

# Independent

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits the Chinese Embassy, and met with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong to offer condolence over the death of Chinese nationals in a suicide attack in District Shangla.

## Military vows action after Shangla suicide attack kills 6 including Chinese engineers

**ISPR says armed forces to hold all those involved in aiding terrorism accountable with nation's support, ironclad ally China; Certain foreign elements are complicit in aiding and abetting terrorism in Pakistan, driven by their vested interests; PM visits Chinese embassy, assures high-level probe; Anti-Pakistan elements will not succeed in harming Pak-China ties: President**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Five Chinese and one Pakistani national were killed on Tuesday in a terrorist attack near Besham in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a statement.

"The government of Pakistan strongly condemns this heinous act of terrorism," the statement said adding "We will take all necessary measures to bring the terrorists and their facilitators to justice. Such dastardly acts cannot dent the resolve of Pakistani nation to fight against the scourge of terrorism."

Today's attack was orchestrated by the enemies of Pakistan-China friendship. The government will resolutely act against all such forces and defeat them. The people and government of Pakistan stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our Chinese friends in this difficult time and extend sincere condolences to the families of the Chinese nationals killed in the attack.

Pakistan and China are close friends and iron brothers. The life and safety of Chinese nationals in Pakistan is of paramount importance. Pakistan will continue

to work with our Chinese brothers in ensuring the safety and security of Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in Pakistan, the statement added.

The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Monday in a statement said that with the unwavering support of the resilient nation and the country's ironclad ally China, the Armed Forces would ensure that all those involved in aiding terrorism, directly or indirectly, are held accountable and find their due comeuppance.

"Together we will prevail over adversity and evil.

INSHAALLAH," the ISPR news release said.

It added that the recent incidents of terrorism in Pakistan, notably in Gwadar, Turbat, and Besham, were dastardly acts aimed at destabilizing the internal security situation.

While the first two attempts were successfully thwarted by the armed forces, the latest incident at Besham led to the loss of six innocent civilians including five Chinese nationals.

"The whole nation stands in solidarity with our Chinese brothers and unequivocally condemn this cowardly act.

Strategic projects and sensitive sites vital for Pakistan's economic progress and the well-being of its people are being targeted as a conscious effort to retard our progress and sow discord between Pakistan and its strategic allies and partners, most notably China," the ISPR said.

It mentioned that certain foreign elements were complicit in aiding and abetting terrorism in Pakistan, driven by their vested interests. Despite the veneration of innocence, these elements are being continuously exposed as sponsors of terror.

## IMF program is vital for stability of economy: PM

**Announces significant incentives for highest tax payers**

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has said IMF program is essential for stability of the economy.

"IMF program is necessary for the stability of economy. If economy is weak then no one pays heed. If we don't carry begging bowl even then they say begging bowl in under their armpit. There is mountain of loans on Pakistan and we pay salaries out of loans and execute development work. Providing better environment to tax payers is priority of government. We will have to abide by the principles of Quaid-e-Azam to rid of loans. Doing business is not business of governments. Government has to extend help to the private

sector in collaboration with the provincial governments. Youths are our valuable asset. We will have to make them skilled. Ghazat ceasefire resolution should be implemented at every cost. Pakistan will continue to extend help to the oppressed Palestinians, he said this while addressing Tax Excellence Award ceremony here Tuesday.

He held the adoption of resolution in UN Security Council (UNSC) with reference to ceasefire in Gaza is good omen. Israel is perpetrating the worst barbarity in Gaza. Implementation of ceasefire resolution is very important.

He went on to say the tax payers are great heroes and national architects. They scaled up exports. The motive behind this cer-

emony is to give message to nation that the government and private sector have to work together for development of the country. We have to end the red tapism. The decision making process have to be accelerated.

He stressed that we will have to provide business friendly environment to address economic challenges. Federal government has to work along with the provinces. All the governments are equally responsible for the mistakes committed in the past. All the award recipients deserve for congratulations. Doing business is not business of government, he said adding We will have to encourage private sector. If our economy is fortified then the voice of nation will be noticed.

## China demands 'thorough probe'

ISLAMABAD (INP): China has demanded a "thorough investigation" after five Chinese nationals and one Pakistani were killed in an attack on a convoy in Bisham tehsil of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Shangla.

Speaking to journalists, District Inspector General (DIG) of Malakand said that a suicide bomber rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into a convoy of foreign nationals that was on its way from Islamabad to their camp in Dasu, Shangla.

"Five Chinese nationals and their Pakistani driver were killed in the attack," the police officer said.

"At around 1?pm on 26th March?local time, a Chinese company's bus carrying staff on the Dasu Hydropower Project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province was hit by terrorist attack," the Chinese Em-

bassy and Consulates General in Pakistan said in a statement.

The Chinese Consulates General strongly condemned the "terrorist attack", expressing deep condolences to the victims and sincere sympathy to the bereaved families. "We are making every effort to handle the aftermath?together with the Pakistani side," it added.

The Consulates General said it has launched an emergency plan immediately, requesting Pakistan to "thoroughly investigate" the attack and severely punish the perpetrators".

"Meanwhile, we are taking all necessary measures to protect the safety of Chinese citizens, institutions and projects in Pakistan, and to ensure such incidents will not happen again," read the statement.

## Ahsan Iqbal directs expediting work on Gwadar Power Plant

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to expedite the construction work on the Gwadar Power Plant. The minister passed these directives while chairing a meeting to review the progress of Gwadar Power Plant, which was attended by the ministry officials, Managing Director of Private Power Infrastructure Board (PPIB), the Chinese Minister-Counselor Yang Guangyuan and other relevant stakeholders, a news release said.

The PPIB is processing the 300MW coal power project at Gwadar, being developed by M/s CIHC

Pak Power Company (Pvt) Limited (CPPCL). The project is in the "priority list" of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and holds paramount importance for the energy infrastructure and economic development of the region. "The supply of electricity is essential in Gwadar and no delay will be accepted," said the minister while directing the stakeholders concerned to remove all the bottlenecks and start the construction work immediately.

Terming Gwadar 'the gateway of CPEC', the minister said that the incumbent government had expedited the implementation on phase 2 of the CPEC while integrating it with five new economic corridors.

## FM discusses cooperation with Turkish, Russian, Swedish envoys

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has underlined Pakistan's commitment to further deepen cooperation with Türkiye in all areas of mutual interest.

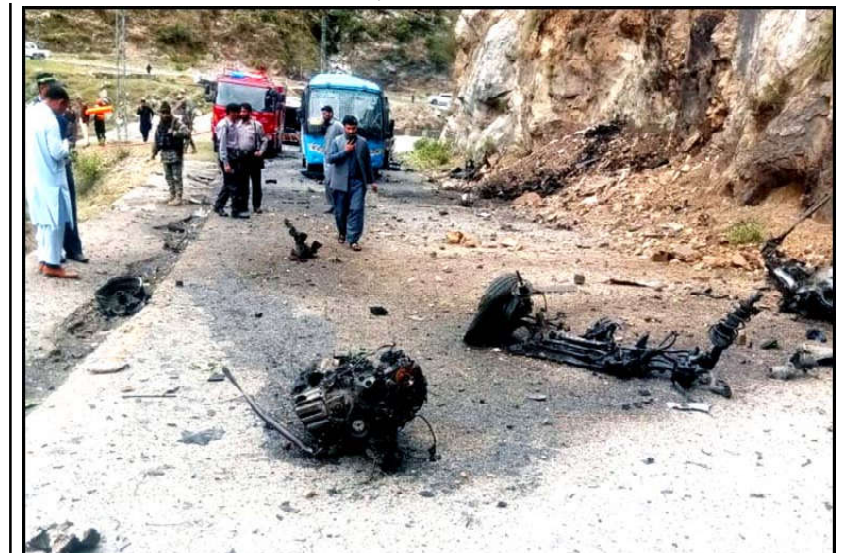
He said this while talking to Ambassador of Türkiye Dr. Mehmet Pacaci in Islamabad today who paid a courtesy call to him.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Minister also received the Russian Ambassador

Albert Khorev and discussed bilateral areas of cooperation including global and regional issues of mutual concern.

Swedish Ambassador Henrik Persson called on Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar in Islamabad on Tuesday.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and cooperation in trade, investment, education, and people-to-people exchanges.



SHANGLA: View of site after targeted suicide bomb blast while rescue operation and investigation is underway, in Shangla.

## Four terrorists killed Militant attack on Pakistan Navy base in Turbat foiled

**Terrorists attacked naval base on night of March 25 and 26; Sepoy Noman Fareed embraced martyrdom during fight; Security forces "immediately mobilised" to support naval troops.**

RAWALPINDI (INP): A Balochistan Frontier Corps soldier was martyred while four terrorists were killed as security forces thwarted an attack on a naval base in Turbat last night, the military's media affairs wing said.

In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that terrorists attempted to attack PNS Siddique in Turbat

last night. It said that the attempt was foiled due to the "swift and effective response by the troops ensuring the safety and security of personnel and assets".

"Security forces in the vicinity were immediately mobilised to support the naval troops. Synergistic and effective response by the armed forces enabled killing of all four terrorists in ensuing joint clearance

operation," it said.

The ISPR said that during the intense fire exchange 24-year-old Sepoy Noman Fareed of the Balochistan Frontier Corps embraced martyrdom. Makran Commissioner Saeed Ahmed Umrani had earlier told Dawn that heavy exchange of fire and explosions were reported from the vicinity of Turbat airport on Monday night.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal chairing a meeting on progress of Gwadar Power Plant with Chinese company.

## PM welcomes UNSC resolution for ceasefire in Gaza

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has welcomed the UN Security Council resolution for a ceasefire in Gaza. In a statement, he urged the international community to ensure the implementation of the Security Council's resolution for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

He said the ongoing Zionist oppression against innocent Palestinians in Gaza must be stopped permanently.

## Punjab cabinet decides to consult MPAs before wheat purchase

**Independent Report**

LAHORE: The Punjab cabinet, which met with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz in the chair on Tuesday, agreed to consult members of the provincial assembly (MPAs) in matters such as wheat purchase.

The meeting also formed a four-member ministerial committee, headed by the provincial minister for food, to formulate policies regarding the purchase of wheat.

Other members of the committee are the minister for finance, the minister for agriculture, and the minister for information.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said that there was a need to first determine the requirements for a crop before starting its cultivation.

She directed that artificial intelligence (AI) and other technologies be used in order to determine the requirements for a crop.

CM Maryam also ordered the start of the campaign to motivate bike riders to install safety guards on their bikes in order to protect themselves from metallic strings. She said she was saddened by the loss of lives of Christian workers, and added that legislation would be done in future to ensure the protection of lives of sanitary workers.

The meeting agreed on the proposal to declare Easter a holiday for the Christian employees.

The meeting also agreed on the installation of cameras inside the examination halls and the use of AI to check cheating in exams.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Imran demands fresh inquiry after Donald Lu rebuffs 'cipher conspiracy'

**Monitoring Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founding chairman Imran Khan on Tuesday demanded a fresh inquiry into United States Assistant Secretary of State Donald Lu's statement denying "cipher conspiracy" that US engineered his ouster from power by supporting the then opposition's no-confidence motion in April 2022. Testifying before a Congressional panel last week, the top US diplomat said: "I wanna be very clear on this point [that] this conspiracy theory is a lie [and] it is a complete falsehood."

Speaking to journalists at Adiala jail, Khan denied the reports that the US envoy met him in the prison. He said that he would speak to the US envoy about Lu's statement and the alleged role of the US embassy in the ciphergate if he met him.

"The original copy of cipher is with the Foreign Office, we were only given a paraphrased copy [of the document]," the former premier said while referring to the allegations that he misplaced the classified cipher document that he received as the prime minister.

## Pakistan committed to complete TAPI gas pipeline project: Musadik Malik



ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik, reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project, describing it as a flagship project essential for the country's energy needs.

During a meeting with the Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan, Atadjan Movlamov, the Minister said that TAPI gas pipeline project is very important for Pakistan's energy requirements, said a news release issued by the Ministry of Energy, Petroleum Division.

During Musadik Malik's previous tenure in office, the project experienced unprecedented momentum, resulting in significant progress and tangible outcomes. He reiterated his dedication to advancing the project.

The Ambassador Movlamov felicitated the Minister

## President, PM discuss overall political, economic situation

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a meeting with President Asif Ali Zardari in Islamabad on Tuesday and discussed the overall political and economic situation of the country. They expressed their joint commitment to steer the country out of the challenges. They also discussed measures to provide relief to the people during Ramadan.

## President summons NA session on April 1

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari has summoned the session of National Assembly on the 1st of next month at four pm. It will be the second session of the 16th National Assembly.

## Zardari lauds valour of security forces for foiling Turbat terror attack

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday lauded the security forces for their successful operation to foil a terrorist attack at the Naval Base in Turbat.

The president, in a statement, said that timely and effective action by the security forces to thwart the attack was appreciable.

He also lauded the valour of the soldiers who carried out the clearance operation and eliminated the terrorists.

President Zardari paid tribute to Sepoy Noman Fareed who embraced martyrdom during the operation.



LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif presiding over 4th meeting of Provincial Cabinet.



## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Ceasefire, finally

Over five months since the Gazan slaughter began, the UN Security Council finally approved on Monday a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the occupied Palestinian territory. Several such attempts had been made since the conflict between Israel and Hamas began on Oct 7, yet the US had vetoed three ceasefire resolutions.

This time, probably because of the international backlash against Israeli barbarism, as well as domestic criticism of the Biden administration's 'iron-clad' support for Tel Aviv's murderous campaign in an election year, Washington decided to abstain. This may indicate the American government's moral ambiguity over the mass murder of over 32,000 Palestinian civilians — the US ambassador to the UN said they "did not agree" with everything in the resolution — but perhaps such a position is preferable to stonewalling every attempt to stop the butchery.

While there is little to celebrate, as the level of suffering in Gaza is staggering, at least the people of the besieged Strip will be given a break from the daily dose of death and destruction to mourn their loved ones, and start the long, painful process of healing. The UN secretary general was recently at the Rafah crossing and called for removing the obstacles that are blocking aid from reaching Gaza. Israel is the biggest obstacle, and it is hoped the ceasefire will allow food, water and medical aid to reach hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in distress. Famine — most of it manufactured by Israel — now stalks Gaza, with the WHO saying children in the Strip are on the "brink of death". Moreover, thousands of children have been orphaned in this unholy war, and are in particular need of medical and psychological attention to help them deal with the trauma of watching genocidal violence unfold before their eyes. These must be the immediate goals of the international community.

Apart from extending prompt humanitarian assistance to Gaza's population, all sides must work towards a more permanent cessation of violence. It should be remembered that an almost weeklong truce was agreed to in November, but broke down soon after.

The current arrangement should be more durable. While talk of 'solutions' may be unrealistic right now, once the dust has settled, Israel should be made to pay for the murder of thousands of innocents. Palestinian lives matter, and a generation of orphaned Gazan children will be looking to the world community to secure justice for them.

All eyes will now be on Israel and the US, its chief patron. Will Tel Aviv abide by the UNSC resolution? Or will it live up to its reputation of being a rogue state by dismissing this binding call, and continuing with its criminal campaign in Gaza? The days ahead will be critical for the entire region.

### All that glitters

Muhammad  
Mohsin Masood

The law is all about relationships. Ostensibly, it is a body of rules dictating relationships and the interconnectivity of our shared social experience. States, provinces, governments, statutory bodies, private companies, parents, spouses, and total strangers — the law dictates the interactions between two entities/individuals. The law determines our relationships.

However, what sort of relationships does the law determine? What kind of connection between two groups/individuals does it help set up? When the law compels two groups/individuals to mould their actions in a particular way, what is the result and where does it leave the connection with others in this world?

More often than not, the law helps set up a relationship where one party is stronger than the other. This is truer in the domain of public law. Between a state and an individual, between a parent ministry and an autonomous body, between the Speaker of the House and ordinary legislators — the law wants one in a position of strength and the other in a position of weakness or subordination.

This also holds true for relationships between private parties — from the right of divorce granted to the husband to majority shareholding in a company. In fact, if you look closely, it seems that the law requires one to be higher and the other to be subordinate.

That's how the law deems a relationship to be a lawfully workable one. It is, therefore, not hard to miss why the early jurists looked at the law as simply the

command of a higher power backed by the threat of coercion.

However, this article is not about age-old jurisprudence. One must look beyond the dictates of the law and pierce the veil of legal normality to assess whether this is true. Can society only function if it is held together by the chains of law linking our affairs top to bottom? Determining our relationships where one has power and the other is left at the mercy of the law? Or can this lopsided picture of the law be inverted, and can we forge relationships of equality? Can we act in a way that subverts this understanding of relationships — personal, professional, social and political — that one party is in a position of power and the other is not?

These questions could be answered in the affirmative. One can rage, cry out, march, speak, and shout — these are commendable acts of courage to highlight what one perceives as an injustice. However, you can also look at it another way. The mistake lies in yielding to the legal fiction that the law sets up — of taking the strength of one party at face value. Yes, the party in a 'legally strong' position has an advantage that the law bestows on it but that very strength has its own failings and disadvantages.

On the other hand, those who are looked upon as 'legally weak' are unaware of the inherent strength that lies in that very 'weakness'. Take the example of David and Goliath. At one hand is the massive Goliath, a towering warrior and at the other is David, an apparently weaker and smaller shepherd boy armed with only a slingshot. One seems to have all the

power and the other is at his mercy. However, as Malcolm Gladwell recounts in his book *David & Goliath*, it is precisely because David was seen as small and weak and Goliath as huge and strong that he was able to overcome Goliath. The slingshot was actually a missile aimed at a slow-moving huge lump of muscle which found its mark with devastating effect.

When looking at advantages, disadvantages and the power imbalance between those with strength and those who are weak, we can always invert the picture. Those who are powerful, are also weak because of that very power. Those who are deemed to be weak, have an advantage because of their relative weakness. This is the inner strength that can be tapped into despite the hurdles of the law. This was the inner strength on display during the suffragette's movement, the civil rights movement, the independence struggle and countless other struggles around the world. This is the piece of resistance in any resistance.

We can create relationships anew based on this deeper understanding of our strengths and weaknesses which is more valuable than any understanding of the law.

We may hike through precedent, expend all our energy on the letter of the law, take our knives out and slice through arguments, conceptualise and stress the theories of the kings of old.

Just to find the right workings of our relationships in society. However, the true picture may just emerge when you invert those relationships. All that glitters is not gold. -- Courtesy Dawn

### Wasting waste

Jamil Ahmad

Waste management is a major challenge as the world's material footprint expands to meet the needs of economic development and a large population. Growing at 2.3 per cent annually, global production and consumption of material resources has tripled over the past 50 years. The volume of waste produced has also grown significantly during this period.

As resource exploitation is set to increase, the waste generated in the process will also grow, posing serious threats to human health and the environment, while exacerbating the crisis of climate change, nature loss and pollution.

With their capacity constraints of waste collection and disposal, developing countries feel the impact on multiple fronts. Waste is either dumped in landfills, burnt in the open, or thrown into rivers and other waterways. Chemical effluents and sewage are often discharged into rivers. Thus polluted water and toxic air spread disease and take lives in the absence of effective policy and regulations.

The United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Global Waste Management Outlook 2024 reveals that last year 2.3 billion metric tons of municipal solid waste was generated, which is set to reach 3.8bn metric tons by 2050. An estimated 540 million metric tons of municipal solid waste was not being collected, mostly in developing countries. The problem is acute in South Asia where rapid urbanisation and a growing population have accelerated waste generation. South Asia's 2bn-plus people constitute a quarter of the global population with per capita daily waste generation of about 0.5 kilograms. UNEP estimates that

in Central and South Asia only 37pc of refuse generated is collected against a global average waste collection rate of 75pc. In contrast, in developed countries, almost all the waste is collected and disposed of. The huge volume of uncollected municipal refuse is creating health problems and an environmental disaster, while the costs of healthcare and pollution are rising.

However, waste management itself is a costly affair. "In 2020, the global direct cost of waste management was estimated at \$252bn," notes the UNEP report. "Factor-in the hidden costs of pollution, poor health, and climate change from poor waste disposal practices, the cost rises to \$361bn." It could almost double to \$640bn by 2050 without urgent action.

The problem is aggravated by the linear approach of the current economic development paradigm, which resorts to the indiscriminate use of material resources in pursuit of raising GDP. For cash-strapped developing countries, the challenge to keep town and cities clean and secure from disease is insurmountable. Establishing or revamping national strategies and developing action plans for waste management is fundamental. They would need innovative ways to urgently prioritise policy actions that reduce waste generation as well as technical and financial support from development partners to implement waste management strategies.

An intersectional approach to policy development for waste management will minimise the multidimensional and harmful impact of municipal solid waste on poor and marginalised sections of society. UNEP and other UN organisations have identified

tified policy measures which can help. Adapting a circular development model will reduce pressure on resource use and help decouple waste generation from economic growth based on the '3R' principle of reduce, reuse, and recycle. In this way, waste is converted into resource for another cycle of sustainable production.

Circularity and resource efficiency can be improved by harnessing digital technology and AI to mainstream sustainability practices across all sectors and move to a model of a zero-waste economy. Waste can also be used as a re-source to produce electricity.

The unregulated urban sprawl in many parts of South Asia without proper waste strategies is escalating the waste problem. More than half the waste generated is organic, which emits greenhouse gases if left to rot. Wasting this waste is unwise. The potential of 'waste-to-energy' must not go untapped.

Local authorities and city administrations responsible for waste management must be enabled and provided with adequate resources for implementing action plans.

Human behaviour under the influence of a consumerist mindset and throwaway habits is also a major factor in the generation of waste. Governments, local authorities, industry, civil society, and media will need to work together to encourage a behavioural change for sustainable consumption and to raise awareness among households and citizens.

Achieving the SDGs related to poverty, health, water and sanitation, cities, climate change are all affected by the problem of uncollected and untreated municipal solid waste. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Finance minister terms tax award winners 'national heroes'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday termed the tax award winners 'national heroes,' urging the countrymen to pay their due taxes being responsible citizens.

"You [the tax award winners] are really our national heroes. The entire nation and the country should follow you as a beacon of light," the minister said while addressing the Tax Excellence Awards distribution ceremony here. The high taxpayers were awarded with the prizes by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Highlighting importance of tax collection in revenue generation, Aurangzeb said direct tax

on domestic side and exports on the external front were levers of the growth and development. "In Pakistan's case, the both flows have been raise-bound and therefore underwhelming, and redressing them on urgently basis is critical."

The finance minister reiterated a firm resolve of the government for restructuring and digitization of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), for which it was in process of appointing consultants "for design and implementation in term of end to end digitalization."

He talked about bringing structural reforms, doing end-to-end digitalization and ensuring transparency in the tax collection system,

stressing that "We have to plug the leakages. There is a huge room for improvement in operational effectiveness of something rolled out few years back."

Aurangzeb was of the view to restore the confidence of superior clients' trust [high tax payers] in the government policies and transparency in the tax-collection system, which would help expand the tax-base.

The minister warned that the import-led and subsidy-supported businesses were not sustainable anymore and the country would have to accelerate export led-growth to achieve the trajectory of sustainable growth.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif presents awards to the highest taxpayers and exporters of the country at the Tax Excellence Awards 2024.

### Minister Khalil Sindhu says: Govt implementing IT-based track & trace system in factories to control production

ISLAMABAD (APP): Provincial Minister for Human Rights and Parliamentary Affairs Tahir Khalil Sindhu Punjab said on Tuesday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will make the track and trace system fully functional for tax prevention in all sectors including tobacco, cement, sugar, and fertilizer industries.

Talking to PTV News, he said that FBR along with federal ministries and provincial departments is introducing a track and trace system in factories in Pakistan to promote

transparency.

He further said that by introducing a track and trace system in various sectors, tax authorities will get quick and comprehensive access to data, facilitate proactive decision-making, and improve the accuracy of tax assessments.

He said that the track and trace system aims to increase tax revenue through better monitoring and regulation.

Replying to a question, he said that Shehbaz Sharif had strongly advised to use of the track and trace system

to prevent counterfeiting and substandard products.

This system is now fully functional in all fertilizer industries, he further said. Track and trace systems will also empower businesses to ensure quality control and compliance throughout the supply chain, the minister explained. To another question, the minister added that besides preventing revenue leakages, it will help in minimizing human intervention and thus pave the way for a transparent and reliable tax compliance system across the country.

### Malik, UAE envoy agree on enhancing collaboration in petroleum sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik, and the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in Pakistan, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaab on Tuesday agreed to enhance collaboration in the petroleum sector.

In a meeting, the ambassador congratulated Dr Musadik Malik on assuming the charge of the Ministry of Petroleum, said a news release.

He highlighted the historical significance of relations between the UAE and Pakistan.

### CM Maryam Nawaz says Want to cooperate with China in agriculture, IT, environment sectors

Independent Report LAHORE: "Pakistan and China have maintained closest and strongest friendship, but there is still a lot of room for improvement in economic ties," said Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif in a meeting with Chairman China State Construction Engineering Corporation, Mr Wang Yaobang. She added, "There are numerous opportunities for collaboration."

Madam Chief Minister expressed her resolve to welcome China's cooperation in agriculture, IT and environmental protection. She appreciated and

said, "CSCEC's projects in Pakistan demonstrate construction quality and professionalism." She added,

"She is grateful to China State Construction Engineering Corporation for undertaking construction projects in Punjab like Arfa Karim IT Tower in Lahore."

Madam Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "China's one-window operation system for investment promotion is the best model worldwide." She added, "CPEC is China's gift to Pakistan. Punjab government will fully cooperate for the timely completion of CPEC projects."



LAHORE: Chairman China State Construction Engineering Corporation's (CSCEC) Chairman Mr. Wang Yaobang meeting with Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

### Shafay reviews CM's youth skill development program

Independent Report LAHORE: Provincial Minister of Industry and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain chaired a meeting to review the progress of ongoing development schemes and various features of CM Youth Skills Development Programme here at TEVTA Secretariat on Tuesday.

The meeting decided that no new institution would be set up without improving the existing institutions. The provincial minister said that TEVTA's (Technical Education and

Vocational Training Authority) institutions and laboratories would be aligned with global requirements. He added that laboratories should be upgraded with the cooperation of universities like UMT (University of Management and Technology), while biometric attendance of students and staff should also be arranged in TEVTA institutes, besides paying special attention towards the future of microchip manufacturing. Language courses including Arabic, German, Korean, Japanese and Spanish.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of UAE Hamad Obaid Al-Zaab calls on Federal Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik.

### Pak-Qatar sign agreements to boost Pak workforce opportunities in Qatar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government of Pakistan and Qatar have signed several agreements and letter's of Intent (LOIs) with top Qatari companies the main purpose of this initiative was set to significantly enhance employment opportunities for the Pakistani workforce in Qatar.

An official source told APP, the signing of these Agreements with renowned Qatari firms, including Qatari

Diyar-Saudi Bin Laden Group Construction (QD-SBG), Hamad Bin Khaled Contracting Company W.L.L. (HBK), Ali Bin Ali Holding W.L.L., Sheikh Jabor Bin Mansour Bin Jabor Bin Jassim Al Thani (JM) Holding, Tabeer Care Medical Services, and Al Rawnaq International Commercial Projects, marks a crucial step in strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and Qatar.



## Governor written letter to CM Punjab for appointments to important posts in universities

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman/Chancellor has written a letter to Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz to draw her attention for permanent appointments to the most important posts in universities across Punjab. Governor Punjab said that in the past appointments to the statutory posts were not made in time in the universities across Punjab. He added that due, the most important positions of the universities

including vice chancellor, registrar, treasurers and controller of examinations are lying vacant. He said that these positions play a key role in running the universities in a better way. The Punjab Governor emphasized that immediate steps should be taken for permanent appointments to these positions so that the universities can make progress in the fields of education and research. Meanwhile, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman approved the 28-day ex-Pakistan leave of Principal

Aitchison College Michael A. Thomson. In the absence of Principal Aitchison College, Amna Kamran and Khalid Noon Barsar will look after the administrative affairs in his place. Besides, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman strongly condemned the suicide blast in Shangla. He expressed deep sorrow and regret over the death of six people including Chinese nationals in this incident. Governor Punjab also extended his condolences to the families of the deceased.



GILGIT: Deputy Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Sadia Danish in a meeting with the PPP workers.

## Government ends gas slab discount, moves to flat rate system

ISLAMABAD (INP): The government has abolished the current tiered gas billing system with slabs and discounts, instead moving to a flat rate system for gas consumption. This change will impact domestic and industrial consumers alike, as everyone will be charged the same rate regardless of the amount of gas they use. Under the new system, the price per unit of gas (MMBTU) will be uniform across sectors, including domestic, commercial, general industry, and even export-oriented consumers. The exact price is yet to be finalized and awaits approval. However, it is expected to be around Rs. 4,501 (excluding taxes) for consumers in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad.

This decision comes on the heels of a recent report by Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) for a 147% increase in gas tariffs. During a public hearing, the company argued that the gas price needs to be raised to Rs. 4,446 per MMBTU to reflect production costs. Consumers present at the hearing expressed strong opposition to the proposed hike, highlighting the potential for business closures and rising unemployment due to high gas prices. Stakeholders pointed out that existing gas prices have already forced numerous businesses to shut down, despite the fact that Pakistan sells gas to some customers for as low as \$4 per unit while purchasing it internationally for \$15. The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) chairman acknowledged the concerns of both consumers and gas companies and indicated that a final decision on gas price revisions will be made after careful consideration.

## ANF recovers 640 kg drugs in five operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations across the country managed to recover 640 kg drugs and arrested five accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that 230 kg heroin and 220 kg crystals were recovered from the Western Bypass Quetta area. In the second operation, 100 kg opium and 80 kg hashish were recovered from Mashkil Chagai. In the third operation, 6.8 kg weed was recovered from three accused arrested from Sher Shah Toll Plaza Multan.

## CM decides to establish liver transplant center

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has announced plans to establish a liver transplant and bone marrow transplant center aimed at enhancing healthcare services in the province. The decision was made during a high-level meeting attended by provincial cabinet members, health experts, and officials. The initial liver transplant center is slated to be established at the Institute of Kidney Diseases in Peshawar, with plans to relocate these vital facilities to Khyber Medical University. Additionally, the government aims to provide accessible liver and bone marrow transplant services to the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, thereby mitigating the necessity for individuals to seek treatment outside the province. Moreover, efforts are underway to ensure round-the-clock availability of dialysis services in government hospitals equipped with such amenities, with endeavors to introduce dialysis services in hospitals currently lacking them.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali offering Fateha after funeral prayers of mother of senior journalists Gulzar Khan.

## Qasim stresses Professionalism and innovation in education, healthcare in visit to KMU

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: The Provincial Health Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Syed Qasim Ali Shah, underscored the importance of professionalism and innovation in education and healthcare during his recent visit to Khyber Medical University (KMU). He emphasized that both sectors are top priorities of the government, advocating for the introduction of European model medical facilities in healthcare and market-based subjects in Medical educational institutions. The visit also featured an enlightening presentation by Vice-Chancellor, KMU Prof. Dr. Zia Ul Haq, who highlighted the university's endeavors in expanding physiotherapy, nursing, and allied health sciences programs across Province and Newly merged (NMDs) area.

## AG KP says: Governor can't summon assembly session for oath taking on reserved seats

PESHAWAR (APP): The office of Advocate General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has submitted reply to the Peshawar High Court and the Law Department saying that the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cannot summon assembly session by himself for the swearing-in ceremony of elected members on reserved seats. According to the document, "Assembly meeting can be convened on the advice or requisition of the Chief Minister, calling the meeting by the Governor was an unconstitutional process, so it cannot be implemented." The reply further said that the governor can convene the first meeting after the election by himself, besides, the governor can also convene the meeting in case of no-confidence motion.

## Five senior faculty members of PIBC offer resignation

MULTAN (APP): Five senior faculty members of Pak Italian Modern Burn Centre (PIBC) offered resignation against second time appointment of Executive Director, Dr Naveed Akhtar on political basis and indecent behaviour of senior registrar, Dr Ahmed Ali Malik with senior medics. They sent their resignation to Secretary Specialized Health care and Medical Education, Ali Jan Khan.

## PUC applauds UN resolution on Gaza, condemns attacks on Chinese citizens

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) on Tuesday welcomed the United Nations Security Council resolution on Gaza, affirming that Israel's actions has constituted genocide in Gaza, surpassing even the brutality witnessed during the Second World War. Emphasizing the imperative of implementing the resolution, the Council underscored its significance as a pivotal victory for Islamic and just nations. Pakistan and its people ardently aspired for the establishment of Palestine as a secure and sovereign state, it said adding that demonstrating unwavering solidarity with their oppressed Palestinian brethren, Pakistan and its populace advocated for a fair, comprehensive, and sustainable resolution to the Palestinian conflict. These sentiments were expressed by the Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir

Mahmood Ashrafi, along with esteemed scholars including Allama Abdul Haq Mujahid, Maulana Muhammad Rafiq Jami, Maulana Nauman Hashir, Maulana Asad Zakaria Qasmi, Maulana Muhammad Shafi Qasmi, Maulana Asadullah Farooq, Allama Zubair Abid, Maulana Muhammad Ashfaq Pittafi, Maulana Abu Bakr Hameed Sabri, Maulana Tahir Aqeel Awan, Maulana Aziz Akbar Qasmi, Maulana Haq Nawaz Khalid, Maulana Obaidullah Gormani, Allama Tahirul Hasan, Maulana Hanif Osmari, and Maulana Muhammad Asghar Khosa, among others. Expressing grave concern over the dire situation in Palestine, where over 30,000 Palestinians, including more than 20,000 children and women, have tragically lost their lives since October 7, the religious scholars and leaders highlighted the unprecedented suffering endured by humanity in Gaza.

## Anti-kite flying walk organised in Muzaffargarh

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Kite-flying is completely banned in the district and police would deal violators of the ban with sternly. This was stated by District Traffic Officer, Zafar Hayyat during an awareness walk organized to highlight the dangerous impacts of flying kites here on Tuesday. The walk was attended by local trade unions, members of civil society, and the media. The walk started from the police line after passing through the main bazaar and culminated at Fyaz Chowk.

## NUMS allows engaging IFI in Medical City project

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Board of Directors of the Public Private Partnership Authority (P3A) on Tuesday marked a significant stride towards advancing infrastructure development in the country, with a focus on promoting initiatives for public welfare. The board meeting, chaired Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and Vice Chairperson of the Board Dr Jehanzeb Khan, saw deliberations and approvals on various agenda items, including the pivotal approval of the National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS)

request to engage an International Financial Institution (IFI) for the Medical City Project, a news release said. The NUMS project, focused on establishing a Medical City in Islamabad's Sector I-17, is set to redefine healthcare standards in Pakistan. With a 1600-bed hospital and specialized research institutes, the project aims to enhance medical education, research and patient care. Its phased implementation over 20 years underscores a long-term commitment to advancing healthcare infrastructure and promoting medical excellence nationally and internationally. Dr Jehanzeb Khan emphasized the paramount importance of initiatives geared towards the public good, highlighting the role of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in fostering development that benefits society at large. He underscored the need for P3A to provide support to implementing agencies in conceptualizing their projects, guiding them through the complexities of PPPs, and ensuring that projects were aligned with the overarching goal of public welfare.



LAHORE: Teachers and parents of students of Aitchison College are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, outside Punjab Governor House building in Lahore.

## LHC CJ presides over first meeting with D&SJs

LAHORE (APP): Lahore High Court (LHC) Chief Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmed Khan on Tuesday presided over the first meeting with the district and sessions judges of all 36 districts of Punjab. LHC Registrar Sheikh Khalid Bashir, Director General of District Judiciary Malik Muhammad Sajid Ali Awan, and Senior Additional Registrars of all three allied LHC benches were also present on the occasion. During the deliberations, district and sessions judges from across Punjab voiced their perspectives, laying the groundwork for constructive discourse. Subsequently, Chief

Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmed Khan unveiled a series of immediate directives aimed at bolstering the efficacy and integrity of the judicial process. Among the key initiatives announced:- Implementation of video conferencing technology for evidence recording and argument hearings within the district judiciary; swift dismissal of frivolous litigation upon initial review, with stringent penalties for offenders; mandate for judicial officers to prioritize courtroom presence, with sanctions for prolonged absence; revamping the curriculum of the Punjab Judicial Academy to align with contemporary legal standards.

## ECP issues revised list for upcoming Senate polls

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday issued a revised list of female candidates for upcoming Senate elections to be held on April 2. According to Election Commission notification, four candidates will now contest for two reserved seats of the Senate for women from Punjab. The list features Anusha Rehman and Bushra Anjum Butt, who secured tickets from the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Faiza Malik representing the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), and Sanam Javed nominated by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for the Senate seats in Punjab.

## 16 development schemes worth Rs 72.997b approved

LAHORE (APP): The Provincial Development Working Party, Punjab (PDWP) in its 48th meeting of the current financial year here Tuesday approved 16 development schemes at an estimated cost of Rs 72.997 billion. P&D Board Chairman Barrister Nabeel Ahmad Awan presided over the PDWP meeting that approved the following schemes:

- 1) Channelization of Jabba Nullah Tehsil & District Mianwali at the cost of Rs 960.456 million
- 2) Concrete Lining of Maggi Magassom Link RD 0 to 58500 at the cost of Rs 420.263 million
- 3) Rehabilitation of 6R/Hakra with System at the cost of Rs 461.283 million
- 4) Rehabilitation of 7R/Hakra with System at the cost of Rs 414.936 million.

**In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad**

ZTBL Mansehra Branch (Plaintiff)

*Versus*

(1) Sajjad Ahmed S/o Sher Muhammad R/o Phulra Tehsil & District Mansehra (Defendant)

Whereas the ZTBL Mansehra Branch has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 1145973/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (06-03-2024). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.

Next date of hearing is 09-04-2024

(sd/)

JUDGE  
Banking Court Hazara Division, Abbottabad.

**In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad**

ZTBL Mansehra Branch (Plaintiff)

*Versus*

(1) Farman Shah S/o Muhammad Shah R/o Bakkarar P.O Sher Garh Tehsil Oghi District Mansehra (Defendant)

Whereas the ZTBL Mansehra Branch has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 57369/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (06-03-2024). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.

Next date of hearing is 09-04-2024

(sd/)

JUDGE  
Banking Court Hazara Division, Abbottabad.

**In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad**

ZTBL Mansehra Branch (Plaintiff)

*Versus*

(1) Syed Inayat Hussain S/o Syed Rehman Shah R/o Bagrian (Oghi) Tehsil & District Mansehra (Defendant)

Whereas the ZTBL Mansehra Branch has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 231439/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (06-03-2024). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.

Next date of hearing is 09-04-2024

(sd/)

JUDGE  
Banking Court Hazara Division, Abbottabad.

**In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad**

ZTBL Havelian Branch Abbottabad (Plaintiff)

*Versus*

(1) Sharafat S/o Allah Dad R/o Village and P.O Phulwali Havelian District Abbottabad (Defendant)

Whereas the ZTBL Havelian Branch Abbottabad has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 366708/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (06-03-2024). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.

Next date of hearing is 09-04-2024

(sd/)

JUDGE  
Banking Court Hazara Division, Abbottabad.

**In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad**

ZTBL Balakot Branch Mansehra (Plaintiff)

*Versus*

(1) Fazal ur Rehman S/o Shah Zaman R/o Batang Gari Habibullah Tehsil Balakot District Mansehra (Defendant)

Whereas the ZTBL Balakot Branch Mansehra has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 682068/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (06-03-2024). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.

Next date of hearing is 10-04-2024

(sd/)

JUDGE  
Banking Court Hazara Division, Abbottabad.

**In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad**

ZTBL Balakot Branch Mansehra (Plaintiff)

*Versus*

(1) Abid Hussain Shah S/o Mir Afezal Shah R/o Gali Muhallah Dola Kawai Tehsil Balakot District Mansehra (Defendant)

Whereas the ZTBL Balakot Branch Mansehra has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 385446/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (06-03-2024). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.

Next date of hearing is 10-04-2024

(sd/)

JUDGE  
Banking Court Hazara Division, Abbottabad.

**In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad**

ZTBL Balakot Branch Mansehra (Plaintiff)

*Versus*

(1) Syed Sajid Ali Shah S/o Syed Khalid Hussain Shah R/o Sanjhar Kawai Tehsil Balakot District Mansehra (Defendant)

Whereas the ZTBL Balakot Branch Mansehra has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 309817/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (06-03-2024). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.

Next date of hearing is 10-04-2024

(sd/)

JUDGE  
Banking Court Hazara Division, Abbottabad.



## President calls on provinces to prioritize primary, secondary education for orphans

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday urged provincial governments to take special measures aimed at ensuring access to primary and secondary education for orphaned children across the country.

Stressing the need to actively participate in the cause of education, training and care of orphans, the president said the support and education of orphans was a common responsibility of all of us.

He was speaking at an iftar dinner hosted by him for the orphaned children at the President House on the occasion of Orphans Day.

Every year on 15th of Ramadan, the World Orphan's Day is celebrated on the call of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in all the member countries.

President Zardari said he was delighted to meet the innocent and charming children.

Aseefa Bhutto Zardari was also present at the ceremony. She also met orphans from different cities.

Chairman Pakistan Orphan Care Forum (POCF) Air Marshal (ret) Ferooz Habib addressing the event said the POCF was working for the upbringing and care of orphans. He said healthy societies always care for the development and education of the vulnerable, especially orphans. He said there were about 4.6 million orphans in the country while the POCF was taking care of around 100,000 orphan children.

Expressing gratitude to President Asif Zardari, the Chairman POCF said inviting children to the presidency would increase their confidence and motivation.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari addressing the Iftar-Dinner hosted by him for children from different orphanages of the country on the occasion of Orphans Day in Islamic World, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi visits the Chinese Embassy and met with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong to offer condolences over the death of Chinese nationals in a suicide attack.

## 486 dead, 510 hurt in 110JK fire incidents in six years

ISLAMABAD (APP): Data obtained through the Right to Information (RTI) Act indicates a devastating toll of 486 fatalities and 510 injuries in fire-related incidents, many went untraced, across occupied Jammu and Kashmir over the past six years.

Activist MM Shuja's RTI query uncovered a staggering total of 26,354 fire incident calls received by the Fire and Emergency Services Department from January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2023, KMS reported.

During this period, 486 individuals lost their lives, with 510 others sustaining injuries in various fire accidents. Tragically, nine employees or firefighters also perished while performing their duties.

A breakdown of the data by year illustrates a consistent trend of fire-related tragedies. In 2018, 104 fatalities and 99 injuries were reported from 5,314 fire-related calls. Similar patterns persisted in subsequent years, with 103 deaths and 105 injuries in 2019, 86 deaths and 58 injuries in 2020, 106 fatalities and 62 injuries in 2021, and 68 deaths and 140 injuries in 2022.

Despite the high volume of calls in 2023, there was a slight improvement, with only 19 fatalities and 46 injuries recorded amidst 4,451 fire incident reports received by the department.

Moreover, the RTI data underscores deficiencies within the Fire and Emergency Services Department and in terms of medical facilities. Additionally, while the cause of many fires remains untraceable, the Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS) has highlighted the normalization of civilian property destruction.

## HC train 100 journalists on climate journalism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Over 100 journalists from 35 media outlets and research organizations participated in a practical training from the British High Commission on climate journalism.

Journalists gained in-depth knowledge on complex climate change and nature protection issues, discussed how journalism is at the frontlines of climate change, explored how to find real climate stories on the ground and practised telling climate stories, said a news release.

They discussed challenges that can exist around climate journalism, how to centre women and girls in climate stories, and made commitments to tell climate stories in future.

The journalists reflected on the importance of finding and telling stories of community action related to climate change going out to the field in search of climate stories.

They discussed how climate journalism can both help people to understand the impact climate change has on them, and inspire them to take action.

Speaking on the occasion, British High Commission Development Director Jo Moir said: "We're delighted to bring together journalists to discuss the critical issue of climate change and biodiversity loss. Journalists play a pivotal role in helping Pakistani people understand how climate change affects them."

## CDA reconstitutes inspection team to ensure transparency in Islamabad Housing Schemes

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a bid to enhance transparency and ensure the legitimacy of housing schemes in Islamabad, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) has reconstituted an Inspection Committee tasked with verifying the physical aspects of these projects.

The decision was made during the meeting of the CDA Board, said a senior official on Tuesday.

The reconstitution of the committee comes as a response to the need for thorough verification of housing schemes in the capital city.

Recognizing the importance of this task, the CDA Board approved the composition of the Inspection Committee, which will be chaired by the Member Engineering of the CDA.

The five-member committee comprises officials from various departments within the CDA, including the Director of Building Control, the Cost Accountant from the Finance Department.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb heard the appeals against the conviction of PTI's founder and former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi in CIPHER case.

## CM Maryam, Nawaz Sharif meet PML-N MNAs, MPAs, THs from Faisalabad division

Independent Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif and PML-N Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif had a meeting with PML-N MNAs, MPAs and THs from Faisalabad Division, who apprised the Chief Minister about issues and development needs of their constituencies.

Madam Chief Minister said, "More than 48 lakh Ramadan Nigahban hampers have been distributed across Punjab." She added, "A comprehensive system of solid waste management is being implemented in 36 districts of the province."

Other innovative projects for the public welfare.

PML-N Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif said on the occasion, "Together we will bring Pakistan back to its place."

He added, "Had our government not been removed, Pakistan would have been on the heights of development."

He explained, "Everyone has seen what the illegal invaders have done to this country. Not only PML-N but the state of Pakistan was also abused."

The Parliamentarians congratulated Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on the successful completion of Ramadan Nigahban Package. They also thanked Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif for "Suthra Punjab" Programme and

pressed their desire to further enhance the bilateral cooperation between the two nations.

## IHC adjourns PTI founder, Qureshi's appeals in cipher case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday adjourned appeals till tomorrow against the conviction of PTI's founder and former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi in CIPHER case.

## Pakistan, Japan pledge to work together towards achieving common goals

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan and Japan on Tuesday agreed to work together in achieving common goals

for the benefit of people of two countries.



The Japanese Ambassador congratulated the Finance Minister on assuming the office.

The Minister for Finance & Revenue welcomed the Ambassador and stated that the Government is committed to undertake reforms to bring macroeconomic stability and sustainability.

A press release issued after the meeting said that both the dignities have expressed their desire to further enhance the bilateral cooperation between the two nations.

The resolve was expressed during a meeting between Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Mitsuhiro Wada, during his meeting with Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb in Islamabad today.

He stated that increasing the tax to GDP ratio remains a priority area.

## IGP advises public to discourage beggars during Ramadan

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Inspector general of police (IGP) for the federal capital Dr Akbar Nasir Khan Tuesday advised public to avoid showing sympathy for the professional panhandlers during the holy month of Ramadan and to instead donate to recognized charities.



Talking to a private news channel, he said people need to reach out to deserving families and individuals because begging is not acceptable in society, adding, it is social media users responsibility to educate people about the importance of giving their donations to legitimate charity organizations which will then distribute them to deserving families.

He noted that Islamabad police is working tirelessly to curb the crime, especially in areas frequented by beggars during Ramadan, such as mosques, markets, residential neighborhoods, and parking lots.

He noted that Islamabad police is working tirelessly to curb the crime, especially in areas frequented by beggars during Ramadan, such as mosques, markets, residential neighborhoods, and parking lots.

Instead of giving alms, the public has been encouraged to donate to registered charities and non-profit organisations, he said.

Residents can also help the police eradicate illegal practices by reporting beggars, he added.

Most beggars exploit people's religious and charitable sentiments to make easy money, police warned.

## Maryam to launch "Roshan Gharana Program: get rid of bill with light

Independent Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif announced to give 50,000 solar systems across Punjab under Chief Minister Roshan Gharana Program. She was chairing a review meeting on Solar home soluWith the Budget outlay of Rs 12.6 billion, 50,000 protected consumers using 100 units monthly will be given solar systems through balloting In Phase-I. Gradually home based solar systems will be provided to other consumers of Punjab. A solar system will include advanced solar plate, inverter, battery and other allied accessories.

Madam Chief Minister directed to initiate immediate steps for the installation of one kilowatt solar systems. She also directed to bring in solar systems of the latest technology.

The event brought together industry experts, academia, and members from the Ministry of Water Resources to witness the ongoing efforts towards ensuring the responsible and efficient use of water resources in the region, according to a news release. The Ravi River Restoration Project, funded by the Coca-Cola Foundation in partnership with WWF-Pakistan.

## IHC summons authorized of interior ministry on April 3 on petition against closure of X

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has summoned authorized officer of interior ministry on April 3 in connection with petition against closure of social media platform X.

Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamer Farooq remarked we call any one from interior ministry and ask from him. May be it is not liked by some one whatever is written. Much is written on judiciary. Things have changed during 30 years. You can impose curbs under some rules and regulation.

The case regarding closure of social media platform X came up for hearing Tuesday in IHC.

Written reply was filed by PTA in IHC.

## AdVentures delegation calls on Shaza

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, held a constructive meeting with the delegation of AdVentures.

The delegation, led by the head of the company, Parvez Abbasi, briefed the Minister of State regarding the preparations for World Telecom Day.

During the meeting, Minister of State Shaza Fatima said that Pakistan possesses abundant talent, yet there exists a crucial need to elevate Pakistan's branding at the global level, according to a news release.

She reiterated that the government is extending all possible support to the private sector in this endeavor.

## CPDI urges immediate appointment of members to Balochistan Info Commission

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) extends warm greetings to Mr. Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, Chief Minister of Balochistan, on his recent assumption of office. While congratulating Mr. Bugti, CPDI emphasizes the imperative need for him to ensure the implementation of the Balochistan Right to Information Act, 2021.

CPDI recognizes the paramount importance of transparency and accountability in governance, essential pillars for a thriving democracy. In light of this, CPDI underscores the urgency of fulfilling the legal mandate set forth in the Balochistan Right to Information Act, 2021.

Members to the Balochistan Information Commission remains pending," says Mukhtar Ahmad Ali, Executive Director of CPDI. "This delay not only contravenes the law but also undermines the fundamental principles of transparency and accountability envisaged by the Balochistan Right to Information Act."

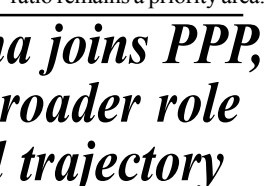
Access to information is an inalienable right enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan. Recognizing its paramount importance in fostering good governance, combating corruption, and ensuring public institutions' accountability.

## Senator Talha joins PPP, envisions broader role in political trajectory

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood, on Tuesday, announced to join the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) alongside his associates, envisioning a broader national role in his political trajectory.

In a press conference held here at the PPP Central Secretariat's Media Cell, he informed that his allegiance to the PPP stemmed from invitations extended by President Asif Ali Zardari and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Senator Talha, underscoring the significance of his move, said his previous affiliation solely with the Jamiat Ulema Islam-Fazl, marking this transition as the inaugural departure from his established political journey.



ISLAMABAD: Ms. Aseefa Bhutto Zardari in a group photo with children from different orphanages on the occasion of Iftar-Dinner hosted by the President on Orphans Day in the Islamic World, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

He stated that increasing the tax to GDP ratio remains a priority area.

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## Envoy urges Social media influencers to promote ideal conduct among Pakistanis in UAE

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan to the United Arab Emirates Faisal Niaz Tirmizi urged the social media influencers to play their effective role in educating Pakistani community members living in UAE to demonstrate an ideal conduct.

The ambassador, addressing a gathering of Pakistani community members and social media influencers at an iftar reception at the Consulate General of Pakistan in Dubai, said the positive conduct should be fostered while giving due respect to UAE laws, rules, norms and traditions and its policies, said a press release received on Tuesday.

He said that around 1.8 million Pakistanis residing and working in the UAE were a source of livelihood for as many families.

He urged Pakistani community members to work collectively for positively representing Pakistan.

## WWF-Pakistan highlights vital role of ground water recharge

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): WWF-Pakistan arranged a field visit to the University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Lahore, where two groundwater recharge wells have been constructed as part of the Ravi River Restoration Project.

The event brought together industry experts, academia, and members from the Ministry of Water Resources to witness the ongoing efforts towards ensuring the responsible and efficient use of water resources in the region, according to a news release. The Ravi River Restoration Project, funded by the Coca-Cola Foundation in partnership with WWF-Pakistan.

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CPDI recognizes the paramount importance of transparency and accountability in governance, essential pillars for a thriving democracy. In light of this, CPDI underscores the urgency of fulfilling the legal mandate set forth in the Balochistan Right to Information Act, 2021.

## IFA signs MoU with NIH to bolster food testing capabilities

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Director Operations (DDO) of Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) Dr Tahira Saddique on Tuesday said that the IFA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Institute of Health (NIH) towards ensuring the safety of consumables in the Federal Capital.

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