

# Independent

dailyindish@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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Shahbaz Sharif gets briefing on recent rains, relief operation from NDMA:

## Rain affectees would not be left alone in time of distress, asserts PM

**PM directs concerned authorities to present comprehensive plan for relief & rehabilitation of rain affected people in province; vows to work with Government of Balochistan together; announces to pay Rs. 2 million each to heirs of those died in rain-related mishaps; Rs. 7,50,000 & Rs. 350,000 to be paid to those whose houses collapsed damaged & partially**

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has categorically stated that those affected due to the recent devastating rains in Gwadar or other parts of the province would not be left alone in the time of distress at all.

He vowed to work for relief and rehabilitation of the affected people together with the Balochistan government, and the process would remain continued until each and every affected person is fully rehabilitated.

The Premier was speaking after distribution of cheques among the rain affected people and briefing conducted for him about damages caused due to rains in Gwadar, on Tuesday.

Shahbaz Sharif reached Gwadar along

with Chairman NDMA, Lt. General Inam Haider Malik and other high ups from Islamabad to personally review the situation after rains and ongoing relief activities in Gwadar.

Also present on the occasion were the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, Members of National Assembly, Attaullah Tarar, Jam Kamal Khan and Malik Shah Gorgaj, provincial President of PML-N, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, Member Provincial Assembly, Maulana Hidayatur Rehman besides other concerned high ups.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister directed the concerned authorities to present comprehensive plan for



relief and rehabilitation of the rain affected people.

He also directed to present report of detailed review of the damages caused to private property and rehabilitation of the affected communication infrastructure.

In addition to this, the Prime Minister directed to prepare system to determine well before the natural calamities through modern technology and satellite.

He stressed that no stone should be left

turned in providing relief to the affected people. Speaking on occasion of distribution of cheques among the rain affected people of Gwadar, the Prime Minister announced to pay compensation amount of Rs. 2 million to all those died in the rain-related mishaps. Simi-

larly, Rs. 750,000 and Rs. 350,000 would be paid respectively to the affectees whose houses were collapsed completely and partially, he announced further.

Shahbaz Sharif announced that all the payments would be ensured within span of four days. He highly appreciated the role and services rendered by Pak Army, Navy, Coast Guards, NDMA, PDMA and local administration for provision of timely relief to the affected people in Gwadar.

He asked the Chief Minister to officially encourage and commend the services of all those who served the cause of humanity.

It may be mentioned here that it was the first visit of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif to anywhere after assuming his office.

### PM visits Gwadar; reviews post-rain situation; relief

#### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif visited the rain-hit district of Gwadar on Tuesday. He reached the port city by a special airplane. He was accompanied by the Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Lt. General Inam Haider Malik, leader of PML-N and Member National Assembly, Atta Tarar, Sardar Yaqoob Khan Nasar, besides other high ups.

Upon his arrival at Gwadar airport, the Prime Minister was welcomed by the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, provincial President of PML-N, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, Member National Assembly, Malik Shah Gorgaj, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan besides other high ups.

Soon after his arrival, he got the briefing from concerned authorities about the post-budget situation besides relief and rehabilitation activities continued in Gwadar. He also visited different affected areas and met the affected people there. Moreover, he distributed relief cheques among the affected people.



GWADAR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif being briefed regarding the damages caused by the recent torrential rains and the relief and rescue operations carried out by the local authorities

## Wholehearted cooperation assured by federal Government too: Compensation of losses caused due to rains to be done, assures CM Balochistan

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that compensation of the losses caused due to the heavy rains in Gwadar would be made. He said that the federal government has also assured wholehearted cooperation in process of rehabilitation.

He said that the step would remain continued

till rehabilitation of the routine life. The Chief Minister was speaking on occasion of the briefing during visit to Gwadar along with the Prime Minister, Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and later speaking to the rain affected people on Tuesday.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that the affected people of Gwadar are focus of our attention.

He thanked the Prime Minister for visiting Gwadar and expressing solidarity with the affected people.

He believed that the federal and provincial governments would complete the process of rehabilitation of rain affected people in shortest possible time.

He said that the recent torrential rains caused devastations at large scale.



GWADAR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif interacting with people in Gwadar.

## COAS presides over 263rd Corps Commanders' Conference

## Army top brass dismayed at unsubstantiated allegations of interference in electoral process

Says allegations aimed at creating political instability; Forum expresses satisfaction over the smooth democratic transition of power in the Centre and Provinces; Reiterates to continue providing full support to govt.

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Corps Commanders' Conference on Tuesday urged the proud nation to remain positive and united, and wholeheartedly participate in the progress and development of Pakistan.

The forum noted with concern the organised misinformation and fake news being spread by certain nefarious elements to sow despondency and divisions within the society.

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir presided over the 263rd Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) at the General Headquarters (GHQ) an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The forum paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of Shuhada (martyrs), including officers and men of the armed forces, law enforcement agencies

and the citizens who have laid their lives for ensuring peace and stability in the country.

The conference resolved that terrorists, their facilitators and abettors, working on behalf of hostile forces to destabilise Pakistan, would be dealt with full might of the state.

The COAS directed commanders to continue consolidating the gains of efforts against terrorism

and militancy.

The forum expressed concerns over continued repression of Kashmiris in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir and condemned the unabated human rights violations by India. It reaffirmed that Pakistan would continue to support the Kashmiris politically, diplomatically and morally at all levels.

The forum also expressed complete solidarity

with the people of Palestine and condemned serious human rights violations and war crimes being perpetrated in Gaza.

The COAS said, "The Palestinian people have unequivocal diplomatic, moral and political support of the Pakistani nation and we will continue to support the principled stance of our brethren for enduring resolution of the Palestinian issue."

## PPP delegation assures PM of cooperation for economic stability

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of Pakistan Peoples Party led by former President Asif Ali Zardari and party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif wherein they assured the government of the party's support for the country's economic stability.

In the meeting held on Monday night, the delegation, also comprising Chief Minister of Sindh Murad Ali Shah, congratulated Shehbaz Sharif on assuming the office of the prime minister and expressed good wishes for him.

Asif Ali Zardari assured the prime minister that the PPP would stand alongside

the government to achieve the economic stability, progress and prosperity of the country.

Prime Minister Shehbaz thanked Allah Almighty as well as the people of Pakistan for giving him another opportunity to serve Pakistan.

He also expressed gratitude to the coalition partners in the parliament for reposing trust in him, reiterating his resolve to work tirelessly for the country's progress and prosperity.

Senator Ishaq Dar, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar and former Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi also attended the meeting.

## Modi, Putin, Amir Qatar greet Shehbaz on assuming office of PM

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has congratulated Shehbaz Sharif on swearing in as the Prime Minister of Pakistan. He extended his felicitations to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on his X timeline.

President of Russia Vladimir Putin on Tuesday congratulated Shehbaz Sharif on his election as the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

The Russian president highlighted the friendly nature of Russia-Pakistan relations and wished Shehbaz Sharif every success in his important capacity as head of government, the Embassy of Russia in Islamabad said on its X timeline.

The Amir, who sent a cable of congratulations to the prime minister, wished him success and for further development and growth of bilateral relations, according to the state-run Qatar news Agency.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), presided over the 263rd Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) held at GHQ

### CM pays second official visit to rain-hit Gwadar

#### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti paid second visit to Gwadar city on Tuesday during one week and after assuming his office. The Member National Assembly, Malik Shah Gorgaj, provincial President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail and Member Provincial Assembly, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani were also accompanied by the Chief Minister.

He was welcomed by the Member Provincial Assembly from Gwadar, Maulana Hidayatur Rehman, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Commissioner Makran Division, Saeed Ahmed Umrani, Deputy Commissioner Gwadar, Major (Retd) Aurangzaib Badini and Director General PDMA, Jahanzaib Khan.

## US expresses willingness to work with new Pak govt.

Terms Maryam's election as first woman CM Punjab a 'milestone'

WASHINGTON (INP): The United States of America (USA) on Tuesday expressed willingness to collaborate with Pakistan's new Government.

In a recent press briefing, United States Department of State Spokesperson Matthew Miller conveyed the US's readiness to engage with Pakistan's new government.

Matthew Miller highlighted the US's willingness to work closely with the newly formed Pakistani government, emphasizing the importance of advancing mutual interests through collaboration with Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif.

The spokesperson further said that appointment of Maryam Nawaz Sharif as the Chief Minister of Punjab represents a significant development in Pakistani politics. The US looks forward to the full inclusion of women in political life and views it as a positive step for Pakistan's democratic progress.

## Shutter down strike observed on call of PkMAP

Independent Report

QUETTA: The shutter down strike was observed against alleged raid at residence of Chairman Pashtoonkhw Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), Mehmood Khan Achakzai, in different parts of the metropolis on Tuesday. As a result of shutter down, the shops and business concerns remained closed in main city and various other areas of the metropolis.



GWADAR: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a meeting to review situation arises after recent rains and rehabilitation activities

## Facebook, Instagram, Messenger down as Meta faces worldwide outage

### Monitoring Desk

QUETTA: Social media sites Facebook, Instagram and Messenger reportedly went down as parent company Meta faced a worldwide outage on Tuesday.

Real-time internet and social media outage and monitoring service, Downtdetector.pk, reported the Meta-owned social sites' outage across the globe around 8:16pm.

Users on Instagram were unable to view the content on the picture-sharing platform as the message "Something went wrong" appeared every time they tried to access the site.

Meanwhile, login sessions on Facebook and Messenger expired as the users found themselves logged out of the apps.

They were "unable to log in" again as a pop-up saying "an unexpected error occurred" appeared while trying to access Facebook.

As per Downtdetector, as many as 353,256 Facebook inaccessibility reports were received by 8:20pm.

Meanwhile, cybersecurity and internet governance monitor, NetBlocks also confirmed social media suspension.

"Meta platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Messenger and Threads are currently experiencing outages related to login sessions in multiple countries; incident not related to country-level internet disruptions or filtering," NetBlocks wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

## BNP to support Achakzai in Presidential elections

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The senior Vice President of Balochistan National Party (BNP), Sajid Tareen Advocate has stated that BNP has decided to support the Chairman Pashtoonkhw Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) Mehmood Khan Achakzai in the upcoming presidential election. Sajid Tareen was addressing a hurriedly called press conference here at the Quetta press club on Tuesday. He also strongly condemned the raid at residence of the Chairman PkMAP.

He criticized the alleged rigging in the recent general elections and charged that the provincial assembly was purchased by making bid on February 8.



ISLAMABAD: Former President Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Reserved seats**

The ECP's decision to deny the Sunni Ittehad Council — the new home of PTI-affiliated lawmakers who won the Feb 8 polls as independent candidates — a share of the special seats reserved for women and minorities has come as a disappointment to those who believed in the fairness of the electoral process.

Even though the much-delayed ECP decision, the latest in a series of moves ostensibly aimed at keeping the PTI out of elections and parliament, was not unexpected, many had hoped that the spirit of democracy would prevail over the technicalities cited by the ECP to justify its action.

According to the ECP, the SIC could not stake a claim to a share in the reserved seats "due to having non-curable legal defects and violation of a mandatory provision of submission of party list for reserved seats which is the requirement of law". It defended its decision by pointing out that the SIC had not contested the elections for any seat in the national or provincial assemblies.

That is not all. The ECP generated more debate by allocating what many see as the SIC's share of reserved seats to other political parties. By saying that "the seats in the National Assembly shall not remain vacant", it has indirectly accepted the argument that the Lower House as well as three provincial assemblies, barring Balochistan, were incomplete when they elected the Speaker, deputy Speaker, the prime minister and the chief ministers.

According to media reports, the SIC's combined loss amounts to 77 seats in the national and provincial assemblies.

The ECP might have its own logic but its order does ignore past precedent. For instance, the Balochistan Awami Party, which did not contest the first post-merger polls in former Fata, was allowed a reserved women's seat after independents joined the party. Meanwhile, a 2018 Lahore High Court judgement held that a political party's share of reserved seats was non-transferable. The ruling had come after a Returning Officer did not accept PTI nominees for reserved seats due to a slight delay in the submission of names.

In short, the ECP has exacerbated the crisis it triggered when it denied the PTI its election symbol, again on technical grounds — a decision controversially upheld by the apex court. Like the party symbol issue, the legality of the latest ECP determination will also be decided by the superior judiciary.

Unless addressed, such debatable actions will continue to impede the growth of democracy in the country. Today, these decisions are affecting the PTI, tomorrow other parties, which, for the moment, can enjoy their share of reserved seats and see their numerical strength enhanced in the assemblies, might find themselves at the receiving end when they fall out with the powers that be.

**Common ground**

Arooj Waheed Dar

In the run-up to the Feb 8 polls, extensive promises were made to the public by political parties in their election manifestos and speeches. However, post-election, many individuals seem to be suffering from selective amnesia, with some backtracking from their strong stance against other parties, and others conveniently forgetting their resentment against the establishment.

Amid this air of forgetfulness, it is crucial to remind political representatives of the promises they made in their poll campaigns. Holding parties accountable for their performance is crucial to steer Pakistan towards stability and progress, and to ensure that the trust of the people is upheld, democratic principles respected, and the nation's long-term interests safeguarded.

Given our economic and social challenges, collective commitment from all political stakeholders is urgently required for transformative reforms. Since the new government is a minority dispensation, there is a real opportunity for parties to jointly develop a charter of economy, comprising at the minimum what the PML-N and PPP individually promised in their manifestos.

A comparison of their election manifestos reveals significant areas of common ground, providing a foundation for further discussion between the two parties as well as others representing political rivals. For instance, both indicate the need to create better employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, introducing a labour policy to protect the rights of informal workers, and to promote decent work. Both also

mention enhancing the focus on the IT, tourism, and smart agriculture sectors. To manage the current account deficit, their aim is to boost exports, curtail imports, and lower tariffs on raw material imports, thereby fostering growth in the manufacturing sector.

In terms of infrastructure development, the parties recognise the need for investment in transportation, with particular focus on rural development, to address regional inequalities. They understand the need to leverage CPEC's full potential for regional development. Energy sector reforms have also been promised, aimed at enhancing efficiency, promoting conservation, and increasing reliance on alternative and renewable sources of energy.

To address fiscal challenges and ensure sustainable domestic resource mobilisation, they have promised the implementation of SOE and tax reforms. Civil service reforms that emphasise meritocracy, accountability, and capacity development have also been outlined. Most importantly, both the PPP and PML-N have stressed the need to fully devolve powers to the provincial and local levels, thereby empowering local governments.

Moreover, both have pledged to provide universal healthcare and education, and to enhance the social security net through the expansion of the BISP and Ehsaas programmes. They have highlighted the need for inclusivity by promoting equal rights for marginalised segments, in particular women. Fulfilling this promise is essential to show strong resolve for good governance. Merit and experience must supersede family ties, particularly in the appoint-

ment of prominent cabinet positions.

It is important to note that these promises are not new: these political parties have been making the same promises in every election cycle, as evident from a review of their manifestos. However, their actions or apathy have frequently negated these promises.

For instance, these flag-bearers of dynastic politics persist in appointing individuals to top party and government positions based on lineage and family links, contradicting their stated commitment to inclusion and equal opportunities. Even women who are brought to the forefront to make a case for gender equality often appear to have defied merit and experience to assume their positions. Such actions not only undermine inclusivity, but also governance as a whole.

Despite repeated commitments to enact tax and SOE reforms, neither party has taken significant steps towards implementation. Even basic measures, such as integration of e-governance and the full adoption of the Single Treasury Account to improve accountability, have yet to materialise.

Most importantly, not only do the promises to establish fiscal sustainability in Pakistan remain unfulfilled, but the crisis was exacerbated through the implementation of unsustainable populist measures, such as a fixed exchange rate, inadequate tariffs, delays in going to the IMF, and so on. Having formed a coalition government against a wider public mandate, there is no excuse for the PML-N and PPP to not deliver on their common promises this time around. Pakistan cannot take any more disappointments. - Courtesy Dawn

**Destined to fail?**

Dr Niaz Murtaza

Destiny in social science refers to likely cause and effect links versus a pre-ordained view of fatalism. One such political link is that the quality of outcomes of a regime depends on the quality of its strategies, which depends on its team quality. I used this link to predict early in the PTI's term that it wouldn't do well given its team. As the PML-N arguably pursues narrow interests over merit in filling key posts, I fear the same now, more so as we are close to doom.

We face urgent economic and security issues plus social, political and external ones. The key post to tackle them is the prime minister's. In Shehbaz Sharif, the PML-N has opted for a drab but able manager — one who is good at running local projects rather than being a strong federal leader. The last time he cut a sorry figure in managing the economy, foreign policy and security, and was a mere appendage caught between the powerful establishment and his elder brother Nawaz Sharif. The same seems likely now.

The economy posts are the next key ones — that of the finance minister but also those of industry, investment, commerce, IT and planning. Our socioeconomic musts are fourfold: stability (most urgent), productivity, equity and sustainability. The finance minister ensures economic stability. But recent finance ministers such as Ishaq Dar and Shaukat Tarin favoured the elites and undermined macro-stability. We need a finance minister with a solid education and experience in macro-economic stability who can curb fiscal and external deficits as

well as ensure durable growth in tax and export revenues and jobs. This rules out Dar and also people like Hafeez Shaikh, who loyally implement IMF policies that neglect growth.

But stability alone doesn't result in durable growth. Growth and productivity require experts in the other ministries mentioned, who can creatively identify new investment, industrial and export avenues via a strong industrial policy, as done by the Asian Tigers. The PML-N must field strong, dynamic people with vast experience. But the trends look bad. Cutting fiscal deficits would require the party to tax and/or remove subsidies from its core elite base. Cutting external deficits and enhancing productivity would require creativity that the old guard lacks.

Ensuring equity and sustainability requires experts in ministries for social areas like climate change, poverty alleviation, health, education, population, labour and agriculture. Besides a strong industrial policy, we need strong agricultural, informal sector and labour policies as most of the poor work in these areas. The PPP has more expertise here than the PML-N, which specialises in physical projects. But even the PPP focuses on band-aids rather than root causes. It must review its cabinet decision and also appoint competent people to constitutional posts to influence policy indirectly.

The main security threats relate to the TTP, Balochistan, India and societal extremism. A role for the establishment in security policy under civilian sway can give benefits. Unlike the economy, they have

some understanding here. Nawaz Sharif, even informally, can provide the impetus for peace with India given his past forays with the BJP. Peace with India is the single change that can have ripple effects in all realms — economic, social, foreign, political and security. As president, Asif Zardari with his Baloch roots, provincial set-up and reconciliation politics, can help end the Baloch stand-off. But for all this, the establishment cannot maintain total control on security policy. A set-up that won power with establishment aid will struggle to wrest space from it. On the TTP and other extremists, the PML-N has a mixed record. It wanted curbs on jihadis but pursued peace with TTP

initially and its key leaders have close extremist ties. We badly need a new and creative foreign policy that balances our ties with China and Western states. Our Constitution and institutions lie in tatters given the political tussles of recent years. But a regime with dubious legitimacy is ill-placed to fix them.

There are then huge gaps in the competencies required to tackle our challenges. Where the coalition will have authority, it may lack capacity and vice versa. The good news from social science is that effects and outcomes can change if one changes the causes. Simply put, if the PML-N wants good outcomes after five years, it can make them more likely by ensuring greater competence today.

Otherwise, with each passing day, the path will increase the prospects of doom and another establishment-imposed set-up will fail. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**Renewable Energy Policy 2006**  
**Why to curtail wind power projects despite tariff of PKR 14.7/kWh: Atif**

Independent Report

KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has expressed his profound concerns that the renewable energy policy 2006 is not being implemented in letter & spirit as costlier and obsolete power projects are still being given preference — while it makes no economic sense to purchase power for the national grid from costlier plants in these times of stagflation, mounting circular debt and burgeoning balance of payments (BoP) & depleting foreign exchange reserves (FER) even further through importing furnace oil.

FPCCI Chief noted that this phenomenon is not only discouraging for

foreign direct investment (FDI) in energy sector; but, also inflicting financial losses on the existing wind power plants (WPP) in a number of ways: (i) return of investment (ROI) is compromised (ii) curtailment and lack of off take by the national grid is causing operational losses (iii) future investments, JVs and expansion plans are in jeopardy.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh stressed that special investment facilitation council (SIFC) has made energy as their one of the five focus areas; and, lack of enabling, facilitative and protective environment is detrimental to the cause of SIFC — for which all stakeholders of the state have unanimity including private-sector.

**World Bank's Global Director wonders if master plan of water use exists in Sindh**

HYDERABAD (APP): The World Bank's Global Director, Water Global Practice, Saroj Kumar Jha has said the bank through its investment always tries to bring manifestable change in the lives of the targeted communities besides improving agriculture and irrigation systems.

Speaking at a meeting at the Secretariat of Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (SIDA) here on Tuesday Jha questioned if a master plan over the water use existed in Sindh?

"Because without a master plan it will be difficult to make decisions for the water use," he underlined.

The Director observed that even the process of preparing the master plan would reveal the areas where work was needed on priority basis in order to enhance water utility for agriculture.

"We ought to complete the work of assessing the impact of the bank's projects on the lives of the people," he underscored.



QUETTA: Residents of Sariab protesting against shortage of gas by blocking the Sariab Road.



LAHORE: Regional Chairman FPCCI Zaki Ejaz presenting shield to Consul General of Turkey during his visit to FPCCI office.

**Pak-Saudi collaboration in IT, Telecom to further strengthen ties**

ISLAMABAD (APP): In the realm of Information Technology and Telecom, the collaboration between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, and strong presence of Pakistan at LEAP 2024, would further strengthen bilateral ties between the two nations.

This premier technology event brings together some of the brightest minds globally, offering a dynamic platform for tech innovators, industry leaders, and experts to collaborate, explore innovations, establish partnerships, and engage with influential mentors and investors, said a news release received here on Tuesday.

In the previous year, LEAP generated over \$9 billion in business, attracting over 172,000 individuals, including global tech leaders, IT professionals, speakers, tech gurus, and investors, establishing itself as the fastest-growing technology event worldwide. Pakistan contingent is one of the largest at this year's LEAP with 162 sqm pavilion 74 companies and over 800 delegates demonstrating a robust Pakistani business presence with promising prospects in the KSA market. These companies are showcasing solutions in AI, IoT, blockchain, cyber security, cloud solutions,

health tech, fintech, web and mobile app development, open source, e-commerce, data services and more.

PSEB and P@SHA in collaboration with Pakistan Embassy in Riyadh and other stakeholders arranged "Saudi-Pak Tech Forum" on March 3, 2024 to set the tone for LEAP.

Secretary General DCO Ms. Deemah Alyahya was the chief guest at the event. A considerable number of prominent Saudi Government and private institutions attended the forum which provided a remarkable platform for Pakistani companies to network with Saudi counterparts, IT industry,

government institutions, and IT associations ahead of LEAP to create an additional pool of prospects & valuable business leads.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO PSEB Ms. Aisha Moriani reiterated the need for both the nations to collaborate and build upon the success of Pakistani companies at LEAP 2023. Pakistan views this as a timely opportunity to showcase its IT/TeS companies on the international trade platform and expand business in the Middle East market, particularly in Saudi Arabia, which is undergoing transformation with its Vision 2030.

promptly address the distribution of load on the crucial 4 to 5 feeders. HESCO Chief highlighted the achievement of rendering 1327 feeders in industrial city of Faisalabad Division (FESCO) free from load-shedding. This was accomplished by segregating commercial transformers from domestic transformers. In alignment with this success, he issued directives for the implementation of a similar approach within HESCO operations. He announced the approval of 131 new vehicles, including trolleys and cranes, in the upcoming Board Meeting. This allocation aims to enhance operational effi-

**HESCO to facilitate issuance of new connections to commercial, Industrial zones**

HYDERABAD (APP): Chief Executive Officer HESCO Bashir Ahmed Gujjar said that President Farooq Shaikhani has presented an excellent constructive agenda in a meeting held on Tuesday.

Addressing the traders and industrialists during his visit at Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry (HCSTSI) he conveyed that, following the recommendation of President Farooq Shaikhani, HESCO will facilitate the issuance of new connections to commercial and industrial zones in Hyderabad. Furthermore, he assured that HESCO possesses an ample supply of transformers.

In response, he directed all the Superintending Engineers to install 100 additional transformers in all commercial and industrial zones, as proposed by the Chamber. Additionally, he emphasized the need to replace outdated transformers and to equip them with switches that trip automatically when overloaded, ensuring the prevention of transformer bursts.

In response to President Farooq Shaikhani's recommendations, he announced the convening of a meeting to discuss the equitable distribution of load across feeders. This allocation aims to enhance operational effi-

ciency by providing each executive engineer with the necessary resources for tasks such as relocating transformers and tree-cutting. HESCO Chief announced the formulation of a policy, in line with President Farooq Shaikhani agenda, for the outsourcing of 11 KV feeders. This policy will incorporate recommendations from the HCSTSI. Despite substantial rate increases for equipment and transformers, the HESCO currently maintains a stock exceeding 13 billion.

Bashir Ahmad Gujjar expressed concern over the insufficient technical staff at HESCO, emphasizing that beyond the shortage,

there exists a deficiency in the enthusiasm and commitment of the technical workforce.

Furthermore, he acknowledged the commendable efforts of the HCSTSI in overcoming legal obstacles related to the express feeder. Grateful for their endeavors, he anticipated that the Sindh Small Industries Corporation will soon benefit from a dedicated express feeder, thanks to such collaborative initiatives.

HESCO Chief affirmed his unwavering commitment to enhancing HESCO cooperation and addressing the concerns of both commercial and domestic customers until the final day of his service.

**US-Pakistan 'Green Alliance' to improve climate, smart agriculture: CG Kristin**

MULTAN (APP): US Consul General to Lahore Kristin Hawkins on Tuesday said US-Pakistan Green Alliance was an effort to improve climate, smart agriculture, food security and sustainable energy.

She expressed these remarks while inaugurating the Multan Electric Power Company's (Mepeco) Customers Facilitation Centre.

The Facilitation Centre has been established as part of the U.S. government's ongoing assistance in Pakistan's energy sector. Since 2014, the United States has supported Mepeco in deploying more than 40,000 smart meters, helping to improve power

efficiency for residents in Multan. "USAID's partnership with Mepeco has delivered great results. We have introduced new approaches and technologies to improve customer service and to increase revenues," said Consul General Hawkins.

For the past 20 years, Pakistan has consistently been ranked among to 10 most vulnerable countries on the Climate Risk Index. Hawkins underscored the need for urgent action to adapt to climate change and highlighted U.S. efforts to support Pakistan through the 'Green Alliance' to address the challenges related to climate change, food security and energy.



MULTAN: Members of Pakistan Wapda Employees Pegham Union are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Multan press club.

Recognizing that these customers constitute the primary source of HESCO revenue, he remains dedicated to fostering positive change.

President Muhammad Farooq Shaikhani, lauded HESCO Chief as an exceptionally professional and dedicated officer and said that under his leadership, HESCO will achieve a load-shedding free status, akin to organization like FESCO, by attaining 100 percent billing.

President Shaikhani emphasized the importance of consulting the Chamber of feeders slated for construction and maintenance, ensuring minimal disruption to business activities.



# Matter of reconciliation with establishment will be decided by PTI founder: Amin Gandapur

RAWALPINDI (Online): Chief Minister (CM) KP Ali Amin Gandapur and Aleema Khan sister of former chairman PTI met PTI founder in central Jail Adiala Tuesday. They exchanged views on political situation of KP in the meeting held in conference room of jail over one and half hour. Matter of formation of provincial cabinet also was discussed.

CM KP informed PTI founder about future strategy in the province. Security was put on high alert on the occasion of arrival of Ali Ameen Gandapur and Aleema Khan in jail. Talking to media men after meeting, CM KP said former chairman PTI is saying there should be rule of law. We will continue our work as per ideology. We will form such a system

that no one could steal mandate in future. He appealed Chief Justice of Pakistan to constitute commission on May 9 incident. Our women workers are in jail. He held those who benefitted from May 9 be held accountable. He went on to say we have left two governments for the sake of Pakistan. Imran Khan is fighting war for our children. akistan is

ours. Federal government has stolen our mandate. I will sit with opposition in province. We will not strike reconciliation with thieves of votes. We have to maintain law and order situation in the province. We have to give jobs. We will extend financial assistance to over one lac families. We will stage peaceful protest in Peshawar. We have not been given reserved seats.



PESHAWAR: Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Assembly Babar Saleem Swati meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman addressing a seminar on education and literature held at a local hotel.

## Young generation is our future and we should inculcate habit of book reading in them: Baligh

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman said that Art, humanities and Literature has profound impact on the society. He expressed these views while addressing a seminar on education and literature held at a local hotel in Lahore today.

Punjab Governor, Muhammad Balighur Rahman said that our young generation is our future and we should inculcate the habit of book reading in them. He said that generally

the book reading is on decline in the society but still there are people who love to read books. He further said that one should strive for continues improvement in life. He added that book reading broadens the vision of a person and develops positive character traits in him. He said that many people are doing good work in the society, they should be encouraged so that the process of improvement in life continues. He said that today's programme is also held to

appreciate the literary contribution of Jameel Jalbi. Governor Punjab said that Dr. Jameel Jalbi was a well-known intellectual, linguist, researcher, critic, columnist and educationist. Governor Punjab said that Dr. Jameel Jalbi rendered great services in the field of literature as a researcher, critic, writer and translator. He appreciated the efforts of senior journalist Wasif Nagi and other organizers in organizing the seminar for the promotion of knowledge and literature.

## Governor KP chairs senate meeting of UoM, directs to reduce fees

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali on Tuesday chaired a senate meeting of University of Malakand (UoM) that discussed approval and legal status of varsity statutes. The meeting was attended by Vice Chancellor UoM, Dr Rasheed Ahmad and officials concerned of higher education, law, establishment and finance. The meeting discussed legal aspects of the statutes and concurred to send them to varsity's

senate subcommittee to remove legal lacunas in one month period. The participants also discussed extension of contract employees that are working in the university. The meeting was told contract employees have completed three-year period but the new appointments were stopped by election commission due to current general elections. Meeting approved six months extension of contract period and directed to ensure policy of merit while making new appointments.

## 13 dead and 1462 injured in 1387 road traffic crashes in Punjab

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: The Emergency Services Department (ESD) responded to 1387 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. In these RTCs, 06 people died, whereas 1462 were injured. Out of these, 637 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 825 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of Hospitals. The majority (73%) involved Motorbikes, therefore effective

enforcement of traffic laws and lane discipline are essential to reduce the increasing number of road traffic crashes. Furthermore, the analysis showed those 779 drivers, 49 underage drivers, 186 pedestrians, and 510 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 315 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 334 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by Faisalabad 101 in with 113 victims and at third Gujranwala with 88 RTCs and 97 victims.

## DC for ensuring maximum relief to public in Ramadan

MARDAN (APP): Deputy Commissioner Mardan Muhammad Fayyaz Khan Sherpao has directed the administrative officers to ensure maximum relief to the public in the purchase of food items in the Ramadan markets during the holy month. He was presiding over an important meeting held here on Tuesday regarding Ramadan Package 2024. He said that according to the instructions of the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ramadan bazaars will be set up for the citizens, in which the citizens will get food items like pulses, flour, ghee and other items at cheaper prices.

## Nigeban Ramadan Package launched in Bahawalpur

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Soft launching of the Nigeban Ramadan Package took place in Bahawalpur under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur Zaheer Anwar Jappa. Under this initiative, Assistant Commissioners distributed food hampers to deserving individuals in the district with their teams. The purpose of the soft launching for the

Nigeban Ramadan Package is to digitally organize data effectively. To ensure the success of the soft launching, a formal app is being used to securely store all data related to the Ramadan Package. In the Bahawalpur district, food hampers are being respectfully distributed to deserving individuals under the Nigeban Ramadan Package.

## Salim Saifullah congratulates PM Shehbaz

PESHAWAR (APP): Senior politician, former federal minister Salim Saifullah Khan has congratulated the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on assuming his office and expressed the hope that under his leadership the country will overcome all challenges. In a statement issued here on Tuesday, he said that under the dynamic leadership of the Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif political and economic stability.

## LHC declares non maintainable petition seeking removal Sanjarani

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has declared non maintainable the petition seeking removal of Sadiq Sanjarani from the position of chairman Senate while maintaining registrar office objection on the powers of jurisdiction of court regarding petition. The petition filed by citizen Mashkoor Hussain came up for hearing before Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan

of LHC Tuesday. Sadiq Sanjarani, Election Commission (EC) and others were made respondents in the petition. The petitioner took the plea in the petition that Sadiq Sanjarani contested election on seat of provincial assembly Balochistan and he won the election. EC issued notification of his success. Sadiq Sanjarani cannot retain two seats at a time.

# International News

## World Health Organization: Child malnutrition 'particularly extreme' in north Gaza

GENEVA (Online): United Nations organisations said on Tuesday that child malnutrition levels in northern Gaza were "particularly extreme" and about three times higher than in the south of the Palestinian enclave where more aid has been available. Richard Peepker, WHO representative for Gaza and the West Bank, said that one-in-six children under two years of age were acutely malnourished in northern Gaza. "This was in January. So the situation is likely to be greater today," Peepker added, referring to when the data was recorded. UNICEF spokesperson James Elder said malnutrition rates for children under five in northern Gaza, where access to aid has been highly limited

since the start of the war between Israel and Hamas on Oct. 7, were three times higher than those in Rafah in the south. Elder said this showed that "when that trickle of aid can come in, it does make a life saving difference." At least 15 children have died over the past few days from malnutrition and dehydration at Kamal Adwan hospital in northern Gaza, the health ministry in Gaza said on Sunday. Calls for Israel to do more to address the humanitarian crisis have grown louder since the deaths of Palestinians lining up for aid in Gaza last month. Gaza health authorities said 118 people were killed, attributing the deaths to Israeli fire and calling it a massacre. Israel,

which says many people were trampled or run over, has pledged to investigate. Adding to hunger, there is a growing risk from infectious diseases, with nine-in-10 children under the age of five - around 220,000 - falling sick over the last weeks, according to Elder. "That becomes the spiral that we are so fearful of: infectious diseases, lack of food, a desperate lack of clean water and ongoing bombardment and incredibly still discussion of an offensive into Rafah, which is a city of children," Elder told reporters in Geneva, referring to Israel's stated aim of rooting out Hamas battalions it says are hiding there. "Rafah has about three quarters of a million children living there," Elder said.



Military delegation arrive for the opening session of the National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

## China boosts defence spending as regional disputes heat up

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: China announced on Tuesday that it would boost its defence spending in 2024, as hostility over Taiwan and in the South China Sea grows. The 7.2 per cent increase, identical to last year's figure, was announced at the start of the annual meeting of the country's rubber-stamp parliament, the National People's Congress (NPC).

China will spend 1.665 trillion yuan (\$231.4 billion) on defence in 2024, according to the budget report that lays out the government's financial plans for the year ahead. China has the world's second-largest defence budget behind the United States, even though the People's Liberation Army (PLA) surpasses the US military by number of personnel.

## US wants 'as many channels as possible' for Gaza aid, State Dept says

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: The United States is working to get aid into Gaza through as many channels as possible to remedy the humanitarian disaster amid Israel's war with Hamas militants, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Monday (March 4), describing the situation as "simply intolerable."

Washington was optimistic that a new maritime route to deliver aid to Gaza could supplement current efforts to get aid into the enclave, Miller said, adding that that route was "still in the development phase." In addition to trucks carrying aid through two border crossings in the south of Gaza, the US military, along with allied nations, has in recent days dropped aid packages into Gaza from aircraft, amid warnings much of the population is on the verge of famine.



Czech Republic's President Petr Pavel and French President Emmanuel Macron walk past an honour guard at Prague Castle in Prague, Czech Republic.

## Ships entering Yemeni waters must obtain permit: Houthi minister

CAIRO (INP) Ships will have to obtain a permit from Yemen's Houthi-controlled Maritime Affairs Authority before entering Yemeni waters, Houthi Telecommunications Minister Misfer Al-Numair said. Houthi have repeatedly launched drones and missiles against international commercial shipping in the Gulf of Aden since mid-November, saying they are acting in solidarity with Palestinians against Israel's offensive in Gaza. The near-daily attacks have forced firms into long and costly diversions around southern Africa, and

## US envoy says war at Lebanese-Israeli border would not be containable

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: US Special Envoy Amos Hochstein said on Monday (Mar 4) that a truce in Gaza would not necessarily bring an automatic end to hostilities across Lebanon's southern border and he warned about the risks of an escalation of the conflict. Hochstein is visiting Beirut as part of diplomatic efforts to end four months of exchanges of fire between Hezbollah and Israel taking place in parallel to the Gaza war. It has marked the worst conflict across Lebanon's southern border since the 2006 war.

## Ladakhi people express outrage as talks with India end without progress

NEW DELHI (INP): The much-anticipated meeting between Ladakh's Apex Body (LAB), the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), and the Indian Home Ministry ended without any tangible progress, sparking widespread anger among the people of Ladakh. New Delhi's refusal to address the fundamental demands of Ladakhis.

## 43 countries call for international probe into Navalny's death

**Monitoring Desk**  
GENEVA: More than 40 countries on Monday demanded an independent international investigation into the death of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny - and said President Vladimir Putin bore ultimate responsibility. European Union members, the United States, Britain, Ukraine, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and

Norway were among countries to voice outrage over Navalny's death at the UN Human Rights Council. Navalny, 47, who died in an Arctic prison colony, was laid to rest in Moscow on Friday, surrounded by crowds of defiant mourners who chanted his name. "We are outraged by the death of the Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny, for which the ultimate responsibility lies.

## No Indian troops, not even in civilian clothes to remain on his island: Maldives President reaffirms

MALE (INP): Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu has affirmed that no Indian military personnel, not even those in civilian clothing, would be present inside his country after May 10. Muizzu's statement comes less than a week after ostensibly an Indian civilian team, but in reality military officials, reached the Maldives to take charge of one of the three aviation platforms in the island nation, well ahead of the Mat 10 deadline agreed by the two country's for the withdrawal of Indian military personnel. Addressing a community in Baa atoll Eydhafushi during his tour across the atoll, President Muizzu stated that due to his government's success in expelling Indian troops from the country, people who spread false rumours,

are attempting to twist the situation, a news portal Edition.mv reported. "That these people [Indian military] are not departing, that they are returning after changing their uniforms into civilian clothing. We must not indulge such thoughts that instil doubts in our hearts and spread lies," the portal quoted Muizzu as saying. "There will be no Indian troops in the country come May 10. Not in uniform and not in civilian clothing. The Indian military will not be residing in this country in any form of clothing. I state this with confidence," he said. Within hours of taking oath, last year, Muizzu in his inaugural address to the parliament demanded India to remove its personnel from the strategically located archipelago in the Indian Ocean.

## Spanish blogger's gang rape in India sparks global outrage

NEW DELHI (Online): India is deemed highly unsafe for foreign female tourists. A Spanish blogger woman fell victim to a gang rape, exposing India's secular state to scrutiny. On March 1<sup>st</sup>, a Spanish girl was traveling on a motorcycle with her partner in the city of Jharkhand, India when she was targeted for gang rape. The Spanish couple had set up a tent in Dhanbad, a state in India, for an overnight stay when a group of seven individuals assaulted them, reports Al Jazeera. The 28-year-old Spanish travel blogger mentioned in her Instagram post that the group targeted them for violence, looted their belongings, and raped her, as reported by Hindustan Times. In another post, a companion of the affected blogger stated that she was repeatedly assaulted

with blows to the head and face with a helmet. After the gang rape, the girl was left in critical condition, Al Jazeera reports. Following the attack, a petrol pump attendant rescued both and took them to a local hospital. There has been a strong international backlash over the rape of the Spanish blogger woman. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, in India, approximately 90 cases of sexual assault are reported daily on average, according to the National Crime Records Bureau. In 2022, one case of rape against a woman was reported every 18 minutes. Last year, 31,516 incidents of sexual assault were reported. The states of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of cases, according to the National Crime Records Bureau.



## Pak proposes int'l conference to uphold Palestinians' rights, end Gaza war

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan, speaking on behalf of the Islamic countries, has called for convening an International Peace Conference on Palestine, aimed at implementing UN resolutions on the restoration of Palestinians' inalienable rights to self-determination within a two-state solution.

"The international community should uphold its responsibility in halting the Israeli aggression on Gaza immediately," Ambassador Munir Akram told the UN General Assembly session which followed the U.S. veto on the Feb 20 Security Council resolution calling for "an immediate humanitarian ceasefire" in the Gaza Strip.

While deeply regretting the veto, the Pakistani envoy voiced dismay over the global community's inability to end Israeli aggression against Gaza in which 29,700 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been killed.

Ambassador Akram addressed the 193-member Assembly in his capacity as acting chairman of OIC group at the United Nations.

"Since the lunch of the aggression on Gaza and elsewhere in Palestine nearly over the past five months, the entire world has continued to follow, with growing despair, and anger, the monumental and unending sufferings imposed on the Palestinian people in Gaza," Ambassador Akram said.

"This situation has resulted in the colossal loss of lives and wanton destruction of homes, schools, hospitals and religious sites in Gaza, due to the incessant attacks by the Israeli occupying power on the territory."



**GWADAR:** Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif being briefed regarding the damages caused by the recent torrential rains and the relief and rescue operations carried out by the local authorities in Gwadar.

## Wukala, Shakeel & Democratic Panels merged: New panel of lawyers formed namely Independent Panel to protect rights of fraternity

**Independent Report** QUETTA: A new panel of lawyers has been formed with the name of Independent Lawyers' Panel in Quetta on Tuesday.

While announcing formation of Independent Lawyers' Panel at a press conference at District Court on Tuesday morning, the senior lawyers Attaulah Langove, Qari Rehmatullah Advocate and others said that the Independent Lawyers' Panel has been formed to care interests of the lawyers besides resolving their problems.

Attaulah Langove said that we have laid foundation of new panel of lawyers for protection and defence of lawyers remaining above the prejudices.

He announced that three other panels of the lawyers including Wukala Panel, Shakeel Panel and Democratic Panel have also been merged in the Independent Lawyers' Panel.

He also said that we are starting new journey for better interests of the lawyers and resolve their issues.

He asserted that we are not going to tolerate interference of anyone in judiciary and bar.

Speaking on the occasion, Qari Rehmatullah Advocate said that bar exists for dignity and honour of the lawyers besides their welfare.



**QUETTA:** Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti expressing views during introductory meeting with the officers of Chief Minister Secretariat

## Chief Minister Balochistan pledges: Effective system of governance to be established by ensuring transparency & accountability

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has made a pledge that we want to establish effective system of governance by ensuring transparency and accountability at every level.

He asserted that there would be no compromise on corruption, rather there would be zero tolerance on it.

He said that the corruption and irregularities would not be acceptable and those found involved in the same would be taken to task.

The Chief Minister was expressing views at the introductory meeting with the officers of Chief Minister secretariat on Tuesday.

He said that the sustainable solution to public

issues is possible through establishing good governance.

He declared that neither he would do any work against the rules and regulations, nor he would let anyone do it.

He said that the Chief Minister secretariat is the biggest administrative office, and it is duty of all officers to protect it's dignity.

The Chief Minister said that we want to establish effective system of service delivery through performing official duties at fast pace.

He said that the active, capable and professional officers are our asset, who would be encouraged at every level.

However, the officers who are unable to perform

actively may choose their course by themselves.

He said that we have to work for the province and it's people without break.

He exhorted the officers to be ready for the public service doing away with the leniency.

He said that we would welcome those who want to walk with us speedily.

Earlier, the Principal Secretary briefed in detail about the administrative offices and responsibilities of different sectors.

He expressed the resolve that all officers of Chief Minister Secretariat would utilize their best capabilities for achieving the targets set as per the vision of Chief Minister.

## PN continues humanitarian assistance in flood hit areas of Gwadar

**GWADAR (INP):** Pakistan Navy in assistance with civil government continues providing ration, medicines and warm clothes to flood stricken people in different areas of Gwadar district.

Pakistan Navy was utilizing helicopters to ensure continuous supply of relief goods to Jiwani, Ganz, Pishukan and Kappar.

Pakistan Navy troops were reaching out to stranded people in other far-flung flood affected areas as well to distribute relief goods.

Pakistan Navy special response forces were providing their support to local flood-affected communities to drain rain water from their homes and streets with all available resources.

## SC issues written order regarding Musharraf case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued a written order regarding termination of the Lahore High Court's (LHC) verdict quashing the trial of former president Pervez Musharraf in the high treason case.

The SC, in the 16-page verdict authored by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, said, "The impugned judgment dated 13 January 2020 passed by the Lahore High Court, Lahore in Writ Petition No. 71713 of 2019 is not sustainable and is accordingly set aside by converting these petitions into appeals and allowing them. Detailed reasons shall be given later." It said, "The impugned judgment passed by the Lahore High Court in sheer violation of the judgments and orders of this Court is, therefore, not only without jurisdiction but also unconstitutional."

"Particularly, we have noted that the Judges of the Special Court, who announced the final judgment on 17.12.2019, namely, Justices Waqar Ahmed

Seth, 26 Nazar Akbar 27 and Shahid Karim, 28 were appointed with the approval of the Federal Government.

"The judges are not sovereigns with unfettered discretion but are guardians of the law, tasked with ensuring that justice is done according to established legal norms and principles. Their decisions must be guided by the law, precedents, and the facts before them, not by personal desires or objectives. A judge, in the pursuit of justice, cannot embark on a self-imposed crusade of right and wrong."

"He is not to innovate at pleasure. He is not a knight errant, roaming at will in pursuit of his own ideal of beauty or of goodness. He is to draw his inspiration from consecrated principles. He is not to yield to spasmodic sentiment, to vague and unregulated benevolence. He is to exercise a discretion informed by tradition, methodized by analogy, disciplined by the system."



**GWADAR:** Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti receiving Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif upon his arrival.

## ADB, UNICEF join hands to strengthen climate resilient services in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on Tuesday signed a Letter of Understanding (LOU) to collaborate on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and solid waste management interventions under an ADB-funded project in the cities of Rawalpindi and Bahawalpur in Punjab province of Pakistan.

The agreement was signed by ADB Country Director for Pakistan Yong Ye and UNICEF's Representative in Pakistan Abdullah Fadi here, said a news release.

"ADB and UNICEF are joining forces and renewing our shared commitment to strengthen policy, legislative framework, and institutional capacity in municipal service delivery, this time to improve the quality, coverage, and reliability of urban services

under the Developing Resilient Environments and Advancing Municipal Services (DREAMS) Project," said Yong Ye.

"The collaboration will enable us to support the government's efforts to address water supply and solid waste management challenges in these two important and rapidly growing cities," he added.

Under the new partnership, ADB and UNICEF will collaborate to support inclusive, resilient, and sustainable urban infrastructure and services in Rawalpindi and Bahawalpur through public awareness and communication campaigns that will improve behaviours and practices related to water, sanitation, and solid waste management.

The understanding reached between ADB and UNICEF Pakistan offices will help promote sustainability, inclusive,



**QUETTA:** Provincial Election Commissioner Muhammad Fared Afridi examining the documents of PPP candidate of Senate seat former Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo, MPAs Haji Ali Madad Jattak and Asghar Rind are also present.

## Secretary Health says All resources being used to prevent outbreak of epidemics Gwadar

GWADAR (APP): Secretary Health Balochistan Abdullah Khan on Tuesday said that measures had been taken to prevent outbreak of any epidemic and improve the situation in the rain-affected areas of Gwadar.

All resources were being used for the purpose as medical teams consisting of doctors and staff with essential medicines and ambulances were present in the field, he added.

The Secretary Health, who is in Gwadar to monitor the ongoing operation of medical teams, expressed satisfaction over hospital facilities and other services in the area.

He visited District Headquarters Hospital, GDA Hospital, Pak-China Hospital and District Health Office in Gwadar, and Basic Health Unit Shado Band.

Abdullah said there would be no compromise on the provision of medical facilities, including medicines, in the hospitals of Gwadar as majority of the people in the area depended on them.

The Secretary Health said that the teams of Balochistan Health Department were continuously engaged in providing medical facilities in the rain-affected areas.

He added that additional doctors, medical staff and essential medicines had been made available to cope with any untoward situation.

Director General Health Balochistan Dr. Farooq Hot, Manager TB Control Programme Balochistan Dr. Asif Shahwani, Provincial Coordinator Malaria Control Programme Dr. Amir Raisani, Deputy Secretary Health Yasir Dashti, DHO Gwadar Dr. Rahim Buledi, MS District Hospital Gwadar Dr. Hafeez, DHO Lasbela Dr. Hameed, DSMP PPHI and other officials were present on the occasion.

Secretary Health also chaired a meeting regarding the provision of health facilities at GDA Hospital Gwadar. He also took round of various departments of the hospital.

## COPHC donates relief supplies to Gwadar's flood victims

**Independent Report** QUETTA: China Overseas Port Holding Company (Pakistan) continued to supply relief goods the coastal district of Gwadar area of Balochistan hit by the recent heavy rains and floods in.

According to the spokesman, so far, more than 30,000 mineral water bottles and 30,000 packets of canned food items have been distributed among the affected.

During the flood, the China-Pakistan Faqeer Colony Middle School in Gwadar, built and managed with China's aid and took in hundreds of people affected by the disaster to take shelter.

Local people appreciated the efforts of China Overseas Port Holding Company (Pakistan) for helping the rains and flood victims.

## National economic, reconciliation plan need of hour: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said that a national economic and reconciliation plan was need of the hour.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that the opposition should play its constitutional role so that the country can be taken forward together.

He said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chose a path of anarchy and chaos in the country, which was directly sabotaged the process of country's economic recovery.

## 3 die, 2 injured car plunges into canal

MANANWALA (Online): 3 people were killed and 2 were critically injured after a speedy car plunged into canal on Sheikhupura-Hafizabad motorway.

Those died include two real brothers. The condition of the injured are stated to be critical. Those killed and injured were riding in the car.



**QUETTA:** Pakistan Ex Services Man Society President Lt G (R) Abdul Qayyum addressing a press conference.

## Saudi govt invites 30 Pakistanis as state guests for Umrah

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia on Tuesday organized a special event to honor pilgrims from Pakistan who are embarking on the sacred journey of Umrah in a gesture of goodwill and hospitality.

This annual tradition, extended by the Saudi government, aims to facilitate the pilgrimage for individuals from across the globe, fostering unity and spiritual connectivity in the holy city of Makkah.

This year, 30 individuals from Pakistan have been graciously invited by the Saudi government to undertake the pilgrimage as state guests. The selected pilgrims will have the privilege of a 10-day stay in Saudi Arabia, where they will partake in the sacred rituals of Umrah.

During the event, Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki personally

handed over essential travel documents to the pilgrims, ensuring a smooth and hassle-free journey. Additionally, as a token of goodwill, Ambassador Al-Malki presented each pilgrim with a gift hamper containing Ahram, traditional attire worn during the pilgrimage, symbolizing the warmth and generosity of the Saudi leadership.

Expressing their heartfelt gratitude, the fortunate pilgrims conveyed their appreciation to the Saudi government and Ambassador Al-Malki for the invitation and hospitality extended to them. They fervently prayed for the continued peace, prosperity, and harmony between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, emphasizing the significance of such initiatives in strengthening bilateral relations and fostering mutual respect and understanding.

As the pilgrims pre

## PM, CM issued directives to ensure rehabilitation of flood victims: Malik Shah

QUETTA (APP)-Member of National Assembly (MNA) Haji Malik Shah Gurgage on Tuesday said that Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti issued directives to ensure all possible help and rehabilitation of the flood victims.

He said that preventing natural calamities was not a matter of human alone, however, we were always present to serve our people. He said that the announcements made by the Prime Minister of Pakistan would be implemented within four days saying that Pakistan People's Party was committed to serve the people in the country.

The MNA said that Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti have issued instructions to ensure all possible help and rehabilitation of the flood victims.

He said that preventing natural calamities was not a matter of human alone, however, we were always present to serve our people. He said that the announcements made by the Prime Minister of Pakistan would be implemented within four days saying that Pakistan People's Party was committed to serve the people in the country.



**QUETTA:** A delegation of Quetta Press Club led by its President Abdul Khaliq Rind meeting with Director General Public Relations Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran.

## Around 2k children to be enrolled at govt-run schools

**By Rafiullah Mandokhail SHERANI:** Education is the fundamental right of every child and under article 25-A, providing free and compulsory education to children aged 5-16 is the responsibility of the government. A target has been set for the academic year 2024 to enroll around 1700 children in public sector schools across the district," said Deputy Commissioner

Manager Education Support Programme (ESP) Raziq Jan Kakar, District Chairman Adv Dawood Khan Sherani and representatives of teachers' union. A banner displayed behind the officers reads: "Let's Enroll Every Child In School", urging the parents to enroll their loved ones at government-run schools.

The deputy commissioner further said that



Azeem Jan Dumar while addressing a press conference to formally inaugurate the students' enrollment campaign in all public sector schools. He was accompanied by the District Education Officer Taza Khan Nasar, District Program

preparations are completed and the distribution of free textbooks is underway at all the clusters. Moreover, walks and seminars will be organized and mass announcements will also be made in mosques through loudspeakers at the district level, he said.

## BBISE cancels 10 students of papers on involvement of copying in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Controller Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BBISE) Abida Kakar cancelled papers of ten students from annual metric examination after finding them in cheating during her visiting of examination center of Saryab Degree College on Tuesday.

Board has made a strict policy to prevent copying on which immediate action was taken.

She stressed that the student to stay away from cheating and the duty officers have been instructed to strictly follow the policy of BBISE in this regard.

She said that she would continue visiting of established examination centers in order to control duplicating system for bright future of students.