized by the majoritarian Hindu hardliners.

He said after the unfortunate Jaranwala incident, the government of Pakistan expressed solidarity with the victims, but the Government of India never supported the victims of the atrocities of Hindutva brigade.

Other speakers, including former Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar Yaqoob Khan, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, President of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Party Hasan Ibrahim, All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir chapter Senior Leaders Muhammad Farooq Rahmani, Syed Faiz

Naqshbandi, Chairperson of Friends of Kashmir International Ghazala Habib, Chairman of Kashmir Institute of International Relations Altaf Hussain Wani, former Federal Minister J. Salik, Vice Chairman of Friends of Kashmir International Abdul Hameed Lone, Pakistani-American entrepreneur Abdul Hafeez Khan, Senator Danish Kumar, Anchor, Harmeet Singh and Analyst Waqar Hassan.

They said the Modi regime had usurped the rights of the minorities, especially the Muslims in the country.

Member Kashmir Council Senator Denash Kumar also said that India had emerged as an extremist state where the existing minorities were facing prejudice, violence and oppression on a large scale.

He said the Modi government was making discriminatory policies against all minorities and India had now become a very dangerous country for the people disagreeing with its views.



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed chairs a meeting to review a progress of water Resources Sector & National water policy.

## Planning Minister reviews progress on water resource, National Water Policy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed here on Thursday chaired a meeting to review progress on the Water Resource Sector and implementation status of the National Water Policy framework.

The meeting was attended by Member Infrastructure, Chief Water Resources and other relevant stakeholders, according to a press statement issued by the ministry.

During the meeting, a comprehensive briefing was given to the minister over Indus Basin Irrigation System (IBIS), the availability of water in the system, to

tal sectoral water demand and challenges faced by the system due to population growth and inefficient utilization of water resources.

In addition, salient features of National Water Policy 2018, its strategic priorities and national targets set for 2023 were also discussed.

During the meeting, it was informed that IBIS is the fourth largest Irrigation Network in the world. About 20.2 million hectares of land is cultivated through annual flows of 138.4 MAF in Pakistan.

Pakistan has 6668 glaciers more than any country, anywhere on Earth while groundwater contribution is about 50 MAF.

The Agriculture Sector is the major user of available water, 94% of irrigation water is utilized by the agriculture sector whereas domestic use is 5.2 and Industrial use is 0.8 percent.

Furthermore, it was further informed that in order to cope with the challenges of water resources and climate threats, the first ever National Policy was developed and approved by the Council for Common Interest (CCI) in 2018.

The strategic priorities of the policy are Conservation and Efficiency, Storages, Renewable Energy, IWRM and Regulatory Frameworks.

## Pak, Kuwait ties getting stronger with each passing year: Ambassador

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to Kuwait Malik Muhammad Farooq Thursday underlined the importance of the strategic relationship between Pakistan and Kuwait that both countries' leadership was keen to strengthen bilateral relationship in different domains such as food security, trade, investments and people-to-people engagement.

In an exclusive talk with PTV news channel, he elaborated that Pakistan and Kuwait had share a cherished relationship that only grew stronger with each passing year.

"We are seeing greater interest from Kuwait to invest," he added.

He also expressed his satisfaction at close cooperation between the two countries at multilateral fora.

Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar was on a two-day official visit to Kuwait with the primary objective of signing of MoUs in multiple areas geared to transforming the

six decades' long bilateral relations into mutually beneficial economic ties, he said. The two country leadership had a good follow-up conversation where they discussed the prospect of greater investments from Kuwait amid the growing Pakistan economy, he added. "Both countries enjoying friendly relations, which are rooted in history," he said.

"Pakistan and Kuwait are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries," he added.

"Both nations have also maintained regular high-level contacts in future," he mentioned.

He further highlighted, "Kuwait leadership has serious concern over redressal of the dire humanitarian situation in Kashmir and Gaza."

"Kuwait has called on the international community to prevent the use of starvation as a military and political weapon against Palestinians in the Gaza."



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Country Director of World Health Organization, Dr. Palitha Mahipala called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## APHC calls for complete shutdown in IOJK today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has called for a complete shutdown in India's illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir on Friday (today).

According to Kashmir Media Service, the shutdown is meant to protest against the posting of a blasphemous video by an Indian student about Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). It is also aimed at protesting against illegal arrests, booking of seven Kashmiri students under draconian law, dismissal of Kashmiri government employees and confiscation of properties of people.

The APHC in a statement urged the people of the occupied territory to make the strike a success. It also asked them to hold protest demonstrations on Friday against the posting of blasphemous videos by the non-Kashmiri Hindu student.

APHC leaders including Muhammad Khan

Sopori, Abdul Ahad, Advocate Arshad Iqbal, Muhammad Saleem Zargar, Fayyaz Hussain Jafari, Sibte Shabbir Qummi, Khawaja Firdous, Syed Bashir Andrabi, Intiaz Reshi and Maulana MUSAIB NADVI in their statements in Srinagar strongly denounced the religious bigotry and terrorism of the Hindutva forces aided and abetted by the Modi government's puppet administration in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

They also asked the territory's people to observe a complete shutdown and hold protest demonstrations on Friday.

It is to be mentioned here that the students at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) in the Hazratbal area of Srinagar held a massive demonstration, yesterday after an Indian student studying at the institute posted a derogatory video clip on social media about the Holy Prophet (PBUH).



ISLAMABAD: Commander West Rear Admiral Adnan Majeed exchanging views with Shahid Ashraf Tarrar Caretaker Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs.

## "Modern manuscripts": A journey through profound calligraphy of Jamil Naqsh

ISLAMABAD (APP): Renowned Pakistani artist Jamil Naqsh on Thursday unveiled his masterpieces to immerse art enthusiasts in the captivating world of modern calligraphy at Tanzara Gallery's exhibition, "Modern Manuscripts," featuring the works of contemporary calligraphy maestro that will continue till December 30.

This exclusive exhibit showcases Naqsh's profound exploration of the intricate art of calligraphy, blending tradition and innovation to create a stunning visual narrative.

Jamil Naqsh's brushstrokes dance across the canvases, weaving a mesmerizing tapestry of form, colour, and emotion. His deep-rooted understanding of Arabic calligraphy and its spiritual connotations fuels his creative endeavor, resulting in a collection that transcends the boundaries of time.

Naqsh's dedication to

pushing the boundaries of calligraphy is evident in each piece. His intricate compositions, born from an in-depth study of lines, invite viewers to delve into the soulful narrative woven by a master artist.

Jamil Naqsh is a Pakistani artist who has been practicing calligraphy for over 50 years. He is considered one of the foremost practitioners of contemporary calligraphy in the world. His works have been exhibited in galleries and museums around the globe, and he has received numerous awards and accolades for his contributions to the art world.

Tanzara Gallery proudly presents "Modern Manuscripts," a testament to Jamil Naqsh's artistic brilliance and his enduring impact on the world of contemporary calligraphy.

The opening reception of the exhibition was held on Thursday from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm at Tanzara Gallery, Islamabad



ISLAMABAD: Wafaqi Mohtasib Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi addressing the Seminar on "Threats of Cybercrimes: Growing Vulnerabilities of societies", jointly organized by Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat and COMSATS University.

## Growing cybercrimes menace Ejaz calls for developing effective mechanism to protect children

ISLAMABAD (APP): Wafaqi Mohtasib (Federal Ombudsman) Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi has invited all stakeholders to work together for developing effective mechanism to protect children against the growing menace of cyber-crimes and other vulnerabilities rampant in various societies.

In this regard, he assured the international ombuds community of Pakistan's readiness to share its knowledge, experiences and best practices in this field in terms of its commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the objectives of Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA). He was addressing a seminar on "Threats of Cybercrime: Growing Vulnerabilities of Societies" organized here by Wafaqi Mohtasib in collaboration with FIA and COMSAT University.

Besides, participation by the representatives of Federal ministries and the relevant agencies, special arrangements were made for online participation by the members of Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA), the OIC Ombudsman Association (OICOA) and the Forum of Pakistan Ombudsmen (FPO).

Qureshi stated that the Seminar was being held in the backdrop of the Universal Children's Day which was observed last week and provided an opportunity to renew commitment towards promoting and protecting child rights. He emphasized that the Constitution of Pakistan recognized special rights of protection for children due to their vulnerabilities and Pakistan was among the first few countries who ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) on November 12, 1990.

Qureshi stated that the exploitation of children including the growing cases of cybercrimes was a common feature across the globe and Pakistan was no exception. He added that the Wafaqi Mohtasib has been deeply conscious of its role in pursuing the child rights issues in Pakistan.

The ombudsman further stated that the Office of Grievances Commissioner for Children had been set up in the Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat to address the individual grievances of children, monitor the overall situation and address the systemic issues faced by them. This office provided the children with a forum to raise their voice in matters relating to them and had to its credit various initiatives including Zainab Alert Response and Recovery Act 2020 and a Bill on Prevention and Control of Cybercrime against Children/Criminal Law Amendment Act.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson NCSW Ms. Nilofar Bakhtiar addressing All-Parties Conference on Christian Personal Laws.

## Pakistan's first "Seerah Digital Resource Centre" established at AIOU

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has established Pakistan's first "Seerah Digital Resource Centre" in its central library.

The center aims to provide educational support to students conducting research on the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAWW).

The resource center was inaugurated by Dean, Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Prof. Dr. Shah Mohyuddin Hashmi.

He expressed hope that this center will be an important milestone in the field of teaching and research.

Prof. Dr. Shah Mohyuddin Hashmi further added that digitizing Seerat would be a great advantage for the institution.

In today's day and age, younger generations are more inclined towards digital devices than books.

Therefore, it is essential to digitize the work of Seerat to attract young people to this field.

Prof. Dr. Shah Mohyuddin Hashmi congratulated the Chief Librarian, Dr. Sahibzada Shah Farrukh, on establishing the resource center.

Dr. Sahibzada Shah Farrukh announced that this is Pakistan's first Seerah Digital Resource Center.

This center offers a vast collection of digital resources, including images, audios, videos, PDFs, maps, and recently 1342 books on Seerat were purchased for this center.

The library team, with the support and consultation of the Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies and the Department of Seerat Studies, searched for materials, books, audio, videos, etc. from various sites, revised them, and added them to the database.

## Int'l mountain day to be observed on Dec 11

ISLAMABAD (APP): International Mountain Day, themed "Restoring mountain ecosystems", will be observed on December 11 across the world to highlight the significance of the mountains and their peoples' lifestyles.

According to details, the United Nations General Assembly nominated December 11 as "International Mountain Day" in 2002. However, beyond their aesthetics, mountains play a crucial role in our planet's well-being, impacting global ecosystems, climate, and communities.

This theme was selected to fully include mountains in the UN decade on ecosystem restoration 2021-2030, co-led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and the UN Environment Programme. The Decade is an opportunity to draw together political support, scientific research and financial resources to significantly scale up restoration and prevent further degradation of mountain ecosystems. It is pertinent to mention here, that mountains cover around 27 percent of the Earth's land surface and host about half of the world's biodiversity hotspots. Mountains are home to an extraordinary range of plants and animals, and many culturally diverse communities with different languages and traditions. From climate regulation and water provisioning services to soil maintenance.

## DC I'abad urges parents to cooperate with polio vaccination teams

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon on Thursday urged parents to cooperate with the polio vaccination teams and ensure that their children receive the necessary two doses of polio drops.

Addressing a review meeting on the fourth day of the campaign, Memon emphasized the importance of achieving the target of vaccinating all children under the age of five in Islamabad.

He expressed concern

that some children were not present for vaccination on the third day and instructed officials to prioritize them for the remaining days of the campaign. The meeting was also attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner General, DHOs, Assistant Commissioners, representatives from the Health Department, and other stakeholders. The participants discussed the performance of the campaign so far and identified areas for improvement.

## 42 PTI workers granted bail, order to release them issued

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) has ordered the release of 42 PTI workers on bail. Terrorism cases were registered against the accused. Hearing of PTI workers petitions against the terrorism cases was held in ATC, Swat.

Advocate Sohail Sultan appeared in court on behalf of PTI.

Court granted bail to 42 workers of PTI and ordered the release of all arrested workers.

## Delegation of Naval Headquarters officials visits Safe City Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, following the special directives of the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr.

He said that the delegation visits the command and control center, the data hub unit, modern technology-equipped cameras, and the Police operations cen-

ter hall. They were fully briefed about the procedures and benefits. Furthermore, the delegation was informed that



Akbar Nasir Khan, the SSP Safe City welcomed the delegation of Naval Headquarters officials, a public relations officer said.



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**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 Avenfield case has not been without its controversies, with the PML-N and its supporters consistently arguing that the legal process was politically motivated, pointing to how Nawaz Sharif's political career was dealt a severe blow, leading to a leadership vacuum within his party. The PML-N had alleged that Project Imran was launched to remove the Sharifs from the power equation in the country, that fake cases were made against PML-N leaders, that trumped-up charges were levelled, and that politicians were thrown behind bars on baseless or weak cases only because Imran Khan had to be brought into power one way or the other. Nawaz, say his supporters, has been vindicated with this IHC ruling. While there are some more cases to go, political analysts feel the winds are blowing in his favour.

Beyond the political ramifications, the Avenfield case also led to increasing concerns about the potential misuse of legal mechanisms for political ends, serving as a reminder of the delicate balance between justice, politics, and the imperative to build strong institutions for a robust democracy. Another important reminder is that none of this should take away from any real effort at the accountability process: one without vendetta and political witch hunts. Can we expect our current in-favour political parties to remember that trumped-up charges against anyone only lead to more injustice? And what about all those who had been instrumental in building such weak cases in the past, including those holding media trials on the Avenfield reference? Will there ever be a reckoning or are we doomed to go around in circles, no political party or figure learning any lessons from their own experiences? One would think the Avenfield reference and other such cases would serve as cautionary tales against politically motivated accountability. But, given today's political environment, one may be accused of wishful thinking.



By Husain Haqqani

When the United Arab Emirates (UAE) observes its Founding Day on December 2, it will be celebrating an unusual success story in the Arab and Muslim world. The UAE's population is just under 10 million of which 12 percent are Emiratis, but its impact on global affairs and its contribution to overall human accomplishment exceeds that of many larger countries.

Starting out as a union of seven not-so-well-known emirates in the Arabian desert 52 years ago, the UAE is now one of the world's leaders in cutting-edge technology. It is the first Arab and Muslim country to launch a mission to Mars. The UAE ranks tenth in the Global Competitiveness Report 2023 by the World Economic Forum, which assesses the economic capacity of countries to compete globally.

It is not the case that the UAE did not have disputes with other countries. Three of its islands were captured by Iran just as the British forces withdrew

The UAE also occupies first position in the Global Passport Power Rank Index 2023 and is one of the top ten donor states providing official development aid (ODA) to those living in less fortunate circumstances.

Its achievements are not just because of its oil wealth but the outcome of sensible policy choices by a succession of leaders committed to the vision of building a nation that is Muslim, modern, and moderate.

At the time of its independence, the UAE's founding father, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, made two critical decisions that put the country on the path to success. The first was to shun political Islam and ensure that maintaining tradition would not come at the cost of embracing contemporary ideas. The second was to embrace a positive nationalism, based on shared aspirations, instead of the negative nationalism chosen by many post-colonial states, based on antagonism towards an enemy or adversary.

There is no case that the UAE did not have disputes with other countries. Three of its islands were captured by Iran just as the British forces withdrew

from the erstwhile Trucial States that emerged as the UAE in 1971. In addition, there were border demarcation disputes with Saudi Arabia and Oman, and the Pan-Arab sentiment of solidarity with the Palestinian people. But Sheikh Zayed, and his sons, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed (the current president), did not allow these disputes to become obsessions obstructing pragmatic decision-making.

The UAE invested its oil wealth in its people by building world class infrastructure, healthcare facilities, and educational institutions. Education was a key priority from the beginning as Sheikh Zayed considered education as the way forward for creating an inclusive and prosperous society. In 1975, adult literacy stood at 58 percent among men and 38 percent among women. Today, literacy rates for both genders stands at 95 percent.

The UAE's investment in education and openness to learning and competing in the global marketplace has led to some of the world's best universities establishing programs and campuses in the UAE. As a result, a less educated populace

that lived in palm frond houses transformed into a highly educated and skilled population within a generation, working alongside large numbers of expatriates. The presence of citizens of 190 countries helped create a cosmopolitan outlook among Emiratis, in addition to helping the UAE take advantage of global talent in its own development.

Over the decades, the UAE has built a reputation as a country that values talent and has ended up attracting the world's most skilled individuals, innovators, and creative minds. Around 44 billion in remittances annually are sent from the UAE to countries around the world, primarily in the Global South.

The top five recipient countries for remittances from the UAE in 2021 included India, Egypt, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the Philippines with India receiving half of these annual remittances. These remittances are critical to the economies of these countries. As a MasterCard survey in 2022 showed, 51 percent of UAE residents who sent money to family and friends believe they would have struggled financially without their support.

As an oil producing country, the UAE recognized its responsibility in embracing sustainability and environmentally friendly energy policies earlier than many others. In end-November 2023, the UAE will chair the United Nations Climate Change Conference or Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC, commonly referred to as COP28, in Dubai.

The UAE has also become a global financial hub. According to the World Investment Report 2023 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), foreign direct investment inflows to the UAE in 2022 crossed \$23 billion (AED83.5 billion). The UAE manages extensive investments abroad, totaling well over one trillion dollars through multiple sovereign wealth funds, as well as through several emirate-level, and government-related investment corporations.

The UAE has emerged as one of the few Muslim-majority countries that invested early and heavily in innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology. Vision 2021, National Advanced Sciences Agenda 2031 and Open Labs are policies launched by the

UAE to support research and innovation in science and technology.

The UAE has its critics, especially in the West, but few would deny that it has become a model for religious inclusion in the region. Since 1971, the UAE government has demonstrated its commitment to inclusion, implementing laws that protect religious freedom and programmes that foster interfaith understanding. It is home to 40 churches and 700 mosques. In 2019, the UAE partnered with the UN's heritage agency Unesco to restore Christian churches in Iraq destroyed by ISIS.

Two Hindu temples now operate in Dubai, and several cremation facilities in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah provide Hindu burial rites. The UAE's first Sikh temple opened in Dubai in 2012 and the country is also home to the Parsi, Baha'i, and Druze communities. The UAE's economic success, technological ambitions, and its growing international influence are largely the outcome of the culture of tolerance fostered by its leaders and their preference for pragmatism over headline ideologues.—Courtesy The News

**Finding \$20 billion annually**



By Ali Tauqeer Sheikh

Pakistan is gearing up for active participation in the climate summit, scheduled to begin today in the UAE. While raising the flag for global climate justice in negotiations, the government is planning to use more than two dozen events at its national pavilion to showcase how Pakistan is actually striving for climate resilience, province by province, sector by sector, and project by project.

Each case study will show, in many different ways, that Pakistan is not just a victim, but also a hero and a survivor, struggling to implement reforms and climate-smart policies as well

as muster its limited resources to tackle the exacerbating climate challenge.

What are the strategic objectives of this high-level engagement? What is Pakistan's ask from the global community, given that the experience of attracting international finance has historically been less than successful? At the last Conference of the Parties in Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt, Pakistan had showcased its widespread losses caused by the 2022 floods.

This was immediately followed by a donor conference in Geneva in January 2023 to seek international assistance based on the Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction Framework. Results have not matched expectations. What is our learning from this experience, and have we begun to think about Plan B to meet our climate expenditures?

There is growing consensus amongst senior policymakers that while Pakistan needs to improve its access to international

climate finance and strengthen its pipeline of bankable projects, global climate finance windows simply cannot meet our growing needs.

There is an evolving understanding that no global financial fund, including the anticipated Loss & Damage fund, will have resources anywhere close to meeting the climate investments needed in Pakistan and estimated by the World Bank to be five per cent of the country's GDP, or \$20 billion annually. It is an intimidating figure, but arguably manageable particularly since it is an existential and national security threat.

Senior policymakers unfailingly underline the preference for grants and concessional lending. They, however, also understand that this is neither predictable nor significant nor adequate for the country's immediate fiscal requirements. This leaves Pakistan with no option but to mobilise domestic resources, in spite of its ex-

tremely narrow fiscal space.

In fact, climate economists argue that increasing investments in climate adaptation will help expand the fiscal space needed for accelerated and sustained economic growth.

The last floods inflicted a loss of \$30bn. This amount was more than the total disbursement by all UNFCCC funds since their inception: the Global Environment Facility (1991), the Adaptation Fund (2001) and the Green Climate Fund (2014). According to some estimates, they have collectively disbursed about \$22bn globally.

Pakistan has accessed less than \$1bn from all these three funds in the last 30 years. We are not attending the climate summit expecting that the world will extend large sums annually, even if we consider ourselves as the most deserving climate victim. Most importantly, Pakistan's absorptive capacity will not match this need for annual investment.

It is important to underline that allocations by climate funds are based on a project's merit and alignment with their objectives, and not on any country's specific needs or requests.

Clearly, as our needs far exceed our presently available external finances, Pakistan's best practical option is to weave climate considerations into ongoing and future projects and mobilise domestic public and private sector resources, rather than ignoring reforms for climate-smart development.

Pakistan will, therefore, need to seek at the COP28 international partnerships two intertwined objectives: i) enhancing our ability to handle sustained investments over longer periods of time, which are necessary to absorb climate shocks and climate finances, and ii) undertaking a sustained reform agenda to augment our capacity to domestically generate \$20bn annually for our climate expenditures.

Where is the fiscal

space for generating these resources? The reality is that an almost exclusive preoccupation with macro-economic stability and accompanying IMF conditionalities has distracted the decision-makers from the reforms necessary for climate adaptation.

The focus has been almost entirely on increasing revenue and reducing subsidies on oil and gas. A thin technical capacity has not allowed the government to prioritise reducing spending on maladaptation and government inefficiencies, ie its bloated size, functional duplications, stranded assets (other than state-owned enterprises), and carbon taxes in high-polluting industries that will face border tax in future from the European Union (Pakistan's important trading partner). In the realm of adaptation, water is the currency of climate change. Water pricing is essential for the efficient use of resources and to generate revenue, as are the taxes on agricultural income.—Courtesy Dawn

**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

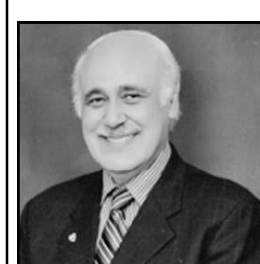
that all citizens of the country get the dignity that is granted to them under the constitution of Pakistan but is rarely available in regular day to day life.

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 become 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 renaissance 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 colo-

phon, 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



## 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

Chinese President Xi Jinping, adding the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would open new avenues of development not only in Pakistan and China but in the entire region. He said the ongoing development projects under CPEC would bring a lot of improvement in energy and infrastructure in the country and generate economic development. Balighur Rehman said various training courses and mutual exchanges would increase the efficiency of police personnel. Such exchanges of delegations would

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 contacts would be further strengthened through investment and exchanges at the public level.



**KARACHI:** The Provincial Ombudsman of Sindh Mr Aijaz Ali Khan and the Chief Ombudsman of Thailand/President of IOI Asia Region Mr Somsak Suwansujrit sign MOU for fostering cooperation in the field of complaint handling at CM House. Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (R) Maqbool Baqar, Secretary Health Dr Mansoor Rizvi, Rehana Memon and others witnessing the ceremony.

## CJPHC chairs 12<sup>th</sup> PJC meeting to discuss judiciary matters, projects

PESHAWAR (APP): Excise & Taxation, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Departments and Joint Secretary Law and Justice Commission. At the outset, the Chief Justice remarked that the litigant public was the prime focus of the justice system, and it was thus imperative for all the stakeholders to make concerted efforts to minimize their plight associated with protracted litigation, through timely and effective dispensation of justice. After an update by the ACS, Home, IGP and Secretary Finance.



**KARACHI:** Chairman Karachi Port Trust Syed Syedain Raza Zaidi calls on Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori.

## Post-graduate students' conference at PU IER

LAHORE (APP): Punjab University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood has said that modern trends in development and research are most important and a need of the hour. He was addressing the 14<sup>th</sup> Post-Graduate Students Conference on "21<sup>st</sup> Century: Trends in Educational Research", organised by the Institute of Education and Research (IER) at Waheed Shaheed Hall, on Thursday. Director IER Prof Dr Tariq Mahmood Chaudhry, Chairman Department of Advanced Studies in Education Prof Dr Muhammad Shahid Farooq, researchers,

academicians, faculty members and students were present. In his address, the PU VC said the use of technology had changed the research work. He said the idea of artificial intelligence is emerging rapidly. He said "we should learn from developed countries and give priority to research work based on solving our local problems". Prof Khalid Mahmood said applied, action and experimental research was very important to deal with future challenges. He praised the Punjab University's Institute of Education and Research for organising the conference.



**PESHAWAR:** Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (ret) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah presides over the meeting to review Computerization of Land Record.



**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.

## CM, WB regional chief agree to speed up progress of projects

**KARACHI (APP):** Chairman P&D Shakil Mangnejo were part of the meeting. The World Bank's "Accelerated Action Plan for Reduction of Stunting and Malnutrition" in Sindh is aimed at achieving a goal of reducing stunting from 30 per cent to 15 per cent by 2026. The CM and the visiting World Bank regional chief discussed other factors to reduce stunting. They agreed to adopt a revised theory of change that includes all the critical drivers of stunting from "nutrition-specific" to include the critical environmental factors that drive a large part of the biological process underlying stunting. These include, in particular,

access to safe water and sanitation and the safe management of animal and solid waste. The chief minister said that UNICEF was supporting the Sindh government through Rolling Workplan for two years 2023-2024 with a grant of \$50.573 million in the sectors of Health, Nutrition, Education, Water Sanitation, and hygiene. The European Union has recently initiated a project for "Strengthen Local Civil Society and Community-based Organizations and their Capacity in Nutrition Sector in Sindh" with a grant of Euro 6.1 million in six districts - Sukkur.

The meeting was held at the CM House and was attended by World Bank Country Director Najy Benhassine, Draugelis Operation Manager Gillius and others. Chief Secretary Dr Fakhre Alam and

## 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. DG Khan Cardiology Hospital was providing facilities were some not less than hospitals in any big city, he said. Regarding facilities of the hospitals all over the province, CM said they're trying their level best to come up expectations of the masses.



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

## 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. Addressing the audience, he highlighted the hereditary nature of hemophilia and the challenges in its diagnosis. 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

Laure. He stressed the importance of early diagnosis, stating that 40 per cent of complications can be avoided with timely detection. Expressing gratitude for abundant donations in Pakistan, Dr. Javed Akram cautioned against unnecessary medication for hemophilia patients. He urged the creation of guidelines for managing the disease and proposed establishing a registry of hemophilia patients in Punjab. In a thoughtful message, the Health Minister encouraged patients not to stigmatize others with diseases.

## IGP visits LRH to inquire about health of police personnel on polio duty

**PESHAWAR (APP):** Surgical Block with Abdul Hameed, who was admitted to the Surgical ward. He lauded the courage and professionalism of the injured police officers in the line of duty, encouraging their spirits and assuring all possible help and financial assistance. The IG KP also met with doctors to get details about the nature of injuries sustained by the police officers and the treatment. He emphasized that the injured police personnel were valuable assets of the police force.

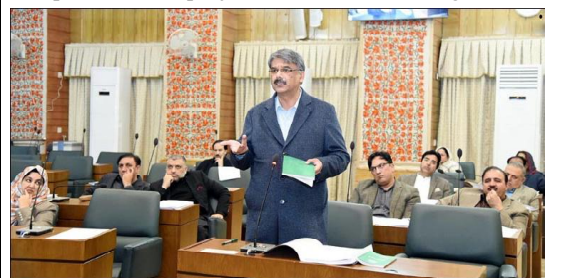
## One dead, 11 injured in high school truck Collision

**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 Jund Tehsil when a high school truck carrying female students collided with a stationary Ford loader vehicle. In the accident, a 70-year-old woman Zamurad Khan, a resident of Mari village, succumbed to her injuries at the scene. The truck driver and 10 other women on board sustained varying degrees of injuries.

## 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 reviewed the progress so far made on the project regarding computerization and digitization of land records in the province. 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,

significant improvement has been made in the process of land records computerization, adding that during the last week, 30 more Mauzas have been operationalized in different districts of the province, and thus, the total number of operational Mauzas has increased from 2356 to 2386. 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. 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.



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

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

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: 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 Chief Secretary Kohistan incident, he stressed the need for responsible journalism as a crucial antidote to the

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.

## Reshuffle in Punjab bureaucracy

**LAHORE (APP):** Orders were issued on Thursday for transfer and posting of several civil servants in Punjab. According to the notifications, Secretary School Education South Punjab Rana Saleem Ahmed Khan was instructed to report to the Services Department for participation in a course, and Executive Director Punjab Government Servants Housing Foundation Obaidullah was appointed Secretary School Education South Punjab. Director General

Bahawalpur Development Authority Mehar Khalid Ahmed was also directed to report to the Services Department regarding the course. Meanwhile, OSD [Officer on Special Duty] Mehboob Alam was appointed Director General Bahawalpur Development Authority, Secretary Planning and Development Department South Punjab Tariq Mehmood Bukhari was appointed as DG Bahawalpur Development Authority.



**LAHORE:** Women activists of local NGOs hold a banner during awareness walk of Violence against Women, outside press club in Provincial Capital.

## Empowering women dire need of hour

**MULTAN (APP):** Provincial Woman Ombudsperson, Ms Nabila Hakim Ali Khan, emphasized the need to empower and build confidence in women on Thursday. While speaking to the media at the Circuit House, she advocated for providing women with a conducive work environment at workplaces. Ms Nabila stressed that women should not be deprived of their inheritance rights under any

circumstances. Empowering women is a dire need of the time, she said adding that facilities are being provided to women in regional offices. The Woman Ombudsperson mentioned that the Punjab government was taking important initiatives for the betterment of women. Ensuring the protection of women is everyone's responsibility and the goal is to empower women and make them financially stable, she noted.



## 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.

The president emphasized inculcating the values of honesty in the society in line with the glorious teachings of Islam which called for

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.



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 for becoming 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, 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 bank 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) 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), 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.

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



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (R) Maqbool Baqar and World Bank South Asia Regional Vice President Mr Martin Raiser discuss the portfolio at CM House.

## Zong 4G's provides seamless connectivity across nine countries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong 4G Pakistan's leading telecommunications provider, has exclusively crafted a one-stop international roaming solution for nine countries in Continental Asia.

This comprehensive offering empowers Zong 4G users to stay connected seamlessly across 9 prominent countries, including China, Malaysia, Thailand, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE, Australia, and Sri Lanka said a news release.

Zong 4G's IR Bundle for Continental Asia distinguishes itself with the unparalleled advantage of providing connectivity seamlessly. With a single network, users can enjoy

hassle-free communication, uninterrupted data access, and reliable SMS services with 60 minutes of talk time, 60 SMS, and 1 GB of Data in multiple international destinations for a total of PKR 5000 + tax. Commenting on the bundle, the official spokesperson for Zong 4G stated, "The Postpaid IR Bundle for Continental Asia, reflects our commitment to enhancing the connectivity experience for our users. With the inclusion of nine countries in a single bundle, we aim to simplify international travel for our customers, offering a cost-effective and convenient solution for staying connected across borders."

## Pakistan's total liquid foreign reserves stood at \$12.39 billion

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan reached US\$ 12,392.8 million while the central bank held the reserves of \$7,257 million.

The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that SBP's reserves increased by \$77 million to \$7,257 million during the week ended on November 24, 2023.

Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks stood at \$5,135.8 million, it added.

Total liquid foreign reserves held by the country, in the previous week ended on November 17, 2023, were \$12,302 billion.

Among them, foreign reserves held by the central bank were \$7.18 billion while net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were \$5.122 billion.

## 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.

## SNGPL nabs hotel owner in Sohan for gas pilfering, imposes Rs. 10 mln fine

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Task Force of Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has apprehended a hotel owner in Sohan involved in gas pilfering, imposing a substantial fine of Rs. 10 million.

According to SNGPL's spokesperson, Shahid Akram, the detained individual has been handed over to FIA authorities, with an FIR filed against him for his role in the criminal activity.

Providing insights into the ongoing operations throughout November, Shahid Akram highlighted the Task Force's effective raids in various sectors and adjoining areas of the

federal capital, including I-8, I-10, I-14, E-11, F-11, F-8, G-6, G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11, G-13, H-8, Bara Kahu, Ghouri Town, Ghangi Syedan, Ali pur, Pindorian, Farash Town, Sohan, and Tarnol.

During these operations, a staggering one hundred individuals were caught red-handed engaging in various illegal activities, including the use of undocumented gas meters, providing unauthorized extensions to neighboring houses, utilizing domestic gas connections for commercial purposes, and establishing direct bypasses connected with SNGPL's main pipelines.

## ILO, EFP award 150 National Skills Passports to aspiring migrant workers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Recognizing the indispensable value of skilled human resources in driving both national and international labor markets, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Employers' Federation of Pakistan (EFP), in conjunction with the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resources Development (MOP&HRD), proudly announced the distribution of 150 National Skills Passports.

This esteemed recognition, achieved through a meticulous assessment process focusing on trades such as plumbing, electrician, and cooking, marks a

significant stride towards providing aspiring migrant workers with pathways to decent work, said in an ILO press release.

Supported by the Joint UN Programme "Governance of Labour Migration in South and Southeast Asia" (GOALS), the pilot project was funded by the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC). Around 300 senior representatives from government departments, workers' and employers' organizations, UN Agencies, development partners, civil society organizations, and the Pakistan Overseas Employment Promoters Association (POEPA) attended the event.

## PSX gains 29 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Thursday gained 29.27 points, a slight positive change of 0.05 percent, closing at 60,531.27 points against 60,502.00 points the previous trading day.

A total of 467,159,704 shares valuing Rs 18,752 billion were traded during the day as compared to 692,220,122 shares valuing Rs 27,039 billion the last day.

Some 379 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 148 of them recorded gains and 212 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 19 remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were Fauji Foods Ltd with 34,548,158 shares at Rs9.05 per share, Fauji Fertilizer Bin with 33,025,000 shares at Rs 24.00 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 28,095,487 shares at Rs 1.51 per share.

Unilever Foods witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 400.00 per share price, closing at Rs 22,500.00, whereas the runner-up was Ismail Ind with a Rs 86.78 rise in its per share price to Rs 1,243.78.

Rafhan Maize witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 191.50 per share closing at Rs 10,100.00, followed by Mari Petroleum with a Rs 42.32 decline to close at Rs 1,707.73.



HYDERABAD: Women selecting and purchasing warm socks from vendor at Cloth Market.

## 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 billion 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.

## Two-day Agriculture, Food Security venture SPARK concludes

MULTAN (APP): Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture (MNSUA) organized a two-day Agriculture and Food Security venture SPARK wherein more than 55 universities and industry stalls were set up for business ideas.

The topic of fodder cultivation in the context of climate change was also discussed.

An international conference was also organized which was chaired by Federal Secretary National Food Security Captain @ Muhammad Mehmood wherein researchers from

America, Argentina, China, Algeria and representatives of various organizations participated.

He congratulated the varsity and faculty for organizing a splendid event. Such programs are proof of cooperation between industry and academia he said adding that the work of universities is research, and this institution is performing its duty well.

Daniel H. Putnam from the University of California Davis, USA also explained the needs of Alfalfa cultivation and marketing in Pakistan.

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships, GCL Lazarro, Al-Dayyan and Ardmore Engineer carrying Caol, LNG and Gas oil, berthed at Bulk Terminal, Elengy Terminal and Oil Terminal respectively on Wednesday. Meanwhile another oil tanker Hafnia Tagus carrying 26,997 tonnes Gas oil also arrived at outer anchorage of the port during the same day.

A total of eightships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them, a container vessel MSC Ellen left the port on Thursday morning and two more ships Ardmore Engineer and African Dove are expected to sail on today afternoon.

Cargo throughput of 187,374 tonnes, comprising 139,491 tonnes imports cargo and 47,883 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 2,636 Containers (391 TEUs Imports and 2,245 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are Eleven ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them three ships, BD Pioneer, Hafnia Tagus and Seaspan Beacon & another ship Navios Lapis carrying scheduled to load/offload Rice.

significant stride towards providing aspiring migrant workers with pathways to decent work, said in an ILO press release.

Supported by the Joint UN Programme "Governance of Labour Migration in South and Southeast Asia" (GOALS), the pilot project was funded by the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC). Around 300 senior representatives from government departments, workers' and employers' organizations, UN Agencies, development partners, civil society organizations, and the Pakistan Overseas Employment Promoters Association (POEPA) attended the event.

## 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). The Japanese Yen gained one paise to close at Rs 1.94; whereas a decrease of 11 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 362.17 as compared to the last closing of Rs 362.28.

## China-Pak sustainable agriculture cooperation shining at CISCE

BEIJING (APP): An endless stream of visitors were full of praise for the dazzling array of agricultural products, including plump rice grains, sweet melons, fragrant sesames... at the ongoing 2023 China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE).

"From the single germplasm resource cooperation and product trade to current Agriculture Value Chain (AVC) comprehensive business, the cooperation between Syngenta Group and Pakistan in the agricultural field has great potential, undoubtedly," a staff at Syngenta Group China, told China Economic Net.

"By supplying inputs and production services to growers, bartering with entities in

core producing areas in exchange for key agricultural products, while linking China's agricultural product market demand and opening up the global upstream and downstream chains, the AVC model has brought practical benefits to farmers in Pakistan," he added. Sesame cultivation in Pakistan has tripled in the past five years. In the South Asia country, sesame is grown on roughly 600,000 acres with a per acre yield of 0.5 tons. As most Pakistan sesame is for export, with more than 1/3 goes to China, Syngenta global AVC aims to link the quality sesame from Pakistani growers served by Syngenta with international value chain partners especially in China.



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.



## 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.

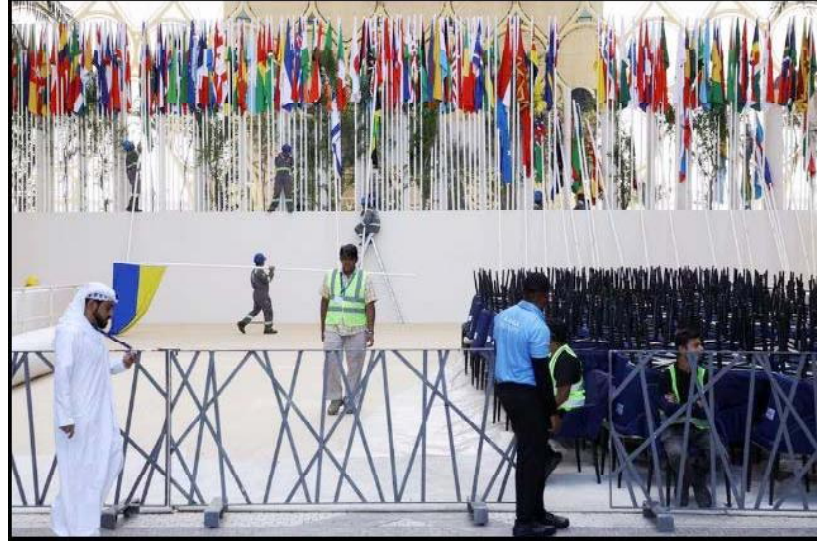
But the decision for it to host has attracted a firestorm of criticism, particularly after the appointment of Sultan Al Jaber—the head of UAE oil giant ADNOC—to steer the talks as COP president.

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



A worker carries a Ukrainian flag in preparation for the opening of U.N.'s COP28 climate summit in Dubai in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

## Israel, Hamas agree to extend Gaza truce for a seventh day

TELEAVIV (INP): Israel's military has just announced that a truce with Hamas will continue "in light of the mediators' efforts to continue the process of releasing hostages, and subject to the terms of the agreement". In a separate statement, Hamas said that an agreement has been reached to extend the truce for a seventh day.

Until the last hour, the prospect of an extension of the truce was in question, after the two sides failed to agree on the new list of Israelis to be released from Gaza. It has been reported that Hamas' armed wing told its fighters in the Gaza Strip to be ready to resume battles with Israel if a temporary truce set to expire on Thursday at 7 A.M. is not renewed. "The Al-Qassam Brigades asks its active forces to maintain high combat readiness in the last hours of the truce," Hamas said in a statement.

Fighters should "remain on such footing unless an official statement is issued confirming the extension of the truce," the statement added. Hamas announced that Israel has refused to accept seven additional hostages, women and children, and three bodies of its citizens—also women and children—in exchange for extending the ceasefire for another day, starting from Thursday morning.

According to the state-

## Kashmiris will not allow anyone to mock their religion: Shabbir Shah

SRINAGAR (INP): Illegally detained senior leader of All Parties Hurriyat Conference and Chairman of Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) Shabbir Ahmad Shah has urged the Kashmiri people to observe complete shutdown, tomorrow, (Friday) to mark their protest against the posting of a blasphemous video about the Holy Prophet of Islam Muhammad (PBUH) by a non-Kashmiri student at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) in Srinagar.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Shabbir Ahmad Shah in his message from New Delhi's Tihar jail, terming it as unacceptable, said that the Kashmiri Muslims would not allow anyone to mock their religion. "The blasphemous remarks, meant to provoke Muslims, will not be tolerated. The honour of the Holy Prophet is dearer to us than our lives," he added.

Taking a serious note of the incident, he called for an independent probe to bring the real culprits to justice. He said that the educational institutions must be freed from such criminal-minded people, who were hell bent on turning colleges and universities into a battleground thereby nurturing hatred and sowing the seeds of discord.

## 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, died today at his home in Connecticut, Kissinger Associates announced in a statement late on Wednesday.

"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 establishment of relations with Beijing.

After the Watergate scandal brought down Nixon, Kissinger served under his successor, Gerald R. 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.

## US charges Indian man with foiled hit on American Sikh activist

WASHINGTON (AFP/APP): The US Justice Department unveiled charges on Wednesday against a man they say planned to assassinate a Sikh separatist leader on American soil earlier this year under the direction of an Indian official.

The allegations echo a similar claim made by Canada over the June killing of a different Sikh separatist leader near Vancouver which led to a major diplomatic flareup between Ottawa and New Delhi.

According to the Justice Department, Indian national Nikhil Gupta was arrested on June 30 -- just over a week after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Washington.

Gupta, 52, has been charged "in connection

with his participation in a foiled plot to assassinate a US citizen" of Indian origin in New York, the Justice Department said.

The statement further described his target as "a vocal critic of the Indian government" who "leads a US-based organization that advocates for the secession of Punjab," a northern Indian state with a large population of Sikhs.

The Financial Times, which reported the alleged assassination plot last week, identified Gupta's target as US-Canadian citizen Gurpatwant Singh Pannun.

He is a leader of Sikhs for Justice, a US-based group that is part of a movement calling for an independent Sikh state called Khalistan.

## Poor education, stigma fuel Philippines' soaring HIV infections

MANILA (AFP/APP): HIV infections are soaring in the Philippines, with experts blaming online dating, poor sex education and conservative attitudes in the deeply religious country for fuelling the spread of the virus.

While less than one percent of the country's more than 110 million people have been diagnosed with HIV, UN data show it has one of the world's fastest-growing epidemics.

Philippine health officials warn the number of people testing positive for HIV every year is accelerating and the caseload could more than double to over 400,000 by 2030.

The vast majority of new infections are among men having sex with men and transgender women.

A growing number are teenagers. "It's alarming because it shows that we're not yet controlling the epidemic," said Van Phillip Baton, an adviser for the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in the Philippines.

Baton warned the virus could spread to the general population if action wasn't taken.

Experts said social media and online dating sites had fanned infections over the past decade by making it easier for people to find sexual partners.

But increased sexual activity, particularly since

COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, has not been matched by a greater use of condoms or pre-exposure prophylaxis drugs to prevent infection, said Baton.

Ignorance was a major factor.

A sexual health study by the University of the Philippines' Population Institute in 2021 showed more than a third of young Filipinos aged 15 to 24 did not believe using condoms could reduce the risk of acquiring HIV.

And the proportion of young Filipinos who had heard of HIV and AIDS had fallen to 76 per cent—the lowest level since 1994.

"This means more information needs to be disseminated to correct the perspectives of young people on HIV/AIDS," said Vicente Jurlano, a professor at the Population Institute. A family planning law that took effect in 2013 after years of opposition from the Catholic Church required government health centres to hand out free condoms and mandated that sex education be taught in schools.

However people aged under 18 need parental permission to receive condoms.

And the education department only began rolling out "comprehensive sexuality education" in 2018 after legal delays, with the main focus on preventing teenage pregnancy.

## 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. According to UNRWA, more than 1.8 million Gazans—around 80 per cent of the population in the enclave—have been displaced since Hamas's attack on southern Israel on 7 October which left 1,200 dead and some 240 taken hostage. The displaced had left their homes in the north, in line with an evacuation order issued by the Israeli military, issued on 13 October.



A UN vehicle drives, during a visit at Camp Shamrock where Irish and Polish peacekeepers of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) are stationed near Maroun al-Ras village close to the Lebanese-Israeli border, in southern Lebanon

## Seven missing after US Osprey crashes off Japan

TOKYO (AFP/APP): Rescuers scoured waters off Japan on Thursday for seven missing US Air Force personnel whose Osprey crashed during a training exercise, in the latest incident involving the tilt-rotor military aircraft.

Japan's defence minister said he had requested that US forces in the country suspend Osprey flights in the wake of the deadly incident.

One unconscious person was found in the sea and later declared dead after the aircraft crashed off the island of Yakushima on Wednesday, according to the Japanese coastguard.

US Air Force Special Operations Command said eight crew had been aboard the CV-22B Osprey in the "routine training mission" out of Yokota Air Base in Japan.

"The cause of the mishap is currently unknown," it said in a statement Wednesday, with emergency personnel "on scene conducting search and rescue operations."

An emergency management official in the Kagoshima region where the crash took place said police had received information that the aircraft had been "spewing fire from a left engine."

## US Supreme Court questions SEC's regulatory powers

WASHINGTON (AFP/APP): The US Supreme Court on Wednesday heard the second of three cases the majority conservative bench will consider this term that could significantly curtail federal regulatory authorities.

Wednesday's case challenges a tribunal system used by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to rule on fines issued by the agency.

A lower decision by a deeply conservative federal appeals court ruled in favor of plaintiff George Jarkesy, the founder of an investment fund who had been fined \$300,000 for securities fraud and ordered to repay \$685,000 in "illicit gains."

The discussion at the Court on Wednesday focused on whether Congress's authorization of the SEC to impose sanctions through its own administrative judges violated the right to trial by jury, enshrined in by the Seventh Amendment to the Constitution.

The six conservative judges, including Chief Justice John Roberts, raised numerous objections to calls by the Justice Department lawyer, Brian Fletcher, for the complete annulment of the decision by the appeals court.

"What sense does it make to say the full consti-

## 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.

As Nabil and another man sat on the roof, talking and smoking a shisha pipe, a group of children down below sat around a small fire built on a pile of rubble and warmed-up bread, which they shared.

The hostilities have displaced 80pc of Gazans from their homes, according to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who on Wednesday described the situation as an epic humanitarian catastrophe.



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.



## 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.



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.



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.

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.

## 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 sacrifices.

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.

## 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.

## Court seeks NAB comments on post-arrest bail of Imran

ISLAMABAD (APP): An Accountability Court (AC) on Thursday sought NAB comments on December 4, on post-arrest bail petition of the PTI chairman in Al-Qadir Trust case, a scandal worth 190 million pounds. AC-I Judge Muhammad Bashir heard the case on the bail petition of PTI Chairman.

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 Baksh Baloch, Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan, Principal Secretary to CM Rashid Razaq, Special Secretary Isfandyar Baloch, Secretary Population Welfare Asghar Harifal, Secretary Higher Education Zafar Ali Buledi.

## 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-

## 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 Nugraha 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 promot-

ing 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 told to the president. Campaign based on mala fide intent was

launched against him on February 16, 2023. Complaint was registered in SC. 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 SC 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.

## 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 Jaffarabad 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.



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

## "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 '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 katchery in Chaghai 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 Chaghai would be imparted technical training, he maintained. He said that the skilled youth would be able to get jobs in the Reko dik project once complete their training.

## Jogezai terms Zardari 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.



QUETTA: Provincial AIDS Control Program Manager, Dr. Khalid-ur-Rehman Qamrani 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.



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