

# Independent

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## Visits Ministry of Defence Production Govt keen to provide support to progress of defence production industry: Asif

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence Production Khawaja Muhammad Asif says the government is keen to provide maximum support to progress of defence production industry of the country. He was speaking during his visit to the Ministry in Rawalpindi on Friday. On arrival, the Minister was received by Secretary Defence Production Lieutenant General Muhammad Chiragh Haider and was introduced to the key appointment holders of the Ministry, a news release said. The Minister was given an introductory briefing regarding the Ministry's executive departments and organizational structure. The briefing was attended by senior officers of the Ministry of Defence Production. The Defence Production Minister appreciated the performance and contribution of the defence industrial sector and its due role in modernizing the defence capabilities of Pakistan. He also appreciated the contribution of the defence industry in the social sector. The Minister later as a special mark, lauded Defence industry's role in earning much required foreign exchange.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Executive Officer of Barrick Gold, Mark Bristow along with a delegation calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## Barrick Gold delegation calls on Premier

### Reko Diq project will prove to be game changer: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of Barrick Gold Company led by Chief Executive Officer Mark Bristow was called Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday and informed the delegation that the feasibility of the Reko Diq project in Balochistan would be completed by end of current year. The prime minister

said that Reko Diq project would prove to be a game changer for the development of Balochistan and the region. "This project will usher in a new era of development of the province and prosperity of the people," he added. He said planning would be made regarding communication infrastructure, especially railway

lines, to take full advantage of minerals in Balochistan. The prime minister asked Barrick Gold to also invest in other mineral projects in the province. He also proposed that the government and the Barrick Gold could collaborate to establish a technical university in Chagai district of the province. The government is taking all possible measures to facilitate investors especially in the fields of road and communication systems, he remarked. Briefing on the progress of Reko Diq project, the Barrick Gold delegation informed the meeting that the Reko Diq project feasibility would be completed by end of current year.

## USAID to support reconstruction of school buildings in flood-affected areas

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in his meeting with United States Consul General Mr Conrad Tribble and USAID Pakistan Mission Director Ms Kate Somvongsiri discussed expanding the scope of the USAID program, particularly in the education sector. The meeting was held at the CM House and was attended by Chairman P&D Najam Shah and Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh. The CM thanked the USAID for working in the education sector in Sindh and urged the USAID Pakistan Chief to expand the scope and help to construct flood-affected school buildings. The USAID Pakistan chief Ms Kate Somvongsiri said that the USAID would work with the Sindh government to chalk out the plan for the reconstruction of flood-affected school buildings. The chief minister directed Chairman P&D Najam Shah to hold a meeting with the USAID team and finalize the plan. Under the Sindh Basic Education Program (SBEP) the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has constructed 104 schools in 11 districts recently. Out of 104 schools, 103 have been made functional where the total enrolment of students is recorded at 63,969, including 18,911 girls. The goal of the program SBEP is to increase and sustain student enrollment in primary, middle, and secondary schools in targeted geographic locations in Sindh by developing a school environment conducive to teaching and learning. Ms Kate Somvongsiri told the CM that USAID was interested in working in the mother-child nutrition program. The CM thanked her for the support and said that his government has a Social Protection Department which looks after these programs.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Defence Production, Khawaja Muhammad Asif chairs an introductory meeting on arrival in Ministry of Defence Production.

## President approves remission for prisoners on Pak Day, Eid ul Fitr

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday approved remission for the prisoners on the occasion of Pakistan Day annually observed on March 23 and Eid ul Fitr. The president granted a remission of 90 days each, for both occasions in sentences exercising his powers under Article 45 of the Constitution and Rule 15-A of the Rules of Business. However, the remission would not be applicable on the prisoners involved in murder, espionage and anti-state activities. Besides, the prisoners involved in rape, theft, robbery, kidnapping, terrorism and financial crimes, would also be ineligible for the remission. The reduction in sentences would be applicable on the male prisoners of over 65 years age and female prisoners of over 60 years age, who had completed one-third of the sentence. The juvenile prisoners, who had completed one third of their sentence would also be entitled for the remission.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Alzaabi calls on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.

## Shahera Shahid highlights govt's commitment to strengthen Radio Pakistan

KARACHI (APP): Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Shahera Shahid on Friday, underscored the crucial role played by the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (Radio Pakistan), emphasizing its extensive reach across the nation with news delivery in multiple languages. During her visit to the PBC office, she addressed various issues including Radio Pakistan's financial matters such as liabilities, salaries, and pensions, which are currently being discussed at higher levels for prompt resolution. Furthermore, she mentioned the government's deliberation on enhancing financial self-sustainability for institutions with high expenses. The burden of power utility bills on Radio Pakistan is also being addressed through collaboration with the Power Division. Notably, efforts have been made to ensure timely pension payments, which were previously delayed, benefiting pensioners. Secretary Shahera Shahid underscored the government's efforts to uplift Radio Pakistan and its workforce, including the adoption of government scales. Improvements in transmitters are underway to guarantee seamless transmission, alongside the establishment of a centralized broadcast setup in Rawat, Islamabad. Moreover, organizational measures are being implemented to provide medical facilities for employees, while Radio Pakistan's properties are being leveraged for organizational enhancement and employee welfare.

## Murad strongly condemns attack on security forces

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has strongly condemned the suicide attack on a convoy of security forces in DI Khan. In his statement issued here Friday, he condoled with the bereaved families of martyred soldiers. The Chief Minister said that they stood shoulder to shoulder with the families in this hour of grief. He also paid tributes to the martyred soldiers.

## China to assist Pakistan in stabilizing its financial situation: Vice Premier

BRUSSELS (APP): Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday held a meeting with Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Guoqing wherein the latter underlined that China would assist Pakistan in stabilizing its financial situation. In the meeting held on the sidelines of the First Nuclear Energy Summit in Brussels, both sides agreed on the importance of the longstanding cooperation between Pakistan and China in civil nuclear technology.

## Mayor Karachi meets family of martyred Lt. Col. Syed Kashif Ali

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab and Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad on Friday visited the residence of martyred Lt. Col. Syed Kashif Ali and expressed their condolences with his family members. They paid their respects to the martyred Lt. Col. Syed Kashif Ali of Pakistan Army. Expressing great sorrow over the incident, he prayed that may Allah grant the martyred Lt. Col. Syed Kashif Ali a high place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and grant patience to the bereaved family, said a statement on Friday.

## PM, Saudi Fund delegation discuss development projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), led by Sultan Bin Abdul Rehman Al Marshad, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), SFD, during its visit to Pakistan called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif here on Friday and discussed its ongoing projects in Pakistan.

The Prime Minister welcomed the delegation and appreciated the long-standing friendship between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan and the efforts of SFD for providing financing to Pakistan in the fields of Health, Energy, Infrastructure and Education as well the recent floods.

The CEO, SFD thanked the Prime Minister and Government of Pakistan for the warm welcome and hospitality as well as the conferment of the National Civil Award, Hilal-e-Quaid-e-Azam.

The Prime Minister also appreciated the signing of Financial Agreements, early today, between SFD and the Government of Pakistan worth US\$ 107 million for construction of Hydropower stations in AJK, which would not only provide clean energy but would also help eradicate the menace of deforestation, besides providing job opportunities to the local population.



KARACHI: Pakistan Navy, officials handing over seized liquor worth PKR 145.6 million to Pakistan Customs.

## Draft policy to be prepared on production of LIQUID GAS from Thar coal: Minister

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister of Energy, Development and Planning Syed Nasir Hussain Shah decided that a provincial level and draft policy will be made in relation to the production of LIQUID (GAS) and (REA) fertilizers from Thar coal. He was speaking in a high-level meeting of Sindh Coal Authority held in the office of the Energy Department, said a statement on Friday. Consultant Dr. Farid A. Malik, Deputy Director Asif Mangi and Umeer Ali Qaimkhani were also present. A detailed briefing was given in the meeting regarding producing gas from coal.

According to the test results, the consultant submitted a new report according to which Thar coal was declared subject for gasification in the international laboratory of South Africa. The meeting was also informed that as a result of gas production from coal. The country can save about 500 million dollars in foreign exchange annually. In terms of gas import, if we build an emergency system from Thar's 175 billion tons of coal reserves and we can reduce the energy import bill by 50 percent, while green Pollution can also be avoided with coal technology.

## SHC orders action against shopkeepers overcharging during Ramadan

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court has directed authorities to take action against shopkeepers who charge more than the prices set by the Commissioner of Basic Necessities for essential commodities during Ramadan. A two-judge bench headed by Chief Justice Sindh High Court, Justice Aqeel Ahmad Abbasi, heard a petition concerning the sale of essential items at inflated prices during the holy month.

## IMF demands 18% GST on petrol

ISLAMABAD (INP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has demanded Pakistan to implement 18 percent General Sales Tax (GST) on Petrol. As per details, the Monetary Fund has asked Pakistan to end sales tax relaxation on all items including petrol. The newly elected government of Pakistan should also implement sales tax on petroleum products along with a Rs 60 levy to increase the tax income. Earlier, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) recommended the government of Pakistan implement an 18 percent General Sales Tax (GST) on food, medicine, petroleum products, and stationery.



LONDON: Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar shakes hand with UK Minister of State for South Asia and Commonwealth, Lord Tariq Ahmad.

## Bilawal pays tribute to Nusrat Bhutto on her 95th birth anniversary

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has paid glowing tribute to the Madar-e-Jamhooriat Begum Nusrat Bhutto, on the occasion of her 95th birth anniversary. In a statement on Friday, he said that late Begum Nusrat Bhutto epitomized nobility and unwavering dedication to the cause of democracy. Her life stands as a testament to patience, perseverance, and boundless sacrifices for the betterment of the nation, said a press release issued by the Media Cell Bilawal House. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said, "In her unwavering quest for justice and the rights of the Pakistani people, Begum Bhutto endured incomprehensible personal losses, including the tragic sacrifices of her beloved husband and three cherished children: Shaheed Mohtama Benazir Bhutto, Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto and Shaheed Shahnawaz Bhutto." He said that Madar-e-Jamhooriat's legacy remains a timeless fountain of inspiration, symbolizing the resolve and bravery needed to confront injustice and oppression.



HYDERABAD: Sindh Prisons Minister, Ali Hassan Zardari interacts with prisoners during his surprise visit at Central Jail to review the facilities in the jail, in Hyderabad.

## Chief Secretary suspends MD WASA for misconduct, bad performance

HYDERABAD (APP): The Sindh Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah has suspended the Managing Director of Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA), Hyderabad, Zahid Khemtio on account of misconduct and failure in performance of his duties. According to a notification issued on Friday, during his visit to Hyderabad the Chief Secretary found sewage puddles flowing over several roads in the city. The city's main arteries and several main roads, Circuit House, the roads leading the Sindh High Court and lower courts were all filled with sewage water. The notification stated that the Chief Secretary also received complaints against Khemtio from the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Hyderabad. The officers said BS-19 Khemtio did not respond well whenever they contacted him. The Chief Secretary also stated that he attended a court hearing as a respondent on Friday and the matter pertained to supply of contaminated water, shortage of water and drainage. During the period of his suspension Khemtio would report at the Services, General Administration and Coordination Department. He would be able to draw his salary during the period of suspension. Khemtio served WASA as its MD for a second stint for a period of less than 2 months during which he not only drew flake from the citizens for poor water supply and drainage but also suffled feathers of some of his subordinate employees.



KARACHI: Federal Secretary Information and Broadcasting, Shahera Shahid addresses during visit at Radio Pakistan Building.



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Reactivating Nacta**

Confronted with a complex wave of terrorist violence, the state has little choice but to 'restructure' the National Counter Terrorism Authority, as the interior minister stated on Wednesday. Mohsin Naqvi was attending a meeting at the Nacta headquarters on the day Baloch separatists stormed the Gwadar Port Authority Complex, while only a few days earlier, militants believed to be associated with the Hafiz Gul Bahadur group had staged a deadly attack, martyring security personnel in North Waziristan.

The current terrorist threat is varied both ideologically and geographically, and over the last few years, particularly after the Afghan Taliban's capture of Kabul in 2021, militants have been further emboldened and have staged a large number of attacks in Pakistan.

Formed in 2009 in the midst of an earlier terrorist insurgency, Nacta — though it is supposed to be the state's primary counterterrorism organ — has been largely sidelined by the rulers after initial successes against militancy. Though envisioned as a 'one-window operation' to corral national CT efforts, the agency has not been empowered with the tools necessary to deliver on its mandated goals. Instead, the CT effort has been dominated by the military and its intelligence apparatus. While the military undoubtedly has a central role to play in rooting out terrorism, the militarised CT approach has its limits, particularly in urban areas, where civilian law-enforcement bodies, and related long-term CT strategies, are required to complement kinetic efforts. It is also essential that while Nacta provides the operational framework, the ideological element of the CT effort is guided by the National Action Plan. NAP, formulated after the 2014 APS massacre, was updated in 2021; the interior minister also reiterated the state's resolve to implement the plan "at any cost".

NAP specifically mentions the reconciliation process in Balochistan, as well as reforms in KP's merged districts, in its latest iteration. These ideas must not remain on paper, and need to be implemented with full vigour if the state is to uproot militancy permanently. In both instances — Baloch separatism as well as religiously inspired militancy in KP — poverty, deprivation and the state's apparent disinterest in the welfare of the populations of these affected areas, have contributed to swelling the militants' ranks. Therefore, to address the considerable CT challenges, Nacta must be fully empowered to coordinate the state's fight against terrorism. Moreover, civilian LEAs, particularly the provincial counterterrorism departments, should be provided with funds, equipment and training to pre-empt terrorist violence and break militant networks. Along with kinetic measures, NAP should be implemented in letter and spirit. In particular, sectarian and extremist actors that remain active in society must be put out of business. These malignant forces provide the ideological background that produces the violent foot soldiers powering terrorist insurgencies.

**Fifty is the new 40**

Mohsin Fareed

Historically, the term 'generation' is used to explain relationships amongst family members — grandparents, parents and children. However, the word now alludes more to (six) social generations: the Silents (1925-1945), Boomers (1946-1964), Gen X (1965-1979), Millennials (1980-1994), Gen Z (1995-2012), and Gen Alpha (born after 2013). The era in which one is born sometimes changes one's deportment and personal attributes more than the family that brings him up.

The study of generations is a useful tool to understand history as well as look at the future. Historic perspectives associate generations with events in history; like the Vietnam War for Boomers; fears of nuclear war with Russia for Gen X; 9/11 for Millennials; and the Covid-19 pandemic for Gen Z. The problem with this approach is that it does not account for cultural changes encountered during the intervening years. Expressing one's views on politics by attending a protest or writing a letter to the editor in the past is now accomplished by the inscription of a few words on a smartphone. As opposed to major events like wars and pandemics that revolve in circles, these cultural changes are linear, moving year after year in the same direction. So, what drives this cultural change? The answer is technology.

In today's world, the way we think, live, communicate, and interact has been completely revolutionised by technology. As expressed by Prof Jean Twenge, this technological model of generations is a new generational theory for the modern world. Technology has shattered the spokes of the old genera-

tional cycle with everlasting impact on the world today by influencing our societal norms. According to this model, technology has made individualism possible. Mere existence was a challenge up until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with almost no time for thinking about oneself in the absence of clean drinking water, refrigeration, automobiles, central heating and washing machines. It was a collective integral living effort by societies. In comparison, as technology has relieved us of the chores of life, we have more time to think of our aspirations.

In addition to the direct linear impact of technology, generational differences are better understood by two intertwined factors that define the 21<sup>st</sup>-century generation: individualism and a slower life ambit. Whereas the former focuses on the self, the latter pertains to longevity. Individualism has different implications in different world cultures. Whereas the individualistic culture of the US considers personal space and freedom and equality as important factors, inclusive cultures such as South Korea emphasise group consensus and abiding by the rules. Although every industrialised nation cannot be individualistic, every individualistic country is an industrialised nation. Individualism also promotes equality based on sex, race, ethnicity, and transgender status. Recently, equality has been one of the most important forces driving cultural generational change evident in the Civil Rights Movement, Black Lives Matter, #Me Too and transgender rights awareness.

Another cultural shift shaped by technology is the impact it has on society by making the average lifetime longer. Infant mortality has dropped from one in six in the late 1800s to one in 200 in 2020, resulting in an overall slower life course, as shown by a recent study utilising eight aging biomarkers where 40-59 years old Americans were two to three years and those from 60-79 years about four years younger biologically than the same age group in 1988-94. Today, fewer children are doing things on their own, teens are becoming less independent, young adults are postponing adult milestones, middle-aged people are younger, with 50 being the new 40 and people remaining healthier past retirement. Modern healthcare, birth control, labour-saving devices and a knowledge-based economy requiring more years of formal education are among the factors causing sluggish life curves.

Protipiously, we live in the era of Big Data that can compare generations of the past with those of the present and get a glimpse of the future. Individuality in the current generation means choices based on personal preferences alone, whereas societies are interconnected and dependent on personal interactions. Since the surging popularity of social media, the lives of people of all ages have been affected, with the largest effects observed in younger people.

As a result, we see that their social and communication skill sets is different from those of older people; they prefer to stay indoors and do work from home. The technologically-advanced data-driven generation of today might create interesting political, workplace and domestic dimensions in future societies. As generations grow, so does the world. -- Courtesy Dawn

**The true hero**

Zubeida Mustafa

Pakistan enjoys the dubious distinction of being the fifth most populous state in the world. But unlike the four countries that precede it in population size, Pakistan has been unable to manage its demographic growth and economy to its advantage. The shocking revelation made by the census last year was that Pakistan's population had grown faster in the last five years. The annual growth rate was 2.55 per cent. It had been 2.4 pc in the 2017 census.

Other indicators are no better. The Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey 2017-2018 puts the total fertility rate at 3.6pc and the contraceptive prevalence rate at an appallingly low 34pc (which includes more than 10pc users of highly unreliable customary methods). The unmet need is 17pc. This data discredits the government's performance, and testifies to the disinterest of our rulers in improving the quality of life of the people.

There are many factors that account for the rapid rise in numbers. The most important is officialdom's reluctance to bring the population issue into the public discourse. There is no open debate on it. Along with this silence is the unwillingness of opinion-makers to take action against patriarchal structures and practices in our society. As a result, the status of women remains low. The UN has been convening international conferences periodically on population development. The Cairo conference of 1994 was a landmark one as it adopted the Programme of Action and for the first time there was a paradigm shift from controlling population as an economic compulsion to the human rights dimension

of individual men and women. A Shirkatgah report describes the emphasis on education, especially for girls; gender equity; infant, child and maternal mortality reduction; the provision of universal access to reproductive health services, and the inclusion of family planning and sexual health in the programme to empower women and girls. This is one of the most reliable pathways to the improved well-being of all.

All this has been beyond Pakistan. In the pre-Zia 1970s, the population programme had made a reasonably good start. Population centres were scattered all over the country, and motivators and counsellors played an effective role in getting people to become acceptors. The population growth rate fell to 1.9pc. Then came a dark age for women and the progress achieved was reversed. Now I see light at the end of the population tunnel.

I often hear from people working in this sector that they meet women who confide in them that they do not want many children but their partners do not agree. So some seek to space their children on the quiet. But they are unsure if that is a wise thing to do given their men's demand for large families. Since women have traditionally been the focus of birth control strategies and male motivators have never been the forte of any population programme in Pakistan, this is creating an unrecognised dilemma.

Now we have an answer offered by a remarkable Lady Health Worker in Khera Dero. She is Mashkoora, a widow aged 43 and the mother of seven. Mashkoora has endeared herself to her clients. Called 'Maasi' by the women she has emerged as their sav-

our. Mashkoora was hired by the Ali Hasan Mangi Memorial Trust (AHMMT) as a motivator and counsellor to persuade women to space their children and have themselves sterilised if they already had a large family. Her achievement? In a span of two years, she has personally arranged for the tubal ligation of 144 women, made numerous couples acceptors and created a demand for family planning advice.

Mashkoora's real feat is her ability to talk to men and persuade them to be-co-me acceptors. I asked her how she manages this in our patriarchal society. She tells me she has no qualms about talking to men on the issue. She is persuasive and explains to the men the ill effects of frequent pregnancies on a woman's health, and worse still, the neglect children suffer from when there are too many of them. She says she reminds them of how it affects them adversely. Mashkoora may be illiterate but she is worldly-wise. She has educated her children and knows what would appeal to a man. For instance, she tells me that she introduces herself as Mashkoora from AHMMT. That is half the work done as all the people from the 44 villages she visits are beneficiaries of one or the other of the Trust's projects — house-building, toilets, solar panels, school, healthcare, micro-loans, etc. A bond of mutual trust already exists that Mashkoora uses to her advantage.

Without her even knowing it, Mashkoora is what the paradigm shift, that was witnessed at the UN International Conference on Population and Development, suggests: treat family planning as a matter of human rights rather than economic compulsion. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**Pakistan eyes \$300 mln by selling Panda Bonds to Chinese investors**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Muhammad Aurangzeb said Friday that he was keen to tap Chinese investors by selling as much as \$300 million in Panda bonds for the first time ever this year.

deapest bond market in the world" and it is the "right thing to do for the country" to tap the market, given Pakistan has already sold dollar and eurobonds, he said.

Aurangzeb said that initial Panda bond sale would be about \$250 million to \$300 million, which would be followed by further issuances.

The finance minister said that government's cash balances are strong enough and it's able to pay its debts on time.

"We should have looked at quite frankly some time back," he said.

China has the "second-largest and

"I don't really see a huge pressure on the rupee at this point in time," he said.

"As we go forward, I think it's going to remain range bound around these levels." The "wildcard" is oil prices, he added, which remain uncertain given the Red Sea attacks.

Pakistan's rupee is up 1.3% this year, according to local pricing compiled by Bloomberg, among the best-performing currencies in Asia.

According to Bloomberg report, Aurangzeb's most pressing challenge is negotiating new loans with the International Monetary

Fund (IMF) to help bolster the country's reserves right after the current bailout program ends in April.

Bloomberg quoted IMF as having said earlier this week that Pakistan has expressed interest in a new medium-term program to improve its fiscal and external weaknesses and strengthen its economic recovery.

According to report, Aurangzeb said Pakistan will seek a new loan program from the IMF of at least three years. Further details will be discussed after the Washington-based lender's annual spring meetings, he said.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding reforms in Pakistan's IT sector.



Dr. Walid Abdulwahab, Director IsDB Regional Hub Turkey and Dr. Kazim niaz Secretary Ministry of Economic Affairs signing the Agreement on 22nd March 2024 in Islamabad.

**CEO Jazz advocates for policy reforms to ensure industry viability**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Executive Officer of Jazz and Chairman of the Telecom Operators Association of Pakistan (ToAP) Amir Ibrahim on Friday held a significant meeting with the Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja.

of the telecom sector's vital contributions to bolstering Pakistan's digital infrastructure. Highlighting a substantial investment of \$5.7 billion over the past five years, the sector has significantly contributed Rs. 1.27 trillion to the national exchequer, while fuelling broadband penetration from 32% in 2019 to 54.9% in 2024.

**RCCI urges youth to lead "Plant for Pak" drive**

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has urged the youth to lead "Plant for Pakistan" under vision Green Punjab Initiative 2024-27. RCCI President and Chairman RWMC, Saqib Rafiq while addressing the ceremony at a plantation and clean-up campaign, urged the younger generation to plant more saplings.

**Minister stresses need for in-farm water management sector**

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Minister for Agriculture Muhammad Sajjad here Friday highlighted the importance of in-farm water management sector in the development of agriculture. He said that the role of water management in the orderly arrangement of water for agricultural purposes in the province is unquestionable. The Minister expressed these

views on the occasion of visiting the Directorate General of Farm Water Management in Peshawar to take a briefing on infarm Water Management.

The sector should adopt better planning now in view of the concerns and need for future water scarcity due to global climate change. In view of the concerns and need of water shortage in the future, adopt better planning than now.

**Dr Musadik, US Ambassador discuss investment opportunities**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr Musadik Malik and Ambassador of the United States, Donald Blome Friday discussed technology transfer, investment opportunities, capacity-building initiatives in the energy sector, and regional projects.

During the meeting with Dr Malik, the ambassador extended his congratulations on assuming the office and

expressed high hopes for the transformation of the energy sector. The minister appreciated Ambassador Blome for always extending his support and reaffirmed that together, both countries can achieve shared energy goals.

Ways and means to promote a sustainable carbon-friendly footprint, renewables, and green hydrogen were also discussed, said a news release.

**PM seeks comprehensive strategy for increase in IT exports**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday sought a comprehensive strategy for increase in information technology exports of the country on priority basis.

economy. The capacity of the information technology sector to boost the country's economy would be utilized, he added.

He said every sector of the economy would be modernized with the use of technology.

Youth would be provided facilities of international level to equip them with knowledge and skills of the present age in the sector of information technology, he added.

The services of the information technology

experts would be hired for advancement of the IT sector, he remarked.

The meeting was informed that a strategy was being prepared for reforms in the information technology sector and digitisation. The strategy included increasing access of people to the internet, improvement of digital infrastructure, e-governance, training of youth in digital skills and increase of business opportunities in the IT sector.

**Shipping activity at Port Qasim**

KARACHI (APP): Three ships namely, APL Southampton, Bolan and Patras, carrying Container, Gas oil and LPG berthed at Container Terminal, FOTCO Terminal and Engro Terminal respectively on Thursday. A total of eight ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them general cargo carrier "Trans Spring" left the Port on today morning while five more ships, APL Southampton, Tethis-7, Patras, Evriali and Crater are expected to sail on today afternoon.

**Food Minister visits food points**

LAHORE: In order to ensure the supply of healthy food to citizens in Ramadan, Food Minister Punjab Bilal Yasin visited food points at several places in Lahore.

The provincial food minister checked 13 well-known food points in Gulberg, Samanabad, Wagah and Shalimar Town. Four food points were sealed for poor arrangements during the visit while the other 4 were fined Rs. 2.5 lakh.

Similarly, rectification notices were also issued to 5 food points. Moreover, more than 2 tons of defective meat, oil and expired items were discarded at these food points.

Food Minister Bilal Yasin said that elements engaged in selling substandard food do not deserve any relaxation. He said that action has been taken on the presence of prohibited and expired items and poor cleaning arrangements.



# 23rd March: Pakistan Resolution Day

## Pakistan Day: A resolution of commitment March 23 is day of renewal of covenant

By Huma Kashif

**"We wish our people to develop to the fullest spiritual, cultural, economic, social and political life in a way that we think the best and in consonance with our own ideals and according to the genius of our people."**

— **Muhammad Ali Jinnah**

The nation of Pakistan is celebrating another momentous "Pakistan Resolution Day" which possesses an enormous commemoration in the historic struggle for acquiring Pakistan. The particular resolution is also renowned as "Lahore Resolution" made the Muslims of India to decide their own destiny and journey for the attainment of a separate entity to establish a Muslim State. That was the day when the Muslims of the sub-continent rejuvenated their political struggle for self-determination and acquisition of socio-political, economic, religious, and cultural freedom. On this particular day, the idea of a separate homeland for Muslims of India was converted clearly into the demand of Pakistan. Although presently, 23<sup>rd</sup> March day is losing its significance among our young generation. Most of our youth consider this day as just a public holiday, without realizing its true essence and spirit. But due to the emerging social chaos, and the political upheaval it is the need of the time that we should once again revitalize the spirit, struggle, and sufferings behind the freedom struggle.

Providing a short background, the British Raj, socio-political injustice, economic downfall, religious restraints, linguistic clash, cultural subjugation

led to the Pakistan Resolution and ultimately to the creation of Pakistan. Furthermore, the provincial autonomy achieved in 1937, and the discriminatory congress rule further strengthened the Muslims' notion of a separate sovereign state. The 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1940 resolution was moved under the strong leadership of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah also called the father of the Nation, who



stimulated the Muslims to see the dream of freedom and encouraged them to turn this dream into reality. The Lahore Resolution stirred by Maulvi Fazlul Haq never contained the name Pakistan but it is considered as a landmark in the Muslim struggle for a sepa-

rate homeland where they could live their life according to the teachings of Islam.

Pakistan is a precious gift that has given to us by Allah Almighty, it is the time to do some constructive efforts for our beloved country. Pakistan's armed forces are fully equipped and have the capacity to defend the territorial integrity and state sovereignty. Pakistan Navy is a strongly capable force having the potential to protect the sea borders and national maritime interests of Pakistan. With its unremitting vigilance and professional competence, Pakistan Navy has recently once again surprised the Indian Navy by detecting and blocking its submarine from entering into Pakistani wa-

teredness, high morale, and exceptionally superior professional skills at sea.

As Youth has always been a harbinger to a welcome change and given a proper direction, our youth can easily channelize the passion for their country. Ideally, 23<sup>rd</sup> March is the sort of day that should motivate people to seriously contemplate and reflect over our lives in a national sense rather than with the myopia of personal and individual evolution. Keeping in mind the countless sacrifices and sufferings of the men, women, children, old and young, certainly, it is not just another national day but it is the day to take a resolution at individual level to contribute positively in democratic structuring of Pakistan, give our

By Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri

March 23 is the day of renewal of the covenant in which a resolution was passed for the establishment of a separate country for Muslims in the subcontinent. Through a peaceful struggle under the great leadership of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the dream of Allama Muhammad Iqbal was realized on August 14, 1947. In these circumstances, it is imperative that the Pakistani nation realize the spirit of this revolutionary resolution and move beyond the traditional kind of renewal. Go out and work for the ideological and geographical completion of Pakistan according to this resolution. In order to make this Kingdom of God truly the Pakistan of Quaid-e-Azam and Iqbal, we have to show the same continuous and selfless sacrifice at the individual and collective level which was characteristic of the trained soldiers of freedom of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

In this historic gathering on March 23, 1940, the Father of the Nation had made it clear that "the fact is that the mutual disagreement between the 'national concept of Islam and the social practices of the Hindu religion is a mere figment of India's imagination.'" To deny for a thousand years the civilizations of Hindus and Muslims have been intertwined and the two nations have been intertwined, but their differences are as strong as ever. It is totally wrong to expect that a revolution will take place in them and that Hindus and Muslims will become one nation only because of the imposition of a democratic constitution on them.

When the British government established in India for one and a half hundred years did not succeed in its work, how is it possible that the forcible establishment of federal system in the central government of India will achieve that success.

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah said that India's political problem was not about sects but about nations. Of course, this should be considered an international issue and a solution must be sought from that point of view. We need to acknowledge the veracity of this fundamental issue. As long as we do not accept it, the constitution we have drafted will fail and bring disaster. Islam and Hinduism are not just religions but in fact they are two different social systems. Therefore, this wish should be called a dream and dream that Hindus and Muslims will be able to create a common nation together."

When the British and the Hindus saw the seal of Pakistan being sealed, they by mutual alliance annexed several Muslim-majority districts of Punjab to India under the most unfair Red Cliff Award and also di-

vided Bengal into Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Ensured the establishment of a divided Pakistan.

If we look at the back in history, it would be correct to say that in fact the Muslims of the subcontinent

seen many ups and downs since the demise of these beloved leaders of the Pakistani nation. Especially after 9/11, Pakistan paid a heavy price for being a Muslim country.

The western world has laid the burden of uncom-



were facing a multifaceted decline after the failure of the War of Independence in 1857. During this time, the Muslim leaders made several attempts to put a stop to this decline and to organize the scattered Muslims, but they did not achieve the desired results until the day of reached March 23, 1940. On this day, thanks to the passage of the Lahore Resolution, the Muslim nation was revived under the op-

pression of the British government and the prejudice of the Hindu majority. He became aware of his right to self-determination and determined the direction and destination of his struggle for independence. The aim of this great struggle is to establish a modern Islamic, democratic and welfare state in which the religion of Islam is a stronghold.

By establishing the political, economic and social system of Islam on the golden principles of Islam, it can be proved to the nations of the world that these golden principles are as applicable today as the Holy Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (peace be upon him). He was in the blessed time of Allah and his Companions and the Righteous Caliphs. However, shortly after the establishment of Pakistan, the father of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah passed away and a few years later, his right-hand man Quaid-e-Millat Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan was also martyred. The country has

only way to confront the enemies of Islam and Pakistan is through unity. We must realize that the more divided we are, the more difficult the journey of development will be.

In these circumstances, there is a need for the Pakistani nation to realize the spirit of that revolutionary resolution and to move beyond the traditional kind of renewal and work for the ideological and geographical fulfillment of Pakistan in accordance with this resolution. In order to make this God-given kingdom truly the Pakistan of Quaid-e-Azam and Iqbal, we must demonstrate at the individual and collective level the same constant sacrifice and self-sacrifice that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and his companions those fought for an independent country for Muslims. It was the specialty of the old, women, children and youth who got a separate country for the Muslims of the subcontinent by sacrificing millions of lives on the voice.

March 23, 2022 is a day to remember forgotten lessons. Every March 23 reminds us that we have strayed from the destination, lost, forgotten the promises, today we need more unity than ever before, we need to be one nation, we need to adopt collective thinking for the betterment of the country. We need to

### Pakistan Day:

## A manifestation of Muslims' struggle for a separate homeland in subcontinent

By Fakhar Alam

Following the Independence War of 1857, the Muslims of subcontinent were subjected to an unending ordeal of discrimination, inequality and disparity after the colonial rulers had strengthened their grip over the united India.

The Muslims, who ruled over the united India for over 800 years, had faced great mental agony, sense of deprivation and dejection after they were pushed to the wall in terms of intellectual, political, economic and education decay. After failure of 1857 War of Independence, the Muslims of British India were given a new hope and direction by social reformer, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, who instilled a new vigor into Muslims after an inspired teachings of the renowned religious leaders, Mojaddad Alf Sani and Shah Waliullah.

Brought about an intellectual revolution among Muslims through his educational, political and social reforms, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan had succeeded to nullify the malicious propaganda of the colonial rulers, hindus and pessimistic forces during an era of ominous, cruelty and oppression. He founded All India Muhammadan Educational Conference (AIMEC) at Aligarh in 1886, which carried forward his vision regarding modern education, socioeconomic empowerment and political unity of Muslims to regain their past glory. The network of educational institutions and political unity organized under AIMEC had enabled millions of Muslims to compete with other communities including Hindus and Sikhs by providing a launching pad for Muslims to initiate a peaceful political and democratic struggle for a separate homeland where they could live with dignity and freedom.

Sir Syed's reforms had excelled Muslims in education, social, economic and political sciences, resultantly their voices have strongly been heard by the British rulers. The Muslims, under the flag of All India Muslim League (AIML) founded on December 30, 1906 at Dhaka, got united by giving new impetus to the independence movement. It witnessed further momentum after Quaid-i-Azam spearheaded independence movement after formally joining AIML in 1913 and outlining of an independent state for Muslims majority provinces in North West India by the great poet philosopher Dr. Allama



Muhammad Iqbal during historic Allahabad address in 1930.

Thus, Dr. Allama Iqbal became the first statesman to articulate about the two nation-theories that Muslims were a separate and distinct nation besides deserving political independence from other regions and communities of the united India. "Pakistan Movement passes through different phases and finally achieved its practical shape in 1933 during a high-level gathering in London where Chaudhry Rehmat Ali had presented the name of Pakistan," said Professor Dr Muhammad Younas Khan, Chairman, Pakistan Studies Department, Islamia College Peshawar University (ICP) while talking to APP.

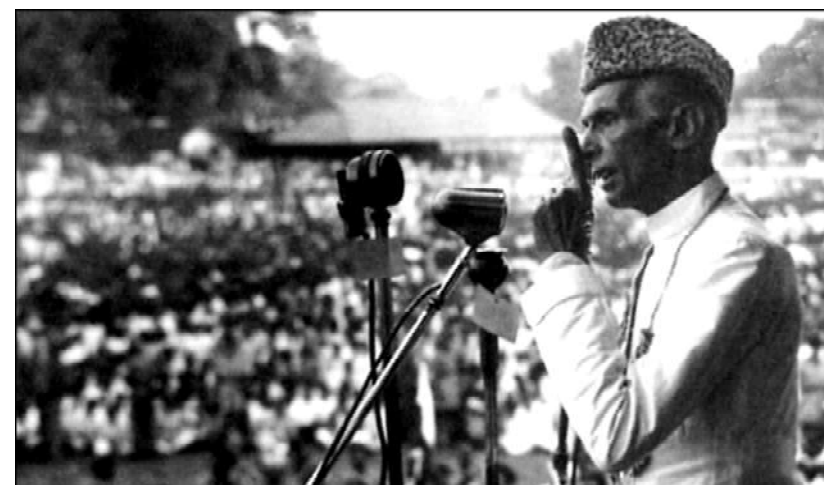
Recalling Chaudhry Rehmat Ali's famous saying "Now or never or parish forever", he said ICP's two former students, Aslam Khattak and Inyatullah Khan of Charsadda along with others Muslims leaders had endorsed the name of Pakistan. "Pakistan's name and Allahabad address had set a clear direction to the Muslims to achieve a separate homeland in the subcontinent," he said. The great Quaid united millions of Muslims at Iqbal Park, Lahore where they unanimously passed the historic Pakistan's Resolution on March 23, 1940. Following adoption of the Pakistan Resolution, Quaid-i-Azam had reorganized AIML on modern lines and made repeated visits to all Muslims majority provinces including KP (earlier called NWFP) to mobilize masses for Pakistan.

## Thank you Jinnah

By Ali Basit

As Pakistan prepares to celebrate the 82<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Lahore Resolution, it is vital to shed light on the event that changed the course of history in the subcontinent. As "Magna Carta" laid the foundation stone of people's power in Great Britain, the pledge made on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1940 at the erstwhile Minto Park, for decades, serves as a cornerstone for Pakistan's socio-political culture. The Nation must utilize this moment to revisit the ideology and thought behind the historic resolution. 23<sup>rd</sup> March, revives the essence of nationalism among common people of Pakistan. As we breathe in a free country today, tribute must be paid to the ones who sacrificed their present for us. On this historic day, the Nation must be reminded of Quaid's words that defined the purpose and meaning of Pakistan. This article reproduces the most relevant quotes of the presidential address of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah at the Lahore session of All India Muslim League that carved out an independent homeland for the Muslims of South Asia. As the events highlighting bigotry and communalism unfold across the border, the Pakistani nation stands indebted to the vision and foresight of its founding fathers. The Quaid said, "You may remember that we appointed a committee of ladies at the Patna Session (1938). It is of very great importance to us, because I believe that it is of absolutely essential for us to give every opportunity to our women to participate in our struggle of life and death."

The opening remarks of Quaid's most important address advocated women's rights. He emphasized the essentiality of women's participation in the socio-political struggle and highlighted their achievements in the upbringing of All India Muslim League. Following the footsteps of the founding father, the Pakistan's Armed Forces have significantly contributed in uplifting the slogan of women empow-



erment by inducting Pakistani women in various fields including medical, education and technical branches of the Tri-services. Pakistani women in uniform has contributed a lot in service to the country. The first ever Pakistani Female Engagement team in any United Nations (UN) mission around the world received UN medals for serving in the Peacekeeping Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo last year. A team of 15 Pakistani women officers, received major recognition for being the first all-female group from Pakistan to serve in a UN peacekeeping mission. This service abroad for peacekeeping missions brought an immense respect to Pakistan at the global level.

At the same occasion, the Quaid further stated that, "We want that the British Government should in fact and actually meet the demands of the Arabs in Palestine." Muhammad Ali Jinnah backed the plight of Palestinians eight decades ago. In his all-important address, he did not forget to show solidarity with Palestinian brethren. To date, Pakistan's stance on Palestine is unchanged. On many occasions, PM Khan advocated a Two-State solution according to the aspiration and wishes of the people of Palestine. Pakistan should continue its unequivocal diplomatic support to the cause and must attempt to mobilize Muslim Ummah to resolve the crisis which has brought enormous pain to the people of Palestine. Jinnah reiterated,

"Musalmans are not a minority. The Musalmans are a nation by any definition. We find out that even according to the British map of India we occupy large parts of this country, where the Musalmans are in a majority." Citing the work of London Times and the letter of Lala Lajpat Rai to C.R Das, Quaid stressed on the separate identity of Muslims of the Subcontinent. He validated the 'Two Nation Theory' and presented colonialism with a workable solution to maintain peace in the Subcontinent.

Jinnah was well aware of the fact that Pakistan's due to its peculiar geostrategic location and the hostile neighboring environment needs strong Armed Forces to protect its national interests. Among the Tri-Services, Pakistan Navy was thus designated as an instrument to defend the maritime frontiers and interests of Pakistan.

During wartimes, Pakistan Navy has always espoused high standards of professionalism and valour. In 1965 war, Operation "Dwarka" launched by Pakistan Navy caused irreparable damage to Indian Navy, vehemently destroyed the Indian Radar system. In addition, Pakistan Navy's submarine Ghazi moved its patrol to Bombay harbor to challenge enemy's ships namely INS Vikrant and INS Mysore to dock out and get destroyed. This psychological fear of Ghazi adversely affected the Indian Navy's operational maneuvers. Yet again in the 1971 war, sinking of Indian warship

Kukri brought an immense wartime casualty by PNS Hangor, is the only incident after WWII wherein any conventional submarine sank a Warship. Furthermore, the detections of Indian Navy submarine, after Pulwama military standoff, by Pakistan Navy evidently portrays its effective employment strategy coupled with superior professional acumen.

Recent developments and reports of subjugation and ill treatment of Muslims coming out of India validate Muhammad Ali Jinnah's address at the Lahore Session of All India Muslim League. Quaid remarked, "Muslim India cannot accept any constitution which must necessarily result in a Hindu majority government. Hindus and Muslims brought together under a democratic system forced upon the minorities can only mean Hindu Raj." The prediction of our visionary founding father made eight decades ago stands relevant and applicable today. In post-1947 India, it was evident that Nehru's sugar-coated secular democracy was bound to collapse one day or another.

Today, from revocation of Article 370 and Citizenship Amendment Act to Ayodhya Verdict, each development embosses Jinnah's words. This is what a Hindu Raj forced upon Muslims looks like. As renowned Indian author Arundhati Roy said, "Modi had been coming since 1925." Nehru's deodorized democracy was destined to fall apart and Gandhi's India was doomed to become Godse's India.



## CM Sindh to further strengthen coordination with fed govt to implement projects

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah while presiding over a meeting here decided to further strengthen coordination with the federal government for implementation of all important projects besides enhancing efforts to cooperate with tax collecting bodies. The meeting was held here at CM House and attended by provincial ministers Sharjeel Inam Memon, Nasir Hussain Shah, Ziaul Hassan Lanjar, Jam Khan Shoro, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, PSCM Agha Wasif, and other concerned secretaries, a communique said.

During the meeting, provincial minister for energy Nasir Hussain Shah pointed out that 26-Wind projects with a cumulative capacity of 1875 mega watt (MW) and 19-Solar projects of 1150 MW were waiting for competitive bidding.

After discussion, the

Sindh government proposed to the federal government that 1<sup>st</sup> round of competitive bidding amongst LOI holders be carried out by provincial energy departments instead of the private power & infrastructure board (PIIB). The CM disclosed that a consensus has been developed with all the stakeholders to conduct competitive bidding on wind LOI holders for procuring 300 MW for Karachi electric (KE). Financing agreement for Thar Rail Connectivity, the minister Nasir Shah told the CM that the previous PPP Sindh government had earlier agreed to fund the project through equity contribution.

The caretaker Sindh government approved financing 50 per cent of the project cost through a loan to Pakistan railways by the Sindh government subject to ratification by the elected cabinet of Sindh. The finance

facility agreement (FFA) was executed between the energy department and Pakistan railways for financing 50 per cent of the project cost on January 31, 2024. The CM directed the energy department to file a proposal for ratification of the agreement. The CM also said that provincial and federal data collection and integration was most important for which he directed chief secretary Asif Hyder Shah to coordinate with the federal government.

The chief secretary told the CM that necessary coordination between federal board of revenue (FBR), NADRA and relevant Sindh government departments was in place. The Board of Revenue (BoR), Sindh Revenue Board (SRB) and Excise & Taxation have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the federal board of revenue for data sharing and integration.



ISLAMABAD: SFD CEO, Sultan Abdul Rahman Al Murshif and Secretary Ministry of Economic Affairs, Dr. Kazim Niaz, signing the Agreement.

## Bilawal felicitates nation on Pakistan Day

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has extended warm felicitations to the nation on the occasion of Pakistan Day.

He emphasizes that on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the nation honors the visionary foresight, sacrifices and unwavering determination of its forebears. They labored tirelessly to establish a homeland where freedom, justice, and equality reign supreme.

The Chairman PPP termed Pakistan Day as a tribute to the resilience of our founding fathers and our collective journey towards progress. He reiterated his party's unwavering commitment to upholding its ideals, particularly the vision of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

On this historic occasion, let us honor the un-

wavering determination of our martyred leaders, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, who fearlessly championed the rights of the people and sacrificed their lives for the noble cause," said Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, adding that their legacy serves as a guiding light for us as we continue the journey towards fulfilling the dreams of our founding fathers.

In his message, Chairman PPP urged every Pakistani, saying: On this Pakistan Day, let us recommit ourselves to the shared goal of building a brighter future for our beloved country. Together, let us march forward with hope, resilience, and determination, knowing that the future of Pakistan is bright and promising. Happy Pakistan Day!"

## Ali Hassan Zardari for taking stringent measures against profiteering

HYDERABAD (APP): The meeting of Divisional Price Management Committee Shaheed Benazirabad established by the Chief Minister Sindh under the chairmanship of Provincial Minister of Prisons Ali Hassan Zardari was held at the Commissioner's office.

Addressing the meeting, Provincial Minister Ali Hassan Zardari stated that directives have been issued by the Chief Minister of Sindh to ensure relief for the public by stabilizing prices of essential commodities and curbing hoarding and profiteering. He emphasized that the responsibilities entrusted to provincial ministers will be implemented without fail, and no shopkeeper or dealer will be allowed to engage in hoarding or profiteering.

The Provincial Minister announced that penalties

of one lac rupees would be imposed on dealers or hoarders found to be charging excessive prices, while shopkeepers would face fines of 20,000 rupees, and vendors would be fined up to 10,000 rupees.

He directed Deputy Commissioners of all three districts to take all possible measures to provide relief to the public and prevent profiteering. He further directed the establishment of complaint cells for the resolution of public grievances.

The Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad division Syed Muhammad Sajjad Haider informed the meeting that market visits were being conducted across all districts of the division to assess the prices of essential food items. So far, fines totaling Rs. 2,76,900 have been imposed on 261 profiteers, and three hotels have also been sealed.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja addressing joint Press Conference.

## Pakistani fishermen group becomes millionaire after catching 700 most expensive Suwa fish

KARACHI (INP): A group of Pakistani fishermen succeeded to ensnare most expensive and quite rare Suwa fish [or golden fish] as an Eid gift from the deep sea near Kitty Bandar which also helped them out to become millionaire in a moment.

Coastal Media Spokesman Kamal Shah confirmed that more than 700 Suwa fish were caught by the local fishermen and brought out of the Arabian Sea in three fishing boats.

Reportedly, quite rare Suwa fish is valued due to having some rare and expensive medicinal substances in its belly. It also used for making a surgery

thread. Suwa fish also valued culturally and traditionally for local cuisines too.

As per the market cost of a Suwa fish is between Rs70,000 to Rs100,000 per piece.

Interestingly, unexpected existing of this rare fish in deep sea close to the Pakistani beach areas intrigued discussions among the fishermen and sea life experts.

Worthy to mention here that last year, a Pakistani fisherman Haji Baloch was remained successful to get more than 1600 Suwa fish which made him a lucky millionaire.



KARACHI: People break their fast during the Muslim's holy fasting month of Ramadan at a free meal distribution point run by a charity group, in Karachi, Pakistan.

## Sindh minister condemns attack on security forces in D.I. Khan

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister Home, Law, and Parliamentary Affairs, Ziaul-Hassan Lanjar, has issued a strong condemnation following an attack on security forces in D.I. Khan.

In a statement on Friday, the minister expressed deep sorrow over the incident and paid tribute to the sacrifices made by the martyred personnel.

Minister Ziaul-Hassan Lanjar offered heartfelt prayers for the martyrs and their families, praying for their patience and strength during this difficult time.

Highlighting the determination of Pakistan's security agencies, Lanjar assured that swift action would be taken to rid the country of terrorists.

He emphasized the high morale within the security forces, stating that such cowardly acts would not deter their resolve in safeguarding the nation.

## CM Sindh to open 203<sup>rd</sup> Urs Celebration of Hazrat Sachal Sarmast

SUKKUR (APP): Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah will inaugurate the 203<sup>rd</sup>, 3-day Urs celebrations of poet and Sufi saint Hazrat Sachal Sarmast by laying wreaths and offering Fataha at the mazar in Khairpur on Monday morning.

Deputy Commissioner, Khairpur Syed Amher Fawad who is also Convener of the committee, has presided over a meeting to review the arrangements for the urs celebration at his office on Friday.

## New Sukkur SSP takes charge

SUKKUR (APP): Abid Bakoch, a Grade-18 officer of the Police Service of Pakistan (PSP), assumed the charge as Sukkur Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) on Friday.

After assuming the charge, Bakoch held a meeting with police officers and asked them to facilitate the citizens coming to their offices. He told the police officials that no high handedness with any citizen would be tolerated. He also appealed to the citizens to cooperate with the police for eliminating crime and ensuring peace in the district.

## One robber killed, five held after encounters

KARACHI (INP): One robber was killed and five others including an injured were apprehended with arms and other valuables during separate encounters in different areas of the metropolis.

According to details, during a fire exchange with police in Zaman Town area, one robber was killed while another was injured and held with weapons.

Four street criminals were arrested during joint operation of Sindh Rangers and police in Manghopir area. Arms, cell phones and a motorcycle were recovered from possession of detainees.

## Young boy shot dead in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): An alleged criminal was killed by police after he opened fire at a citizen in Sohrab Goth area in Karachi which claimed the life of an 8-year-old passerby boy on Friday. DSP Sohail Faiz told media men that the dead accused Rogh Lewa, was a hardened criminal, who had a tiff with a citizen namely Abbas a day earlier. At the time of incident, the accused after seeing his rival Abbas at a local hotel in Junejo Colony of Sohrab Goth opened fire at him.

## Pakistan, China to form WG on 5 new economic corridors under CPEC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and China on Friday agreed to establish a Working Group (WG) on five new economic corridors under the second phase of CPEC, aligning with the 5Es framework already prepared by the Planning Ministry.

The agreement was reached during a meeting between Federal Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal, and Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, which lasted for more than an hour here at the Planning Ministry, a news release said.

The Chinese envoy Jiang Zaidong congratulated Ahsan Iqbal on assuming the role of Planning Minister for the fourth time.

During the meeting, both sides "agreed to expedite phase 2 of the CPEC, while deciding to establish a working group on five new economic corridors, including the Corridor of Job Creation, Corridor of Innovation, Corridor of Green Energy, and Inclusive Regional

Development."

Both the Planning Ministry and the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China would prepare separate concept papers on the new economic corridors, which would provide a clear road map for each sector in the future. "These concept papers will be consolidated before presentation at the upcoming Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting expected in 2024," stated the Planning Ministry.

The Planning Ministry has already initiated the implementation of the 5Es framework, which includes Export, Energy, Equity, E-Pakistan and Environment.

"This framework will be aligned with the five new economic corridors to advance Pakistan's prosperity in each sector under the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif," emphasized the Minister highlighting the importance of accelerating Pakistan's export capabilities through enterprise development and job creation.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar meets with the UAE Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, Almazrouel Suhail on the margins of the Nuclear Energy Summit in Brussels.

## New DIG Mirpurkhas range vows to eliminate crime

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Newly appointed DIG of Mirpurkhas Range, Javed Sonharo Jaskani on Friday assumed his post, setting a strong tone for his tenure. Upon taking charge, he was warmly received by SSP Mirpurkhas Captain (retd) Asad Ali Chaudhary, DSP Admin Tariq Pathan and other officers as the police squad saluted and paid their respects as well.

Emphasizing a zero-tolerance approach to criminal activities, the DIG toured the offices and held meeting with officers and heads of branches, and made it clear that stringent

measures will be taken against criminals.

Additionally, he also issued a stern warning, stating that any police officers or officials found supporting drug dealers will face departmental action.

Furthermore, Jaskani during his visit, stressed the importance of treating victims well and ensuring continuous support until their issues are resolved.

He directed the SSPs of the three districts under Mirpurkhas range to prioritize citizen welfare, resolve their problems, and maintain strict control over crime.

## Rigorous operations conducted: DC Khairpur

SUKKUR (APP): The district administration Khairpur has intensified price control measures and conducting raids to the violators.

Deputy Commissioner, Syed Fawad Ahmed said on Friday ordered that the ongoing crackdown against profiteers be expedited.

He asked the administrative officers to ensure the implementation of the price lists as the sale of essential commodities at more than the fixed prices is not

acceptable in any case.

He said that special inspections should be carried out on the identification of special branches.

He also asked the price magistrates to remain fully active in the field and take stern action against overcharging.

He said that price control magistrates imposed fines on several shopkeepers and sealed various sale points. Some of individuals are facing cases over illegal profiteering, he said.



KARACHI: Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Sindh President, Haleem Adil Shaikh talking to media persons after offering condolences to the family of Lt. Colonel Syed Kashif Ali Shaheed at their residence in Karachi.

## Rangers crack down on criminal gang in Katcha area

KARACHI (APP): In a coordinated intelligence operation, the Pakistan Rangers Sindh, in collaboration with local law enforcement, executed a successful raid in Tehsil Tangwani of district Kandhkot, Sindh.

The operation resulted in the apprehension of 21 individuals from the riverine areas, commonly known as Katcha areas, and the dismantling of their clandestine hideouts.

According to a spokesperson for the Rangers, the captured individuals were implicated in a range of serious offenses including homicides, rob-

beries, kidnappings for ransom, attempted murders, and various other criminal activities. The detained suspects are linked to the notorious "Buggi gang," notorious for their involvement in heinous crimes across the region. Among the arrested, notable figures include Amanullah, identified as a prime facilitator, along with his son, and a local landlord (Wadera) named Yar Muhammad. Yar Muhammad, accused of harboring the ringleader of the Buggi gang and his family, played a significant role in providing shelter and support to the criminal network.

## Speaker KP assembly violating constitution by not summoning session: Kundi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Information Secretary of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Faisal Karim Kundi said on Friday that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Assembly Speaker had indulged in unconstitutional activity by not summoning the session to administer oath to newly elected members of the assembly on seats reserved for women and minorities.

While addressing a press conference here Faisal Karim Kundi said that the KP government was in a state of confusion. He said that the opposition parties in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had requested the speaker to administer oath to the successful candidates on reserve seats.

Faisal Kundi said that the KP opposition had written a letter to the Speaker Provincial Assembly and the Governor of KP sent also asked him to summon the assembly session. He said that instead acting as speaker

which was constitutional post, the KP incumbent was behaving like a "Tiger Force member."

He said in KP the PTI leadership was worried that the opposition will not get maximum seats in Senate elections.

Faisal Karim Kundi also castigated the Chief Minister KP Ali Amin Gandapur for instigating people to hit those officials with bricks who demand bribe. Kundi said that the PTI has always used false statements.

He also lambasted the KP Chief Minister for issuing anti-prime minister statements after having cordial meetings with him.

About internal differences in the party, he PTI has 5 franchises today. He the statements of their own people were contradictory to each other. He said that the politics of lies should end now. The PPP leader said that political parties having reservations about the election, should go to the right forum.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Kali Mori are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, at Hyderabad press club.

## Pakistan day rally taken out in Kamber led by DC, SSP

LARKANA (APP): The district administration of Kamber-Shahdadkot celebrated the Pakistan day with enthusiasm by staging rallies and chanting of Pakistan Zindabad slogans on Friday.

A big public rally in this connection was taken out from Bus stand road Kamber that passes all the important thoroughfares of the Kamber city and concluded at SSP office.

The participants were carrying Pakistani flags and placards and banners inscribed with slogans of Pakistan Zindabad, Pakistan armed forces Zindabad.

The rally was jointly led by the Deputy Commissioner Sajjad Ahmed Qadri, SSP Muhammad Kaleem Malik and chairman of Pakistan defender and protector organization Yousif Shaikh, Where SSP and DC Kamber-Shahdadkot lays flowers

wreaths on the Shuhda-e-Police and they offered prayers for the Martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the national cause.

Speaking on the occasion Deputy Commissioner Kamber Shahdadkot Sajjad Qadri said that the day is celebrated annually to mark the passing of the Lahore Resolution on March 23, 1940, which is a major milestone in the struggle for an independent state.

He paid homage to the relentless struggle of the founding fathers of the country. In a message on occasion, he called for making this region a cradle of peace by fighting for the development and prosperity of the country.

He said that he was happy with the organization of Mohabbate Watan Pakistan Zindabad rally on behalf of the Protector of Pakistan Organization.

## MNAs demand probe over fire in Thermal Power House Jamshoro

HYDERABAD (APP): MNAs of Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) have urged the Federal Energy Minister Owais Laghari to conduct an impartial and transparent investigation of the March 20 fire incident in Thermal Power House, Jamshoro.

In a statement issued here on Friday evening MNAs Abdul Aleem Khanzada and Syed Waseem Hussain the fire caused billions of rupees in losses to the power house, destroying its 2 units, control room, turbines and fuel stock.

## Two killed, four injured in vans collision

KARACHI (INP): Two people were killed and four others including students injured in collision between school van and high roof here on Friday.

According to details, the accident took place at Malir Checkpost No. 2 near railway crossing which a school van and a hiace of money exchange company collided with each other.

As a result of accident two people including 50-year-old Muhammad Shafi s/o Nawab Khan and 55-year-old Ghulam Shaabeer s/o Muhammad Ibrahim were killed on the spot while three school children among four injured.

The bodies and injured were shifted to hospital and police after registering a case into the incident started an investigation.

## Police arrest 4 suspects, recover 10 kg hashish

HYDERABAD (APP): The Central Investigation Agency (CIA) has arrested 4 suspected drug peddlers including a woman in separate raids, recovering 10 kilograms hashish from their possession.

The police spokesman informed here on Friday that 2 suspects were arrested in a joint action of Bhitai Nagar and Baldia police with the CIA from Bhitai Nagar area.

He identified the suspects as Sarwar Mallah and Kabeer Chandio from whom 6 kg hashish was recovered.

According to spokesman, in another raid in the limits of Husri police station, the suspects Razia Marri and Abdul Rehman Chand were rounded up, and recovered 4 kg hashish from their possession.

He said all the apprehended suspects had been booked in separate FIRs at the concerned police stations.