

# Independent

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## Imran Khan was ousted on Gen Bajwa's directives: Fazlur Rehman

"I was personally against the no-confidence move," JUI-F's chief says

**Monitoring Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Emir Maulana Fazlur Rehman said Thursday that the no-confidence motion that ousted former prime minister Imran Khan was tabled on the directives of ex-army chief General (retired) Qamar Javed Bajwa.

In an interview on a private news channel, Fazlur, who was the chief of the multi-party alliance Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) responsible for removing Khan, said: "I was personally against the no-confidence move [...] but if I had said no despite insistence of other parties, then an impression would've been given that I 'saved' the PTI founder."

The PDM removed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government in April 2022 and led by Shehbaz Sharif, the multi-

party alliance ruled the country for 16 months before handing over the reins to the caretaker set-up.

At first, Khan insisted that the US had him removed — a claim that the Joe Biden administration vehemently rejected. However, the ex-prime minister later shifted the blame to Gen Bajwa.

In an interview in February last year, Khan, citing an apparent conversation of the retired general with a journalist, said General Bajwa had "accepted and clarified that he was behind our government's ouster".

After he became the first prime minister to be ousted via a no-trust motion, Khan continued a tirade against the establishment; however, politicians also said that the ex-army chief was involved in the PTI's ouster.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting of the Caretaker Federal Cabinet, in Islamabad.

## PTI announces nationwide protest campaign on Saturday

Imran picks Omar Ayub as PTI's candidate for prime minister, Mian Aslam Iqbal as Punjab CM

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): In a significant development, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has officially nominated former provincial minister Aslam Iqbal as its candidate for the chief minister position in Punjab. This announcement came from PTI leader Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, signalling PTI's intent to solidify its leadership in the province. Speaking to the

media on Thursday, Barrister Gohar also disclosed that PTI has put forward Salar Khan Kakar as its candidate for the chief minister position in Balochistan.

Moreover, the PTI has announced its plans for a nationwide protest scheduled for Saturday. "We will protest peacefully all over Pakistan on Saturday," Barrister Gohar added.

Emphasizing the

peaceful nature of the protest, the PTI leader asserted that the demonstration aims to convey a strong message against what the party perceives as electoral irregularities, particularly the alleged theft of 80 seats.

"According to records, the PTI has won 180 seats. Nobody has the right to form a government with a fake mandate," he insisted, adding that in the protest,

they will give the message that 80 of their seats have been stolen. "The protest will be peaceful, and there should be no arrests," Barrister Gohar asserted. Addressing concerns over potential power-sharing arrangements, Barrister Gohar firmly stated that PTI will not engage in any such agreements with parties like the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP).

## Gas bomb: Caretaker govt raises tariff by 67%, effective from Feb 1

**Monitoring Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: In a move that has stirred public outcry, the caretaker government has greenlit a 67% increase in gas prices, effectively burdening consumers with higher costs of living starting from February 1.

The decision, approved in a meeting of the federal cabinet led by caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar, follows the recommendation of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) to raise gas prices by a staggering 67%. This sharp hike in rates will apply to both protected and non-protected customers, translating to a surge of Rs100 and Rs300 per MMBTU (million British thermal units), respectively.

Notably, while the increase will apply to consumption charges, there will be no increase in fixed charges for both categories of consumers. However, bulk gas consumers will bear the brunt of a significant surge, facing a whopping increase of Rs900 per MMBTU. Furthermore, the CNG sector is set to face its own set of challenges, with prices anticipated to surge by Rs170 per MMBTU. Collectively, these price hikes are expected to impose an additional burden of Rs204 billion on all consumers.

The decision has sparked widespread criticism, with many decrying the government's imposition of further financial strain on an already beleaguered populace.



KARACHI: Chief Justice Sindh High Court Mr. Justice Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi speaking during Full Court Reference on the eve of retirement of Mr. Justice Nadeem Akhtar Honable Senior Puisne Judge Sindh High Court at the Court room of high court of Sindh Karachi.

## Full court reference to honor Justice Nadeem Akhtar

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan slightly increased to US\$ 13,149.1 million in the week ended on February 9, 2024 while foreign reserves held by State Bank reached \$ 8,056.5 million.

The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that foreign exchange reserves held by the central bank increased by \$ 13 million to \$ 8,056.5 million during the week under review.

KARACHI (APP): Sindh High Court (SHC), on Thursday, held a full court reference in honour of Senior Puisne Judge, Justice Nadeem Akhtar to bid him farewell on the eve of his retirement.

Chief Justice Sindh High Court Justice Aqeel Ahmad Abbasi, Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui, Justice Naimatullah Phulpoto, Justice Salahuddin Panhwar and other judges of the high court participated in the full court reference while judicial officers, court officials and lawyers representing SHC Bar Association and other bars were also in attendance.

Chief Justice SHC Justice Aqeel Ahmad Abbasi, while addressing the reference, lauded the services of Senior Puisne Judge Nadeem Akhtar and said that one of the best judges of Sindh High Court was retiring on the day.

## Sherry confirms nomination of Zardari for presidency

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) senior leader Senator Sherry Rehman clarified on Thursday that no formal discussions have taken place with Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) regarding coalition government formation.

Talking to a private news channel, Senator Rehman emphasized that while there have been discussions with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) regarding government formation, no such talks have occurred with the PTI.

Sherry Rehman expressed openness to dialogue with all parties, stating, "Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) seems to be confused; PPP's doors are open for everyone for discussion."

Furthermore, she highlighted the ongoing formation of provincial committees and the process of provincial government formation with allies.



LARKANA: Peoples Party (PPP) Leader, Suhail Anwar Siyal addresses to media persons during press conference, at Larkana press club.

## ECP dismisses Nawaz's plea against defeat in NA-15 Mansehra

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday binned the plea of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz supreme leader Nawaz Sharif against his defeat in NA-15 Mansehra.

According to unofficial and unconfirmed results from all polling stations in the constituency, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-backed independent candidate Shahzada Gustasp Khan won the seat with 105,249 votes, while Nawaz Sharif remained second with 80,382 votes. Following defeat in the constituency, Sharif challenged the victory notification of Shahzada Gustasp Khan from NA-15.



KARACHI: Caretaker Home Minister Brig (ret) Haris Nawaz meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori.

## Shehbaz apprises Nawaz of progress in talks with allies over formation of govt

LAHORE (Agencies): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif apprised three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif on Thursday about the progress in the negotiations with the allies, including the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in the centre.

Shehbaz Sharif called on the PML-N supremo at Jati Umra. On this occasion, both leaders discussed the latest political position of JUI-F supremo Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

A meeting of PML-N bigwigs was also held under the chairmanship of Nawaz Sharif. During the meeting, consultation was

held on the possible names of the Punjab cabinet. The possible names of the Punjab assembly speaker and deputy speaker were also considered.

The consultations were also held regarding the inclusion of allies in the provincial cabinet and their possible ministries in Punjab.

In the meeting, Ishaq Dar, while giving a briefing on the joint meeting of the coordination committees of the PML-N and PPP, said, "There has been progress in matters regarding government formation, while the third meeting of the coordination committees will be held on Friday."

## Cabinet approves Syed Tariq's appointment as PBM MD

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Cabinet on Thursday approved the appointment of Syed Tariq Muhammad ul Hassan as Managing Director of Pakistan Baitul Maal (PBM).

The decision was taken on the recommendation of Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Security, according to a press release issued by the Prime Minister House Media Wing.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar presided over the cabinet meeting.

On the recommendation of the Ministry of Commerce, the cabinet approved the transit/transfer of vehicle spare parts and new tires used by the Country Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Afghanistan from Karachi Port to Kabul.

## PPP contact & coordination committee meets Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (APP): The members of the contact and coordination committee of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Thursday met with the party Chairman of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

They briefed Bilawal Bhutto about their meetings with the other political parties, said a press release issued by the party secretary. Qamar Zaman Kaira, Syed Murad Ali Shah, Nawab Sanaullah Zehri, Shuja Khan, Saeed Ghani, Nadeem Afzal Chan and Bahadur Khan Sehar were present in the meeting.

Meanwhile, Chairman PPP also met with former Governor of Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar at Zardari House in which the political situation of the country was discussed.

Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, Syed Naveed Qamar and Sherry Rehman were also present during the meeting.



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf addressing the troops onboard PN ship during exercise SEASPARK 2024

## PPP entrusts mandate to PML-N for Govt formation, says Kaira

ISLAMABAD (INP): People's Party leader Qamar Zaman Kaira has said that the PPP has delegated mandate to the PML-N for formation of government.

It is to be mentioned here that Kaira has been a member of the six-member committee of the People's Party that had been entrusted for talks with other political parties.

Kaira said that the PPP will not get ministries but field its candidates for the Parliament and the assembly offices.

"We would have also work with the PTI, but the party's founder has closed that door," PPP leader said. "He has said that the PTI will not hold talks with three parties," Kaira said. Kaira stressed that Pakistan required collective decision-making.

He said Maulana Fazlur Rehman's antagonism towards Asif Zardari have no reason.

## Naval Chief oversees conduct of Exercise Seaspark 2024

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf on Thursday visited naval ships at sea, creeks areas on the coastal belt of Sindh and coastal areas of Balochistan to oversee the conduct of Exercise Seaspark 2024 and meet the deployed troops in the exercise. Exercise Seaspark 2024 is a major maritime exercise of Pakistan Navy (PN) which is regularly conducted after every two years on two force concept i.e. Blue Force (own force) and Orange Force (enemy force). The purpose of the exercise is to plan and conduct naval operations as per wartime procedures to check operational readiness,

## KMC Council to meet on Feb 22

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab will chair the general body meeting of the council of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation on February 22, at 2:30 pm in the council hall of the KMC Building.

The agenda of the meeting has the approval of various matters including awarding of Tamgha-e-Karachi with cash reward to those who have extraordinarily served this city, improvement in the services of hospitals of KMC under public-private partnership, renovation of parks and installation of solar systems in the KMC parks.

## Re-polling held in polling station of Ghotki's PS-18: ECP

KARACHI (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has said the polling was held at polling station No.162 of PS-18 Ghotki in a peaceful manner.

In a statement, ECP spokesman rejected the media reports regarding halt in polling process and said that such rumours are baseless.

According to Returning officer of PS-18 polling station was underway peacefully.

He said an aerial firing was noted outside the polling station after which security measures were adopted, the RO said.



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) Convener, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui along with other leaders and party workers addressing a press conference, at Bahadurabad Markaz in Karachi.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Staged show

The country barely survived the trailer; now, it appears, a full five-year show has been penned for PDM 2.0. There is little that can be considered new or improved...

There will be the usual favourites — parties that were first herded into the PTI government, and then into the PDM: MQM, PML-Q and BAP, as well as familiar faces from the IPP.

Their 'backing' will be the glue that holds the rickety government together, with legislation likely to be reduced to an on-demand farce.

It will be grating not only to PTI sympathisers, who voted for change, but also PML-N supporters who had this arrangement as come to pass.

Mr Sharif may have had an idea he was not the 'preferred choice', which could be why he did not campaign as aggressively as he was expected to.

His decision to, instead, give the government to Shehbaz Sharif was a sad reminder of all that he had achieved and was made to lose over his career.

Meanwhile, the PPP has emerged as the most astute of the lot. It is likely to secure several constitutional posts despite refusing to carry the PML-N's baggage.

The other parties will also be accommodated, most likely through various ministries: the PDM's last term, too, had featured an obscenely bloated cabinet.

It will not be easy to tackle economic despair, social fragmentation, deep political polarisation and having to please allies while governing with a dubious mandate.

A lousy election

F.S.Aijazuddin

Pakistan is the only faux-democracy that holds general elections yet learns nothing from each experience.

Many remember the general elections of December 1970 — the first (and some say only) free and fair elections in our history.

At the time, I happened to be in Gambat, in the interior of Sindh, managing our family textile mill.

Both sought to call on me to raise election contributions. My family was divided: the eldest brother followed Pagaro, another Bhutto.

After the results came in, I called on Pir sahib at Pir jo Goth to congratulate him on the victory of his candidate.

Following the 1970 electoral impasse, Dr Henry Kissinger met Gen Yahya Khan on July 8, 1971. He recalled: "Am I a dictator?"

Even before the ballot papers had been distributed, Nawaz Sharif had warned his sponsors that he would not accept the premiership if he was not given a clear majority.

never be the same." Even before the results have been sanctified by the Election Commission...

Even as the political parties jostled for supremacy, the COAS (speaking for the establishment) cautioned them: "Elections are not a zero-sum competition of winning and losing but an exercise to determine the mandate of the people."

Such a belated homily notwithstanding, many Western pundits believe that the election results are an indictment of hybrid democracy.

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House of Lord

Shahzad Sharjeel

It is not for the first time that people are fighting over places of worship; and unfortunately, it appears not to be the last.

The controversy behind it is well-known but worth summarising. Around 1922, Lahore's Hindu community built a temple in the Shah Alam neighbourhood.

The Muslims insisted that a mosque be made on the adjacent plot. The matter was taken to the British court, and legend has it that the Muslims of the area overnight built a mosque to trump any adverse court order.

The current temple was built on an adjacent site by Ahilyabai Holkar, a female Maratha ruler, in 1780.

The question is if it will stop there. So far, as political expediency goes, it has to. The BJP reclaims the three sacred sites of Hinduism it considers usurped, declares a victory, and moves on.

The question is if it will stop there. So far, as political expediency goes, it has to. The BJP reclaims the three sacred sites of Hinduism it considers usurped, declares a victory, and moves on.

Most readers would know that famous Indian author Khushwant Singh wished to be buried in Hadali, a town in Khushab, Pakistan, where he was born in 1915.

The plaque outside his school commemorates its illustrious student who, among his other scholarly achievements, wrote one of the most comprehensive histories of the evolution of Sikhism.

The plaque has Mr Singh's ashes mixed in it. Very few would know that Jaswant Singh, a one-time BJP stalwart, a member of the Lok Sabha, leader of opposition in the Rajya Sabha; a man who held the portfolios for external affairs, defence, and finance through times as tough as the Pokhran nuclear tests, Ka-rrgil, the Kandahar hijacking, the scuttled Agra peace summit, attacks on Kash-mir and the Indian parliament; wished for his ashes to be released into the Hingol river in Balochistan. His wish was fulfilled.

Is it too much to hope the region's people could live in peace and interact as neighbours do, instead of waiting for their mortal remains to be united with the soil their ancestors called home? Variations of the following verse are attributed to Bulleh Shah, the 18th-century Sufi: -- Courtesy Dawn

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Commerce News

President Alvi underscores need to promote creativity

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday underlined the need for nurturing the 'intellect ability' and 'innovative ideas' of the educated youth to achieve the required goals of national progress and prosperity.

Technology (NUTEC) and SPIRES Pakistan.

He said the ideas, shared by the youth in the competition, needed such an environment where these could be transformed into qualitative and competitive products, enabling the country to increase its exports and reduce imports.

President Alvi said he had been proponent of exploring innovative ideas for the last 15 years. He said this was the best forum through which the youth could be engaged to seek innovative ideas.

"This is era of human resource and innovation so the intellectual ability is the most important in this regard," he added.

Sharing success story of the country's data management on scientific lines coupled with ideal civil-military cooperation during COVID-19, he said Pakistan was declared the third best performing country in the world, while its neighbouring countries were far behind in this index.

He said Pakistan had utilised the experience and data collected during countrywide anti-polio drives to properly manage the disease spread. He said the country should have to make similar and effective policies to improve world ranking in other areas as well. He said some 26.2 million children were currently out of school across the country.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo with the winners and organizers of the National Idea Bank Season III, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Pakistan Association of Large Steel Producers (PALSP) and Industrialists of KP led by Senator Noman Wazir call on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

PCJCCI for Pakistan-China cooperation in mulberry seeds

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Moazzam Ghurki said on Thursday that Pakistan is importing silk worth Rs 67 billion and it produces more silk locally, it will provide employment to 600,000 people mostly the rural women.

of the most popular fruits in Pakistan. Mulberry trees, fast-growing and small to medium-sized, are being cultivated in rural areas of Pakistan. Apart from wide presence in Punjab, these can also be found in KPK, Abbottabad, and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Sharing his views in a think-tank session here at PCJCCI Secretariat, he added that Mulberry is one

several times within one year," he said. Ghurki said that it is a fruit tree with no part going waste its leaves can be used as feed for silkworms, which provide silk for the textile sector; its branches are used to make different types of baskets that can be seen in almost every rural house of Pakistan.

Pak IT companies to contribute 3.1b USD

LAHORE (APP): Experts at the Information Technology Career Fair have said that Pakistan's IT companies based on services and products will contribute 3.1 billion dollars in 2024.

Pak-China friendship strengthening with passage of time: SCCI

PESHAWAR (APP): Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Fuad Ishaq said there is no doubt that Pak-China friendship is unmatched which is further strengthening with the passage of time and its example is that events are being held on eve of new Chinese year across the Pakistan.

Steel industry acknowledge PM for assuring support

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of Pakistan Association of Large Steel Producers (PALSP) on Thursday met with caretaker Prime Minister for Anwar ul Haq Kakar and acknowledged the government support for industry.

difficult period for industries amid exorbitant interest rates, sky rocketing cost of inputs especially electricity prices etc. In order to bring the Steel Industry out of the current situation, the PALSP delegation urged the PM that the Govt must take effective measures to facilitate steel sector.

Gold rates up by Rs.300

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.300 and was sold at Rs.211,100 in the local market on Thursday against its sale at Rs.210,800 on last trading day.

PARC to install solar seed potatoes production

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) in collaboration with the Korean Program on International Agriculture (KOPIA) would provide a 100-kilowatt solar system for seed potato production using aeroponics technology to boost virus-free seed production in the country.

## Ombudsman Punjab plays vital role in by providing justice to the people: Baligh

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Ombudsman Punjab, Major (Rtd) Azam Suleman met Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, the Ombudsman Punjab Major (Rtd) Azam Suleman informed the Governor Punjab about various steps taken to provide speedy justice to the petitioners. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the office

of Ombudsman Punjab is an easy and effective means of providing cheap and quick justice to the people. He said that he appreciates the Ombudsman Punjab and his team for the good work. Governor Punjab said that the office of Ombudsman Punjab is playing an important role in the improvement of the system by providing justice to the people. He lauded the Ombudsman Punjab office for redressing the grievance of the complainants in a short period of time. Governor

Punjab further said that initiatives such as digitization of the Ombudsman Punjab office and mobile app for resolving the problems of overseas Pakistanis are commendable. Ombudsman Punjab Major (ret'd) Azam Suleman said that research and development wing has been established in the office of the Ombudsman. He said that the ombudsman Punjab received a record number of 35,139 applications in the last year and all of them were disposed of.



**LAHORE: Ombudsman Punjab, Major (Rtd) Azam Suleman meeting with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.**

## NACTA delegation, DG Info KP discuss media role in peace

**PESHAWAR (APP):** A two-member delegation from National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) on Thursday met with Director General Information and Public Relations here at his office and discussed matters relating to the role of Information Dept in promotion of peace in the province. The role of media, especially the Radio in providing timely and accurate information to the general public was also discussed in detail.

DG Information KP, Muhammad Imran said the media has played a pivotal and responsible role in maintaining lasting peace in the province. To further improve its

capacity and sphere, the Information Dept has established FM radios in the far-flung areas of the newly merged districts from where transmission in local and Pashto languages was continued. He said the role of people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in promoting national harmony and cohesion was of the prime importance adding that the Radio in providing timely and accurate information to the general public was also discussed in detail. He said ten radio stations of the department were proving credible information to the public besides informing them regarding their responsibilities.

## Health Deptt issues working days for MTI hospitals

**PESHAWAR (APP):** The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Health Department issued a declaration of days for working in MTI hospitals on Thursday with the approval of Health Advisor Dr. Riaz Anwar.

The days were approved in light of MTI Policy Board recommendations, according to the official letters. "Working days will be implemented at MTIs Hospitals and its affiliated colleges," according to the notification issued in this connection by the health department KP.

## Fire erupts in residential house in Peshawar

**PESHAWAR (APP):** A fire suddenly broke out in the house of a person, namely Faheem Khan, in Yousafabad Dir Colony here Thursday, said an official of the Rescue 1122. He disclosed that the fire erupted due to a short circuit, and as soon as the information was received, the fire vehicle of Rescue 1122 reached the accident site and started extinguishing the fire; however, no casualties were reported as a result.



**GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan presiding over the meeting of the steering committee on Power department at CM Secretariat.**

## KP govt signs MoU for digital skills training

**Independent Report**  
**PESHAWAR:** A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Higher Education Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Cultural Communication Center on Thursday to increase the skilled workforce in the province. The signing ceremony of the memorandum took place at the Pakhtunkhwa House in Islamabad, says a handout.

In addition to the provincial ministers Dr. Amir Abdullah, Dr. Najibullah, and Dr. Qasim Jan, relevant officials of the provincial government also participated. The Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Justice (Ret'd) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah, participated in the ceremony via video link. According to the memorandum of understanding, two hundred thousand students from the province's public colleges will be trained in various fields of digital skills. Students receiving training in digital skills will

also be provided employment opportunities in domestic and international markets. Syed Arshad Hussain Shah said that the memorandum of understanding between the provincial government and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Cultural Communication Center is a major success for the current provincial government. Chief Minister said that this partnership will prove to be crucial in fulfilling the requirements of digital skills in the province.

## Court dismisses bail petitions of two co-accused in Gujrat development projects case

**LAHORE (INP):** An accountability court on Thursday dismissed bail petitions of two co-accused in a case of alleged corruption in Gujrat's development projects against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf President Chaudhry Parvez Elahi. The court dismissed bail petitions of co-accused, Muhammad Khan Bhatti, former principal secretary to chief minister, and Asif Mehmood. Accountability Court Judge Zubair Shahzad Kiyani

heard bail petitions filed by the accused and announced the verdict on completion of arguments by the defence counsel and prosecution. The National Accountability Bureau had filed a reference against Parvez Elahi and 13 others on the charges of "misusing authority and receiving kickbacks" in Gujrat's development projects. The bureau had accused the former chief minister and others of receiving Rs1.2 billion as kickbacks in 116 development projects. Two minor sisters burn to death as hut catches fire

## Over 10,000 students to get eco-friendly electric bikes in Punjab: Minister

**Independent Report**  
**LAHORE:** Caretaker Provincial Transport Minister Ibrahim Hassan Murad Thursday said that his government has inaugurated a landmark project to distribute over 10,000 electric bikes among students from various educational institutions where such students in Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan, Bahawalpur, and Rawalpindi would be the primary beneficiaries of this initiative.

female students, he said while talking to a Private news channel. He said that these students must have a driving license while such an eco-friendly initiative will reduce environmental pollution, adding, that electric two-wheelers will offer long-term financial advantages to these students and would overcome their financial expenditures. The launch of electric bikes can overcome the problems of exertion and would not take much time to reach their destinations, he added.



**LAHORE: The pilgrims of Hajj are being guided with all possible efforts by the Ministry of Religious Affairs on the styles of medical camp and training camp in Haji Camp.**

## ATC orders to seize property of PTI leaders declared POs

**LAHORE (Online):** Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore has ordered to seize the property of PTI leaders who have been declared proclaimed offenders. Court has ordered to seize their moveable and immoveable properties. Under this order 2 residential plots and one bank account of former provincial minister Mian Aslam Iqbal, 5 agriculture lands in Swati Enterprises and properties in US and Dubai of former federal minister Azam Swati Decision has been taken to arrest 9 newly elected members of assembly including Ali Amin Gandapur involved.

and 3 agriculture land, one residential property, 2 vehicles and 35 horses of Ali Amin Gandapur 2 residential properties, 3 bank accounts and 2 vehicles of Andeb Abbas will be seized. Order has been issued to seize 2 agriculture lands, 2 residential properties, 5 bank accounts, one vehicle 3 plots flats, 51 percent shares in Swati Enterprises and properties in US and Dubai of former federal minister Azam Swati Decision has been taken to arrest 9 newly elected members of assembly including Ali Amin Gandapur involved.

# International News

## At least 11 civilians, including children, killed in Israeli strikes on Lebanon

**BEIRUT (Online):** At least 11 people, including children, have been killed in Israeli strikes on villages in southern Lebanon, according to a report. A hospital director and three Lebanese security sources told Reuters that 11 people, including six children, were killed during strikes the Israeli military carried out against villages across southern Lebanon on Wednesday.

The Tel Aviv regime said in a statement that it had responded to an earlier rocket attack conducted by the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement that killed an Israeli trooper. The resistance group, however, did not announce any operations on Wednesday. Initial reports had said four civilians were killed in

the strikes. Hezbollah and Israel have been trading near daily cross-border fire since the occupying regime waged a deadly war on Gaza on October 7.

Hezbollah, whose constant rocket fire has prompted tens of thousands of Israeli settlers to flee from the northern areas of the occupied territories, says its operations are meant to support Gaza's resistance. Two security sources said that a woman and her two children had been killed in an Israeli strike on the village of al-Sawana on Wednesday.

Another strike on a building in Nabatieh claimed the lives of four more children, three women and a man, according to the

director of the town's hospital, Hassan Wazni, and three other security sources. Wazni further said that seven people were also wounded in the strikes. Sources also said that four Hezbollah fighters were also killed in separate strikes.

Hezbollah has warned it would expand the anti-Israel front in the south if the occupying regime escalated its acts of aggression against the Lebanese territory and the Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip. The resistance group has vowed to keep up its retaliatory operations as long as the usurping entity continues its aggression against Gaza, which has so far killed more than 28,500 Palestinians, mostly women and children.

## Thailand warns of high pollution in capital, officials to work from home

**BANGKOK (Internews):** Thai authorities warned that pollution levels in Bangkok and surrounding provinces had hit unhealthy levels on Thursday, ordering government employees in the capital to work from home for the next two days and urging others to do the same. Air pollution is caused by a combination of crop-related burning, industrial pollution and heavy traffic, and a smoky haze covered the Bangkok's skyline. Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin told reporters that crop burning was the main culprit behind the spike, but added that around quarter of the pollution was from vehicles, a factor "we can control". Swiss air quality tracking website IQAir said the level of fine inhalable particles in the city was 15 times higher than the recommended level by the World Health Organization, making it the world's 8th most polluted city on Thursday.



**PARIS: Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy arrives for the verdict on his appeal in the so-called 'Bygmalion' case over illegal campaign financing.**

## Netherlands joins coalition to supply Ukraine with advanced drones

**Monitoring Desk**  
**THE HAGUE:** The Netherlands is joining a military coalition with allies including Britain that will supply Ukraine with advanced drone technology and bolster its offensive capabilities in the war against Russia, the Dutch defence minister said. The pledge from the Netherlands comes in addition to F-16 fighter jets, artillery, ammunition and air defence systems provided by the Dutch to Kyiv. For the Netherlands,

there may be additional costs on top of 2 billion euros earmarked already for 2024. Dutch Defence Minister Kasja Ollongren told Reuters in an interview ahead of two days of NATO defence minister meetings in Brussels starting on Wednesday. "We know of course that drones are very important in this war," Ollongren said. "That's why we are joining the drone coalition that Ukraine has started together with Latvia.



**Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi meets with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva to discuss the latest developments in the Gaza Strip amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, at the Itihadiya presidential palace in Cairo, Egypt.**

## Hezbollah says Israel will 'pay price' after deadly day

**BEIRUT (Internews):** Hezbollah said on Thursday Israel would pay "the price" for killing 10 people including five children in southern Lebanon, the deadliest day for Lebanese civilians in four months of hostilities across the Lebanese-Israeli border. An Israeli strike killed seven people in the city of Nabatieh late on Wednesday, including three children, sources in Lebanon said. It followed an earlier attack that killed a woman and her two children in the village of al-Sawana at the border. "The enemy will pay the price for these crimes," Hezbollah politician Hassan Fadlallah told media. "The resistance will continue to practice its legitimate right to defend its people." Several of the armed Lebanese group's fighters were also killed in separate strikes on Wednesday, including on Nabatieh, according to the group and security sources. Asked about the Nabatieh strike, a spokesperson for the Israeli army

## Putin says Europe greens capitalising on climate fears

**MOSCOW (Internews):** Russian President Vladimir Putin criticised the green movement in Europe for capitalising on peoples' fears about climate change, while questioning Germany's commitment to phasing out coal. Long demonized by Germany's Green party, which leads some of the government's top ministries, coal was due to be phased out by 2030, but Russia's conflict with Ukraine and gas export curbs brought coal back into favour. Democratic former congressman Tom Suozzi won a special U.S. House of Representatives election in New York on Tuesday, narrowing an already razor-thin Republican majority that has struggled to pass legislation. The seat became available after the House took the extraordinary step of expelling Republican George Santos, whose dizzying array of lies about his biography led to his indictment on fraud charges.

## UNRWA funding freezes risk 'aiding' deaths in Gaza: Saudi official

**Monitoring Desk**  
**RIYADH:** Freezing funds to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees risks "aiding" the deaths of civilians in Gaza, the head of Saudi Arabia's humanitarian agency told AFP on Tuesday. Several countries—including the United States, Britain, Germany and Japan—have suspended funding to the UNRWA agency in response to Israeli allegations that some of its staff members participated in the

October 7 attack by Hamas militants. Last week, as its war against Hamas entered a fifth month, Israel's military also said troops had uncovered a Hamas tunnel under UNRWA's evacuated Gaza City headquarters. The UN has sacked the 12 UNRWA staff members accused by Israel of involvement in the October 7 attack and said the tunnel claim should be investigated once the conflict is over.

## 1 dead, children among 21 injured in Super Bowl parade shooting in US

**Monitoring Desk**  
**WASHINGTON:** One person was killed and children were among the 21 injured after a mass shooting at the Kansas City Chiefs' Super Bowl victory rally on Wednesday triggered panic among huge crowds of fans. Shots rang out moments after jubilant Chiefs players addressed a vast, cheering crowd, sending shocked fans and VIPs fleeing in a tragic end to what had been a joyous morning of celebrating the NFL champions. Police said three people had been taken into custody after the attack near Kansas City's Union Station, but the motive behind the shooting was still under investigation. Fire department chief Ross Grundyson told a press conference that many

of the victims had sustained "life-threatening injuries." A local DJ, Lisa Lopez, was killed in the assault, her radio station said. "This senseless act from her family and this KC Community," KKKFI posted on its Facebook page, referring to Kansas City. Children's Mercy Hospital said it was treating 12 people—11 of them children, nine for gunshot wounds—after the shooting. A hospital spokesman said all were expected to recover. Paul Contreras, who was at the rally with his three daughters, said he tackled and disarmed one of the suspected shooters before the police arrived. "I got the right angle on him and I hit him from behind."

## Special counsel urges US Supreme Court to rebuff Trump in immunity fight

**WASHINGTON (Internews):** The special counsel prosecuting Donald Trump on federal charges involving the former president's efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss urged the U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday to reject Trump's bid to further delay trial proceedings as he presses his claim of immunity. "The nation has a compelling interest in seeing the charges brought to trial," Special Counsel Jack Smith said in his filing to the justices, adding that "the public interest in a prompt trial is at its zenith where, as here, a former president is charged with conspiring to subvert the electoral process so that he could remain in office." Smith's filing responded to a request by Trump's lawyers on Monday to put on hold a decision by a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit rejecting the claim of presidential

immunity from prosecution. If the justices do not immediately reject Trump's request, Smith asked that they take up the case and hear it on a fast-track basis. Smith said Trump's criminal charges reflect an alleged effort to "perpetuate himself in power and prevent the lawful winner of the 2020 presidential election from taking office." The charged crimes strike at the heart of our democracy. "A president's alleged criminal scheme to overturn an election and thwart the peaceful transfer of power to his successor should be the last place to recognize a novel form of absolute immunity from federal criminal law," Smith added. Trump's lawyers asked the justices to halt the trial proceedings pending their bid for the full slate of judges on the D.C. Circuit to reconsider the case, and, if necessary, an appeal to the Supreme Court.

# Pakistan calls for UNSC's urgent intervention to impose ceasefire in Gaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Thursday called upon the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to fulfill its responsibility mandated under the UN Charter and to urgently intervene to impose a ceasefire and bring an end to the massacre of the Palestinian people.

"The siege of Gaza must be lifted to prevent further deaths and suffering from famine and non-availability of decent medical care. Pakistan stands resolute in its unwavering diplomatic, moral, political, and humanitarian support to the besieged people of Gaza," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in her weekly press briefing.

Calling for an immediate reversal of the decision by some countries to sus-

pend UNRWA's funding, she reiterated Pakistan's endorsement of the OIC's condemnation of ongoing Israeli military aggression against Gaza and the expansion of indiscriminate attacks on the Rafah city.

She said that the OIC had raised alarm on expansion and escalation of the pace of the Israeli aggression and warned against an unacceptable attempt to forcibly displace the Palestinian people from their land.

"Israel's merciless onslaught against the 1.4 million displaced people in Rafah is a blatant defiance of the provisional measures outlined by the International Court of Justice in its interim order," she remarked.

Highlighting the Kashmir issue, the spokesperson



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of READ Foundation call on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

# President for enhancing public-private partnership to educate out-of-school children

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday said that the co-operation between public and private sectors was inevitable to educate around 26 million out-of-school children in the country.

The president, in the meeting with a delegation of Read Foundation - a non-profit organization - led by Muhammad Shafiq Khan, said that the education and self-dependence of the orphan children were essential for an inclusive society.

Similarly, he also called for a special focus on girls' education to make the country achieve progress.

The president lauded the services of the Read

# Private Hajj bookings set to commence today: Ashrafi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Special Representative for Religious Affairs and Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Islamic Countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Thursday announced that the private Hajj organizers would start booking for the Hajj 2024 from Friday, February 16, nationwide.

Addressing a press conference along with Hajj Organizers Association of Pakistan (HOAP) Chairman Jamal Khan Tarakai, Vice Chairman Haji Sanaullah and other representative, said the intending pilgrims within the country and abroad could grab this sacred opportunity till February 25.

Ashrafi who is also the chairman of Pakistan

# AJK ECP issues arrest warrants of Ali Amin

MUZAFFARABAD (Online): Azad Kashmir Election Commission has issued arrest warrants of former minister for Kashmir affairs and nominated Chief Minister KP Ali Amin Gandapur.

Petition on violation of election code in AJK general election 2021 by Ali Amin Gandapur was filed against him.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) D.I Khan has been ordered to present Ali Amin Gandapur in Azad Kashmir as he has not appeared despite being summoned by election commission repeatedly.

Ali Amin Gandapur was arrested and presented on February 28.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori offering Dua after inaugurating road from Boat Basin to DII Installation Area

# Caretaker Federal Interior Minister visits FIA headquarters

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Interior Minister Dr. Gohar Ijaz along with Interior Secretary Aftab Akbar Durrani on Thursday visited Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) headquarters. On arrival at the headquarters, Director General FIA Ahmad Ishaq Jahangir along with senior officials of the Agency welcomed the Minister.

The Minister presided over a high-level meeting of FIA officials where he was briefed on institutional issues. All Additional Directors General, Directors and other senior officers of FIA attended the meeting.

In the briefing, the report on the annual performance of all the wings was presented to the Federal Minister. The minister ap-



ISLAMABAD: Special Representative to the Prime Minister for Religious Harmony and Islamic Countries and Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi along with the representatives of Private Hajj Tour Operators addressing a press conference, in Islamabad.

# Ji announces to issue white paper on rigging in election

LAHORE (Online): Ji while announcing to issue white paper on the result of general election has said we will go to Election Commission (EC) and court against election rigging.

"The seats won by Ji in election were snatched from it through worst rigging. We demand of chief election commissioner to resign, this was said by Naib Amir JI Liaqat Baloch while addressing a press conference here in Mansooro Thursday.

He said election 2024 also remained controversial. The entire nation rejects the result of the election.

# PTI leader Haleem Adil Sheikh released from jail

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Sindh President Haleem Adil Sheikh has been released from Central Jail Karachi after spending over five months behind bars in cases pertaining to May 9 riots and land grabbing.

According to details, the PTI Sindh chief's release order was issued after he obtained bail in dozens of cases from different courts. Haleem Adil Sheikh was arrested on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023 from outside the Sindh High Court (SHC) after he arrived at the court, seeking bail to prevent the arrest aftermath of the 9<sup>th</sup> May riots.

On the occasion of his release, PTI workers were also present outside the Central Jail Karachi.

PTI Sindh Spokesman said that Haleem Adil Sheikh has obtained bail in all 40 cases registered in different police stations on charges of land grabbing and the May 9 riots.

Haleem Adil Sheikh also contested the elections from NA-238 from behind bars and finished as runner-up with 36875 votes. The seat was won by Muttaahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan's Sadiq Ifkhar with 54884 votes.

# Election process in Pakistan is its internal matter: FO

ISLAMABAD (Online): Foreign Office (FO) has said election process in Pakistan is its internal matter.

"We have welcomed foreign observers and Common Wealth observers. We discharge our constitutional obligations forcefully. Political leaders are being targeted in Occupied Kashmir. Pakistan wants Kashmir issue is resolved as per aspirations of people of Kashmir in accordance with UN resolutions, this was said by Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch here in weekly press briefing Thursday.

She mentioned that Pakistan welcomed foreign observers, including a group from the Commonwealth, demonstrating the country's commitment to transparency in the electoral process.

She said Pakistan takes its constitutional obligations seriously. It is the right of Pakistanis to enjoy freedoms and democracy. She said any step that Pakistan takes in this regard is in conformity with its own constitutional obligations and not influenced by external advice.

# Shujaat, Elahi discuss politics, family matters in Adiala Jail meeting

RAWALPINDI (INP): Chaudhry Wajahat, Chaudhry Salik, Muntaha Ashraf also present in meeting.

In a significant development, senior Pakistan Muslim League-Q (PML-Q) leaders held a meeting with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Chaudhry Parvez Elahi at Adiala Jail.

The meeting, which lasted for nearly three hours, delved into various aspects of the country's political landscape and family matters.

Among those present at the meeting were prominent figures from the

Chaudhry family, including Chaudhry Shujaat, Chaudhry Wajahat, Chaudhry Salik, and Muntaha Ashraf. Discussions centered around the overall political situation in the country and pertinent family issues.

Notably, PTI President Elahi and Chaudhry Shujaat engaged in a private meeting that lasted for two hours and 40 minutes. The meeting took place in the conference room of Adiala Jail, where the leaders exchanged views on a range of topics, including the health and facilities provided to Elahi.



KARACHI: Supporters of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam protest against alleged vote-rigging in some constituencies in the parliamentary elections, outside of the Pakistan Election Commission office, in provincial capital.

# Ahmad Jawad appointed convener of FPCCI agri committee

KARACHI (APP): President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Atif Ikram Sheikh has appointed Chaudhry Ahmad Jawad as Convener of the FPCCI Central Standing Committee on Agriculture for the year 2024-25.

The appointment of Ahmad Jawad was made in view of his vast experience in the field and he will succeed Chaudhry Muhammad Zaka Ashraf in the slot, a notification in this regard issued on Thursday.

The FPCCI president hoped that under the leadership of Ahmad Jawad, prompt recommendations will help FPCCI to address agriculture sector problems before the government.

Ahmad Jawad said to feed the ever-growing population, Pakistan needs around five percent consistent annual growth in the agriculture sector and the FPCCI hopes the incoming government will address agriculture issues in the federal budget. He said that to meet challenge of achieving national food security and economic prosperity, a two-prong approach is required, i.e. vertical growth by increasing per acre yield of crops and horizontal growth by bringing more area under cultivation through corporate farming.

He noted that Pakistan has the potential to bring around 22 million acres under cultivation by combining both vertical and horizontal approaches.

He said that currently country's per acre yield was far less than the global average due to limited access of farmers to modern machinery and digital support services as Artificial Intelligence (AI) can revolutionize and revitalize the local agriculture sector, especially horticulture.

# FIA arrests accused involved in illegal currency exchange

KARACHI (APP): The Corporate Crime Circle of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in Karachi has intensified its efforts to combat illegal currency exchange and hawala/hundi operations.

According to the spokesman on Thursday, in a recent crackdown, an individual named Saeed Ahmed Sheikh was apprehended from the Jodia Bazar area.

Sheikh stands accused of engaging in unauthorized currency exchange activities, including hawala/hundi transactions and foreign currency exchange without proper licensing.

During the operation, FIA officials seized a significant amount of currency, totalling millions of rupees, from Sheikh's possession. Additionally, records pertaining to telegraphic transfers were confiscated as evidence. Despite the recovery of 2.9 million rupees, Sheikh failed to provide.

# CAA announces transfers and postings of officers

KARACHI (INP): Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) announced transfers and postings of various officers and officials on Thursday.

Mohsin Ghori was transferred and appointed as the Deputy Airport Manager of Peshawar Airport. Sajjad Haider was made Airport Manager Gilgit-Baltistan. Ayaz Afridi appointed as Manager Airstide Islamabad Airport, Muhammad Arshad as Deputy Director Airport Services Quetta Airport.

Ghazala Siddiqui was transferred from CAA headquarters to Karachi Airport. Uzma Parveen was appointed as Deputy Director Airport Services CAA Headquarters Karachi. After the approval of Director General Civil Aviation Authority, human resource department issued the notification of transfers and postings.

# Steps being taken for financial stability of KDA: DG KDA

KARACHI (APP): All possible measures are being taken to bring Karachi Development Authority (KDA), on the track of economic stability on a permanent basis.

These views were expressed by Director General KDA Naveed Anwar while reviewing the renovation and ongoing development works of Civic Center Building.

On this occasion, DG KDA Naveed Anwar issued orders to Chief Engineer Tariq Rafi to repair the sewage system, lights, and washrooms in the building, construct the footpath around the building and ensure completion of these works within one month.

The Chief Engineer KDA said that one Assistant Executive Engineer and two Sub Engineers have been posted on every three floors while Executive Engineer Building and Executive Engineer Mechanical Civil are responsible cleaning and maintenance, who will submit progress report of maintenance and ongoing development works on daily basis.

The DG KDA issued orders to install signboards on the ground floor and gate numbers and logos at the entrances and exits of Civic Center Building.



HYDERABAD: Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) Leader, Safdar Abbasi along with others leaders addresses to media persons during press conference, at Hyderabad press club.

# Rs600m tax evaders escape Gulberg police custody; case registered

KARACHI (INP): Two prisoners jailed for evading taxes worth Rs600 million have managed to escape from police custody, raising serious concerns about the competence of law enforcement agencies, particularly the Gulberg Police.

The fugitives were apprehended by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) in Karachi before being handed over to the Gulberg Police for further investigation.

The escape of the accused has highlighted glaring lapses in the handling of high-profile cases by the Gulberg Police, prompting widespread criticism and demands for accountability. The suspects were facing charges related to tax evasion amounting to a staggering Rs600 million, underscoring the significance of their apprehension and subsequent legal proceedings.

Following their escape, a case was registered against police Muharrar Bilal and the two absconders. In response to the escape, authorities have initiated swift action, with a special team of police officers dispatched to Karachi in pursuit of the fugitives. The location of the escaped individuals is believed to be in Karachi, as per the police, intensifying efforts to track them down and ensure their apprehension.

The incident has not only exposed the incompetence of the Gulberg Police but has also reignited concerns about the prevalence of tax evasion and the need for stringent enforcement measures to combat financial crimes.



KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Hafiz Naem-ur-Rehman addresses to media persons during press conference, at Idara-e-Noor-ul-Haq in Karachi.

# Court bars repatriation of Afghan's transgenders

PESHAWAR (INP): The Peshawar High Court on Thursday issued a temporary order barring the repatriation of 16 Afghan transgender women and directed authorities to stop harassing registered Afghan transgender migrants residing in Pakistan.

The order came in response to a writ petition filed by the transgender women against their potential deportation under a government decision to repatriate all Afghan nationals. Their lawyer argued that their lives would be in danger if they were sent back to Afghanistan, where persecution of transgender individuals is widespread.

Justice Shakeel Ahmed and Justice Waqar Ahmed heard the petition, acknowledging the precarious situation of Afghan transgenders in their home country. However, the court also clarified that foreign nationals do not have the same rights as Pakistani citizens and can only stay if they have valid visas.

Despite this, the judges noted that even registered Afghan refugees with valid documentation, including Proof of Registration (POR) cards, were being harassed by authorities. They deemed such actions unacceptable and damaging to Pakistan's international reputation.

# Edhi ambulance driver injured in Karachi firing incident

KARACHI (INP): A driver of Edhi Foundation sustained injuries in a firing incident at the ambulance of the welfare organization in Al-Asif Square.

The firing incident took place around 4am wherein two unknown accused on a motorcycle wanted to stop the ambulance.

The Edhi Foundation claims that the driver was fired upon for not stopping. Police said investigations are underway.

# SSP Sukkur held Open Court

SUKKUR (APP): SSP Sukkur, Zubair Nazeer Shaikh held an open court at his office here on Thursday listened to public grievances and ordered early resolution of these problems.

He said that the basic purpose of these open courts was to provide speedy justice and early resolution of public grievances at their doorsteps.

Provision of justice was the topmost priority of police department and no negligence would be tolerated in this regard, he added.

A large number of people from different walks of life including police officers were present in the open court.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Baldia Colony are holding protest demonstration against killing of Zeeshan Jatoi and demanding justice for him, at Hyderabad press club.