

# Independent

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## PM invites Chinese firm to invest in Pakistan's mining sector

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister Shehbaz has invited Chinese firm MCC Tongsin Resources to make investment in Mining sector of Pakistan and assured provision of full-out facilitation in this connection. The Mining and Mineral sectors have been on the priority list of Special Investment Facilitation Council and a significant headway has also been achieved in this sector.

The Chinese firm MCC Tongsin Resources is a research and investment company and a part of Metallurgical Group Corporation, which has been enlisted among the major Metallurgical Construction Contractors of the world.

The Chinese company expressed keen interest in enhancing its investment in Pakistan's mining and minerals sectors and also briefed the Prime Minister about its plans for investment in Mining sector of Pakistan.

The visit of the Chinese company to Pakistan is aimed at cementing ties between China and Pakistan and to assure that Pakistan would ensure security of Chinese nationals, working on different development projects.

China has so far made investment of more than sixty-five billion dollars in energy and infrastructure projects in Pakistan under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar flanked by Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal addressing a Press conference

## Tarar terms economy, SIFC lifeline & redline; sees great investment in days ahead

UAE's \$10 b investment, a testament to business-friendly policies: Jam Kamal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Friday pointed out that the economy and Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) were the lifeline and redline, expressing the optimism that development process would definitely move forward in the country with great investment days ahead.

“Surely, the economy is our lifeline and redline, which is linked with the jobs of millions of people,” he said, adding curtailing inflation, ensuring bright future for the youth, and enhancing exports and foreign reserves were the prime objectives of the government's policies.

“These are our redlines which some disgruntled elements are trying to violate and trespass and they are surely doomed to fail,” the minister said while addressing a press conference flanked by Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal.

Atta Tarar said that the efforts led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to woo investors were bringing

positive results with the clear signs of economic stabilization.

Steps were underway to create an enabling environment for the foreign investors, he added.

Unfortunately, he said, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership was engaged in such steps which were against directly inimical to the national interests, thus misleading the nation at the critical juncture.

“Don't be mistaken, the foreign investment will definitely come to the country and we will take all steps to ensure the welfare of the people,” he said.

Regrettably, they were the same people who had made a botched attempt in the past to make the GSP Plus status of Pakistan controversial and now were resorting to a malicious campaign against the crucial platform of SIFC, the government and the armed forces just to hamper the process of national progress and development.

They intentionally targeted the SIFC on social media on the day the UAE made a pledge of \$10 billion investment in Pakistan, he added.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Ziaullah Lango, Mir Zahoor Buledi and Mir Shoaib Nausherwani holding a meeting

## Gwadar port to boost economic activities in Balochistan: Chairman GPA

QUETTA (APP): Chairman Gwadar Port Authority, Mir Pasand Khan Buledia on Friday said that Gwadar Port was central project of CPEC, and would accelerate economic development in Balochistan, improving the economic conditions of the people and boosting the national economy. Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, directed to remove obstacles in Gwadar Port and related projects, expedite the pace of work, and resolve issues related to the federal government through dialogue.

The chairman said that Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti was serious about the early activation of Gwadar Port and wanted speedy progress.

He desired that Gwadar Port Authority would become functional as soon as possible to attract national and international investors to Balochistan. The chairman stated that they have presented their stance on the Gwadar Shipyard master plan on the relevant forum and, in that regard, the Chief Minister Balochistan had sought a report from the Gwadar administration officials.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of representatives from Chinese companies in Pakistan meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

## Federal govt. to fund solarization of agricultural tube wells in Balochistan: Awaiz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Energy, Awaiz Ahmad Leghari on Friday reiterated the federal government's commitment to fund the solarization of agricultural tube wells in Balochistan.

In response to a calling attention notice regarding the limited electricity supply to agricultural tube wells by the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO), which provides only three hours of electricity per day, he said that once the Balochistan government formulated a mechanism for the distribution of funds to consumers, the federal government would be implementing the solarization initiative.

He highlighted that approximately 12,000 illegal transformers were operating on 404 feeders in Balochistan, with 96 percent of these feeders running at a loss.

## Ziarat to be made beautiful tourism destination: CM assures to take practical steps for resolving issues of people of Ziarat

DUMMAR, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, other senior officials, tribal elders of Ziarat and adjoining areas were in attendance. The Chief Minister vowed to make the beautiful tourism place of the country. He on the occasion directed to the concerned to prepare Ziarat tourism project on the pattern of Galiyat.

In this regard, he directed to benefit from the experiences of Galiyat Development Authority for better tourism planning.

The Chief Minister on the occasion said that he would not be going to make any promise which may not be implemented. He said that Ziarat would be developed at the pattern of Nathiagali and Galiyat.

He announced to make amendment in the rules for inclusion of Chief Secretary and Chairman Municipal Committee Ziarat in the governing body of ZDA.



QUETTA: A delegation led by central leader Majlis Wahadat Muslimena Pakistan Allama Maqsood Ali Domki meeting with Balochistan Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

## Abdul Wali Khan posted as Chairman PRCS Balochistan

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has expressed deep concern over the increasing incidents of street crimes in Quetta city and different other districts of the province.

The Governor has directed to the police and other law enforcement agencies to take solid measures to remove the complaints about occurrence of the street crimes.

He asserted that no negligence would be tolerated in maintaining law and order and protection of life and property of the people.

The Governor was speaking to the Additional Inspector General of Police, Jawad Ahmed Dogar here at the Governor House on Friday.

The Governor stressed there should be close coordination among all law enforcement agencies in order to protect the people and maintain law and order in the province.

Journalist Nasrullah succumbs to injuries

KARACHI (INP): A journalist of a Sindh newspaper known for his bold reporting against feudal lords and waderas, who was seriously injured in a gun attack a few days ago, succumbed to his wounds at a hospital in Karachi on Friday morning.

Journalist Nasrullah Gadani was left fighting for his life after he suffered serious gunshot wounds in the attack by unidentified assailants near Mirpur Mathelo in Ghotki district on Tuesday last. The motorcycle-riding armed men were waiting for Nasrullah Gadani and sprayed him with bullets near Kori Goth when he was on way to the town on his motorcycle at around 11:00 am.

Gadani, who received three bullets, was first rushed to Shaikh Zayed Hospital in Rahimyar Khan but later he was shifted to Aga Khan Hospital in Karachi. However, he breathed his last on Friday morning.

## ICJ orders Israel to urgently halt Rafah military operation against Palestinians

Court also orders Israel to keep the Rafah crossing into Gaza open for the "unhindered" provision of humanitarian aid; Hamas welcomes ICJ decision on Rafah, says not enough, urges end to Israel's offensive on all of Gaza

THE HAGUE, Netherlands: The top United Nations court ordered Israel on Friday to immediately halt its military operations in the southern Gaza city of Rafah. While Israel is unlikely to comply with any such order, it will ratchet up the pressure on the increasingly isolated country.

Criticism of Israel's conduct in the war in Gaza has been growing — even from its closest ally, the United States, which warned against an invasion of Rafah, where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have sought shelter from fighting elsewhere. And this week alone, three European countries announced they would recognize a Palestinian state, and the chief prosecutor for another U.N. court requested arrest warrants for Israeli leaders, along with Hamas officials.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is also under heavy pressure at home to end the war, which was triggered when Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel, killing 1,200 people, most civilians, and taking some 250 captive. Thousands of Israelis have joined weekly demonstrations calling on the government to reach a deal to bring the hostages home, fearing that time is running out.

While the ruling by the International Court of Justice is a blow to Israel's international standing, the court does not have a police force to enforce its orders. In another case on its docket, Russia has so far ignored a 2022 order by the court to halt its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Israel signaled it, too, would brush off an ICJ order to stop its operations. “No power on earth will stop Israel from protecting its citizens and going after Hamas in Gaza,” Avi Hyman, the government spokesman, said in a press briefing Thursday.

The court's president, Nawaf Salam, read out the ruling, as a small group of pro-Palestinian protesters demonstrated outside.



ZIARAT: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over meeting of Governing Body of Ziarat Development Authority

## Flight from Kyrgyzstan carrying 172 Pak students lands in Quetta

QUETTA (INP): A special flight carrying Pakistani students from Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, landed at the Quetta airport on late Thursday night.

According to details, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight PK-6264 carrying 172 students from Bishkek reached Quetta on Thursday. Sources said that 80 students belong to Balochistan while 92 belong to other provinces.

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and others welcomed the students on their return. Families of students were also present in large numbers at airport.

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“We reject the fresh order of the Indian Supreme Court just as we had rejected the earlier order of December 11, 2023. Two verdicts fail to recognize the internationally recognized disputed nature of Jammu and Kashmir... Indian Supreme Court judgments cannot distract the international community's attention from the gross and systemic human rights violation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir,” Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said at her weekly press briefing.

She said the Kashmiris had an inalienable right to self-determination as enshrined in the UN Security Council's resolutions. India has no right to make unilateral decisions on the status of disputed territory against the will of parties in the dispute - Kashmiris and Pakistan, she added. The spokesperson welcomed the announcement by Ireland, Spain and Norway to recognise the Palestine state, following a similar announcement by Bahamas, Tobago, Jamaica and Barbados, and called it a milestone in the decades-long quest of the Palestinian people for their right to self-determination.

## CM expresses anger over complains of extortion at check posts of police & Levies

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has expressed anger over the alleged complains of extortion at the check posts of police and Levies in the province.

On the issue, taking immediate action, the Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove issued letter to the Additional Chief Secretary Home to take action.

The Minister asserted that no extortion would be tolerated at the check posts of Police and Levies.

He mentioned that the Chief Minister has directed



QUETTA: DS Civil Services Academy Shabana Sultan presenting a souvenir to Chief Justice Balochistan High Court, Mr. Justice Hashim Khan Kakar

## Pakistan rejects Indian SC orders failing to recognise J&K's disputed status: FO

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Friday rejected the fresh order of the Indian Supreme Court upholding its earlier ruling that had endorsed the Indian government's unilateral decision of revoking the special status of Jammu and Kashmir by abrogating Article 370 of the Constitution through legislation in 2019.

“We reject the fresh order of the Indian Supreme Court just as we had rejected the earlier order of December 11, 2023. Two verdicts fail to recognize the internationally recognized disputed nature of Jammu and Kashmir... Indian Supreme Court judgments cannot distract the international community's attention from the gross and systemic human rights violation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir,” Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said at her weekly press briefing.

QUETTA: In light of rolling of Provincial Assembly, the Chief Executive Officer QESCO briefed Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai and MPAs about load-shedding

### Daily Voice of Masses Independent

## IMF's unease

The first round of 'engagement' between Pakistan and the IMF over the former's request for a larger and longer programme appears to have concluded — with some bumps still visible. Both sides are believed to have reached an understanding on the reform measures that Islamabad must include in the budget for the next financial year and get approved by parliament before an agreement on a new bailout facility is signed.

A report in this paper has quoted a government official as saying that the IMF mission is leaving the country without announcing a formal staff-level agreement, because the "Fund wants a stamp of approval from parliament for the reforms and policy actions [to be implemented as 'prior actions' for the new programme] given the unpredictable political environment".

This is not a new condition in Pakistan's context, nor is it surprising, considering the endless political instability roiling the country. The IMF had recently noted that high political uncertainty and the resurgence of social tensions could undermine economic stabilisation.

"Downside risks remain exceptionally high. While the new government has indicated its intention to continue the [Stand-by Arrangement's] policies, political uncertainty remains significant," the IMF had said in its staff report on the conclusion of the second and final review of the \$3bn SBA. It added that "the resurgence in social tensions reflecting the complex political scene and high cost of living could weigh on policy and reform implementation".

Despite its concerns that the political situation might create obstacles in the way of parliamentary approval of the new budget, the IMF has also expressed its confidence in the present political administration. "The return of the outgoing government to power after the elections means continued commitment to the reform agenda agreed at the time of the SBA. This not only means a higher likelihood for the continuity of reforms but also political stability for the next five years. The current coalition government consists of almost the same political parties, which despite heavy political cost implemented all the actions committed under the [Extended Fund Facility] programme and approved all the prior actions under the SBA," it said.

It is thus anticipated that the Fund will conclude a new loan latest by early July. However, a new arrangement is the least of the common man's problems. The real issue for most is the additional financial burden in the shape of new levies — such as a hike in the petroleum levy, an increase in indirect taxes, more taxes on salaries — and enhanced energy prices that they will have to bear as the cost of the new loan. Going by the just-concluded engagement with the IMF mission, it is clear that the next phase of economic stabilisation will be very tough for most of the population.

## Imagination in education

Aqsa Zainab

Imagination is not an escape from reality or simply a tool of fantasy among creative types. It influences how we perceive reality and even re-shape it. As such, it is not necessarily opposite to reason. The two can complement each other to offer deeper insights. Thoughtful, innovative works in science, social studies, language, and even mathematics can all benefit from imaginative thinking. Imagination must not be confined to curriculum discussions on arts and crafts or restricted to preschool and elementary school years. Its relevance must be taken seriously across all levels of education.

Perhaps it's symptomatic of our modern times that we have become accustomed to viewing reason and imagination as dichotomous to each other. Moreover, each is often attributed solely to a self-contained individual, whose origin is further reduced to neurological functions of the brain. We seem to have moved away from a holistic way of perceiving and relating to the world. In Greek and Roman thought, creative spirits inspired philosophers and poets alike. Carl Jung tried to break out of modern individualism by proposing the notion of a collective unconscious. Within irfan, or Muslim mystical thought, imagination was viewed as a faculty of perception and intellect that enabled the discovery of new horizons, even allowing one to attain truth and certainty. Reason and imagination were not dichotomous as such.

In Henry Corbin's reading of Muslim esoteric traditions, one's ability to tap into the higher realms also depended on one's himma, or power of the heart. Various wayfaring manu-

als also indicate that the mystic teacher would prescribe the initiate to engage in rigorous spiritual exercises in order to control the inner powers of imagination and discern divine inspirations from distracting whispers. In contrast, it seems that we have reduced imagination to just manipulating ideas creatively and expressing oneself creatively. And creative pedagogies keep on stimulating the imaginative powers of children without helping them learn how to handle these powers. For comparison, one might consider the pedagogies of Muslim and Japanese traditional calligraphy that approach the work of art and the heart of the artist as interconnected components of a holistic experience involving self-awareness, self-discipline, and self-transformation.

Yet even in its reductive modern sense, imagination today is often relegated to early years of education. Beyond elementary school, there is only lingering space for imagination as found in the subjects of humanities. In contrast, math, science, and even social studies increasingly rely on analytical reasoning skills. Thus the demarcation between imagination and reason gets more rigidified. Perhaps this is partly why students find math and science challenging in upper school as these subjects no longer involve the whole self, if they ever did in previous years. Even preschool environments operate under immense pressure to rapidly meet narrow academic benchmarks, for children must pass highly competitive entrance tests and interviews for school admissions. Imagination thereby gets stifled.

Exceptions exist, even in upper school, where an individual

teacher or curricular component may adopt an interdisciplinary or holistic approach to a topic. So students may discover the patterns and beauty of trigonometry in the cosmos, delving into not only quantitative but also qualitative aspects. They might explore how innovative scientists use analogies and visualisation to come up with new theories. In social studies, it requires imaginative abilities to grasp the interconnectedness of all life forms within an ecological framework. Perhaps students might also glean some lessons from the complicated biographies of math and science geniuses of the past century, who spoke of tapping into the transpersonal horizons of knowledge and creativity, and yet also the toll it took on their well-being.

It is said that knowledge points to what exists, while imagination points to what could be. The external senses perceive the manifest, while imagination reveals the sublime. Imagination facilitates abstract thinking, allowing one to move beyond the world of images. With imagination one can also empathise and walk in another person's shoes. But here is the challenge for educators.

Imagination isn't that simple or straightforward to teach, if it can be taught at all. It's likely that whatever we try to teach directly or indirectly will only scratch the surface, representing a mere fraction of the boundless imaginative potential within human beings.

However, we can become more aware of the deeper possibilities of imagination and more cautious regarding the separation of imagination from reason. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Hot capital

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

humans.

The Indo-Gangetic plain is one of the regions which will experience widespread desertification if the current rate of heating continues. Yet Western governments and corporations who milked the benefits of colonial-era expropriation, continue to disproportionately emit carbon to the detriment of South Asia's working masses. The Gulf states and rapidly growing East Asian economies like China, too, are producing and guzzling oil. They may not be as big contributors to the rule of fossil capital as Western imperialist powers but any meaningful analysis of our present and future must include the growing role of the powers of the 'East'.

The history and ongoing evolution of fossil capital is absent from the mainstream debate on climate change, let alone the policy prescriptions about so-called resilient development. Yes, Pakistani 'experts' do bring up the question of climate financing and the historic responsibility of Western emitters, but there is much silence on domestic economic policy, and particularly the nexus of state and class power that presides over ecologically destructive 'development' with no end in sight.

Take the minor but illustrative murmurs about government plans to tax solar power. The private market for solar panels has exploded lately; even katchi abadi residents and small farmers unable to access the formal power grid have bought relatively cheap panels and batteries to meet some electricity needs. The rumoured tax on solar power consumers provoked an uproar and was subsequently played down by the authorities. But to the extent that there was any truth to the rumours, Pakistani capitalism is a never-ending disaster story with even the rich diaspora providing a stream of hot capital for real estate, absent the slightest concern for future generations of working people. But then, fossil capital has never been characterised by foresight or humanity. Profit and power rule while most of the world's people and ecosystems burn. We will need more than lip service for the tide to turn. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Jam Kamal invites Korean companies to invest in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Republic of Korea's Ambassador to Pakistan, Park Kijun Friday called on Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan and discussed strategies on boosting bilateral trade and investment.

Jam Kamal Khan extended an open invitation to Korean companies, urging them to explore and invest in Pakistan's commercial and strategic projects.

He emphasized that over the past three months, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's top priorities have focused on enhancing business connectivity and simplifying the process of doing business in Pakistan, said a press release issued here.

He briefed the Korean envoy on government's proactive measures in stabilizing the economy, which he believes are making Pakistan an increasingly attractive destination for foreign investment.

Ambassador Park Kijun expressed a strong desire to collaborate closely with Pakistan to enhance trade volumes and explore new business opportunities.

Minister Khan assured the ambassador that the government stands ready to promptly resolve any problems to ensure smooth and efficient operations for foreign businesses in Pakistan.

Additionally, Jam Kamal Khan invited Korean investors to capitalize on upcoming privatization opportunities within various government departments. This move aligns with the Prime Minister's vision of increasing private sector involvement in the economy to improve efficiency and service delivery.

Key sectors highlighted for potential investment included energy, port and shipping, fisheries, and agriculture—areas deemed critical for Pakistan's economic development and offering substantial opportunities for international investors.

During the meeting, the minister also briefed the ambassador on the successful holding of the recent Saudi Arabia-Pakistan Investment Forum 2024 which was attended by the top investors from Saudi Arabia.

He informed the ambassador that Pakistan can organise a similar match-making event for the big Korean conglomerates and investors wishing to invest in Pakistan.

In conclusion, Jam Kamal Khan reiterated the government's commitment to making business operations in Pakistan more accessible and reliable.

He expressed optimism Pakistan is now progressing towards a phase of prosperity and growth.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Industry production and food security Rana Tanveer chaired high level meeting regarding supply chain and prices of fertilizer.

### Businessmen should support & cooperate in advancing mandate of SAARC: Golam

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: "Urge the business community of SAARC member states to support and cooperate in advancing the mandate of SAARC and its initiatives," said Md. Golam Sarwar, Secretary General, SAARC.

This was stated by Hon'ble Ambassador Golam Sarwar, Secretary General SAARC during his maiden visit to Pakistan.

striving to unlock the full potential of SAARC. Expressing concern, Mr. Sarwar stated that since the last SAARC summit held in 2014, no major events at the government level have taken place to overcome the procedural issues of SAARC Apex bodies. This lack of activity has impacted all the Apex and recognized bodies of SAARC. Excellency, called for a renewed and dedicated effort to overcome the longstanding challenges that have impeded SAARC's progress. He emphasized that the organization's future success hinges on member states putting aside political differences and focusing on regional cooperation.

### BOI Minister to visit Kuwait to enhance bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level delegation headed by Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan will visit Kuwait by end of current month for boosting investment in Pakistan.

The Pakistani delegation is expected to have meetings with Prime Minister of Kuwait and Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Power and Petroleum while Trade Minister of Kuwait will host, said a news release issued here on Friday.

Trade and business activities between the two countries will also be finalized and the visit to Kuwait will be made more useful in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Commerce.

Abdul Aleem Khan presided over the important consultation meeting regarding the visit to Kuwait in which the necessary issues were finalized.

The minister said that during his visit to Kuwait, there will be progress in providing employment to more workforce from Pakistan, especially health professionals and skilled labor, as well as taking the business community into confidence and the private sector.

"Pakistan will increase cooperation through taking on board Pakistan's export companies for dairy farming, meat products, rice and other food items to move forward through accelerated measures", he added.

### SBP injects over Rs241b into market

KARACHI (APP): State Bank of Pakistan, Friday, injected Rs241.350 billion in the market through reverse repo purchase and Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operation (OMO).

According to OMO results issued here, the SBP conducted Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) on May 24, 2024 for tenors of 7 and 28 days.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) on Friday entered into a collaboration with the Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), wherein the latter came up with an Endowment of Economic Security Chair.

The kick-off ceremony was attended by Chairman Board of OGDCL Zafar Masood and CEO Bank of Punjab Ahmed Hayat Lak, CEO/Director OGDCL, and senior officials of the industry, said a press release issued here.

President IPRI, Dr Raza Muhammad and Dr Anel Salman, Chair Economic Security IPRI, presented their welcome remarks and apprised the delegates of their think tank's profile, and how it has made inroads in the world of research.

The Endowment of Economic Security Chair at IPRI is for a period of three years, and it will be known as 'IPRI-OGDCL Chair'.

### Chief Collector Customs Appraisal interacts with SCCI members

SIALKOT (APP): Chief Collector Customs Appraisal (Punjab) Lahore Saima Shehzad, along with Collector Customs Sialkot Saima Aftab, visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) on Friday for foster cooperation of the business community and addressing customs-related challenges to bolster regional trade.

SCCI President Abdul Ghafoor Malik, Senior Vice President Wahub Jahangir, Vice President Amer Majeed Sheikh, and Dr. Mariam Nouman, president of the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WCCIS), welcomed the officials. In a meeting held at the SCCI Auditorium, the SCCI president appraised Chief Collector Saima Shehzad of the hurdles confronting local businesses. Highlighting Sialkot's pivotal role as an export hub, he emphasised the city's contribution to foreign exchange earnings and national economic prosperity. President Malik lauded SCCI's pioneering efforts in fostering a culture of export promotion and community development. Notable initiatives spearheaded by the SCCI, including the establishment of Sialkot Dry Port, Sialkot International Airport Limited (SIAL), and AirSial, were hailed as milestones in the city's progress.



After assuming the Chair of SG, SAARC in SAARC Secretariat Kathmandu Nepal, Excellency, lauded the commendable efforts of the SAARC Apex and recognized bodies in taking regional agenda forward. He pledged relentless efforts to fortify cooperation among Member States,

Governor Punjab resolves to get the country out of difficulties together

ATTOCK (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Salim Haider Khan Friday said that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was a democratic party and it would not do any unconstitutional work. Together we would get Pakistan out of its problems by giving a gift in the form of University of Attock, he said and added that the workers were determined to make PPP stronger in Punjab. He was talking to the media on the occasion of the visit of senior Party leader Dr. Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan at the residence of PPP District President Sardar Ashraf Hayat Khan in Hassanabad on Friday. On this occasion, former National Assembly candidate Sardar Zulfikar Hayat Khan, Party leaders and a large number of dignitaries from the city were also present. On this occasion, the Governor mingled with the workers and listened to their problems. Tight security arrangements were made on the Governor's arrival.

Punjab govt appoints judges in special courts, LHC told

LAHORE (Online): Punjab government has filed notification in Lahore High Court (LHC) regarding appointments of judges in special courts. The court gave time of 15 days to federal government for appointment of judges. Chief Justice (CJ) LHC Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan heard the case of appointment of judges in special courts of Punjab Friday. Advocate General (AG) Punjab presented the notification regarding appointment of judges in LHC. The court gave 15 days time to federal government for appointment of judges. CJ LHC appreciated positive role of AG Punjab. He remarked all are respectable for us. You have shown good attitude. AG Punjab told the court judges in all Special Courts of Anti Terrorism have been appointed in Punjab. He further told two judges have been appointed in anti corruption and one each in service tribunal and consumer court. If appointment has to be made anywhere it will soon be made, he added. During the hearing of the case federal government sought more time. Counsel for federal government said approval for appointment of judges will be obtained in the meeting of federal government. The CJ LHC remarked now Punjab government has made appointment of judges but federal government has sought time for 15 days.

Two killed, one injured in Katlang firing

PESHAWAR (APP): At least two people were killed and one injured in Katlang firing. The officials of Jabbar police station where two people identified as Sattar Khan and Afsar were killed by the firing of unknown assailants. Another unknown man also sustained bullet injuries in the firing. The officials of Rescue 1122 shifted the dead and injured to DHQ Hospital. Jabbar police have started an investigation into the incident after registering a case.

Eradication of dengue mosquito priority: DC Attock

ATTOCK (APP): Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza Friday said that people should ensure the implementation of the code of conduct issued by the Punjab government to eradicate the dengue mosquito so that this epidemic can be effectively controlled. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting in connection with the anti-dengue campaign at DC Office Attock.



KARACHI: Members of Civil Society are holding protest demonstration against the killing of Journalist, Nasrullah at Karachi press club.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi in a group photo with delegation of elected representative Local Government led by ANP Leader Samar Bilour.

Minister promises peace, order across province

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique has affirmed that peace and order are being maintained throughout the province. Chairing the 5th meeting of the Sub-Cabinet Committee on Law and Order on Friday, on the directives of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, he emphasised the ongoing actions against drug dealers, kite-making factories, and electricity thieves. During the meeting, which was held at the Interior Department on Friday, the committee approved the formation of a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) to probe various incidents. Additionally, ten prisoners were granted parole, and resources were allocated to the Lahore and Rawalpindi administrations in preparation for the New Zealand cricket series. The health minister conducted a thorough review of the province's law and order situation, including security arrangements for Eid-ul-Adha. Briefings were given by relevant officers, commissioners, and Regional Police Officers (RPOs).

Secretary Health says: Doctors issues to be resolved on priority

MULTAN (APP): Secretary Health Punjab, Ali Jan Khan on Friday stated that all issues faced by doctors would be resolved on a priority basis. He said that under the Sehat Sahulat Programme (SSP) it is the doctors' right to receive their share, saying that once the renovation of Nishtar Hospital is completed, it will wear a new look. He expressed these views while talking to a delegation from the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) during his visit to Nishtar Hospital. Dr Zulfqarnain Haider, the Vice President of the PMA and others informed him that the doctors of Nishtar Hospital have not yet received their share, while the Director of Finance and his staff are keeping 43 pc of the share, which is against the rules. Similarly, a visit by the University of Health Sciences to the departments of Pulmonology, Gastroenterology, Dermatology, and Nephrology has not yet taken place due to delays in approval.

KP Governor visits Mufti Mehmood Markaz to meet JUI leadership

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi here on Friday visited Mufti Mehmood Markaz and met with JUI Senator, Moulana Atta-ur-Rehman. The governor was accompanied by Provincial President PPP, Najamuddin and former federal minister, Sajid Hussain. JUI Secretary General Moulana Ata-ul-Haq Darwais and City Mayor, Haji Zubair Ali was also present on the occasion.

Heat wave grips Larkana Division

LARKANA (APP): The entire city of Larkana and its surroundings remained in grip of severe heat on Friday, forcing the people to remain indoors. The Met Office Larkana recorded 50 Degree Celsius as maximum temperature, but it has feel 52 temperature. The severe heat has affected the daily business adversely and the prices of ice and cold drinks have soared tremendously and traffic flow were slow and people's stay at homes. Mayor Larkana established cold drinking water stalls in different areas of the city.

Governor KP chairs senate meeting of UoS

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi here Friday chaired the 13th Senate meeting of University of Swabi (UoS) that discussed various matters including financial resource plan and age relaxation. The meeting among others was attended by Provincial Minister for Higher Education, Meena Khan Afridi, Vice Chancellor (UoS), Dr. Nasir Jamal and concerned officials. The meeting discussed matters including approval of minutes presented in last senate meeting besides deliberating the reservations regarding financial resource plan of the university. Meeting also discussed report about amendments that was presented in the meeting after getting approval from syndicate. Participants of the meeting also pondered matters including age relaxation for appointment and abolishing of certain allowances. Addressing the meeting, KP Governor suggested deciding a time frame for preparation of senate minutes and said that approval of minutes should be delayed. He also stressed to devise a proper mechanism and policy relating to age relaxation.



LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari addressing a Press conference at DGPR.

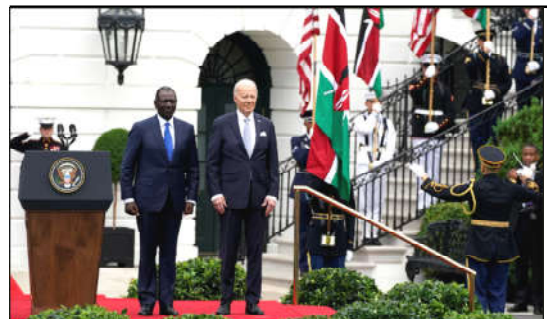
Azma Bokhari says: Country's development top priority of PML-N

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari said on Friday that the Punjab Cabinet had given approval to take legal action against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder and other leaders for adopting hatred narrative against state institutions. Addressing a press conference here, she said the country's development and prosperity was the top priority of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz. She said, "Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf promotes hatred on social media in an organized way." Azma said that hatred was being promoted through a propaganda started from Adiala Jail. She further said that in the 8th meeting of Punjab Cabinet presided over by Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz, a number of development works had been approved. She said that Punjab Cabinet had paid tribute to the Punjab CM for reducing inflation to a great extent which helped in mitigating the sufferings of common man. Azma Bokhari said that prices of rice, ghee, flour had reduced while rates of cement, gas cylinder and transport fares had also gone down. She said that Pakistani rupee also got stable against dollar.

International News

Biden woos Kenya's President Ruto with key state visit

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden is rolling out the red carpet Thursday for his Kenyan counterpart William Ruto with a diplomacy-heavy state visit and a lavish White House dinner with all the trimmings. It is the first state visit to Washington by an African leader in more than 15 years. As Biden seeks to counter geopolitical headwinds across the continent, he will formally ask Congress to grant Kenya the status of "major non-Nato ally," according to a senior administration official. The label officially confers military and diplomatic privileges on the countries—currently 18 around the world—that are so designated, albeit without any formal security guarantees. Kenya would become the first sub-Saharan African nation on the list. "Democracy is obviously on the back foot globally and we see Kenya as an important, stable democracy in East Africa," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Hence the pomp and circumstance that awaits Ruto on Thursday—a day after he met with Biden at the White House—during a visit expected to touch on the issue of global peace and security, and notably an upcoming role for Kenya in a mission to restore order to chaos-torn Haiti. Ruto will first be received with military honors in the morning, followed by a bilateral meeting with Biden, then a joint press conference, before a gala dinner featuring the two first ladies. Distinguished guests will gather in a vast pavilion on the White House lawn, where tables will be adorned with African orchids and American roses. On the menu: Heirloom tomato soup, fruitwood-smoked beef short ribs and butter-poached lobster, with banana ganache for dessert. Entertainers will include country music star Brad Paisley and a gospel choir. The White House has promised partnership announcements in health and the battle against climate change, as well as private sector investment.



U.S. President Joe Biden welcomes Kenyan President William Ruto during an official White House State Arrival ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, U.S.

Hundreds of Tunisian president's supporters protest against 'foreign interference'

TUNIS: Hundreds of people demonstrated in Tunis on Sunday in support of President Kais Saied amid widespread criticism at home and abroad after a wave of arrests that included journalists, activists and lawyers. The European Union, France and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed concern at the arrests and at a police raid on the headquarters of the bar association this month in which two lawyers critical of the president were detained. Police this month arrested 10 people, including journalists, lawyers and officials of civil society groups, in what was described as crackdown by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.



Delegates attend a ruling on South Africa's request to order a halt to Israel's Rafah offensive in Gaza as part of a larger case accusing Israel of genocide at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Macron says extra security to stay in riot-hit New Caledonia as long as needed

NOUMEA: Police reinforcements in New Caledonia will stay as long as needed, President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday after viewing areas devastated by deadly riots triggered by a contested electoral reform in the French-ruled Pacific island. Macron's hastily arranged visit comes after six people were killed in riots that have left a trail of looted shops, torched cars and businesses since they began more than a week ago. "In the coming hours and days, massive new operations will be scheduled where necessary, and republican order in its entirety will be re-established because there is no other choice," Macron said during a meeting with political and business leaders in the territory's capital Noumea. Roads across the island remained blocked by protester barricades, and residents shared advice on social media on safe routes to find food, petrol and medicine.

Russia says IS behind deadly Moscow concert hall attack

MOSCOW: Russia on Friday said for the first time that the militant Islamic State group coordinated the March concert hall assault in Moscow, the country's deadliest terror attack in two decades. IS has claimed responsibility on multiple occasions for the March 22 attack which killed over 140 people, but Moscow has repeatedly tried to link Ukraine and the West to the attack. FSB chief Alexander Bortnikov was quoted as saying by the RIA Novosti news agency that "preparations, the financing."

Trudeau signals Canada's readiness to recognise Palestine 'at the right time'

TORONTO: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Wednesday said Canada is "prepared to recognise the state of Palestine at the right time— not necessarily as the last step along the path." Trudeau's statement came in response to a challenge from New Democratic Party (NDP) MP and foreign affairs critic Heather McPherson in the House of Commons, as she urged him to "take a stand" on the matter. "We urgently need to build a credible path towards lasting peace. We oppose efforts by the Netanyahu government to reject a two-state solution. At the same time, Hamas, a terrorist group, currently controls areas in Gaza and has not laid down its arms or released its hostages," Trudeau added. The debate in the House of Commons was sparked by recent decisions from Norway, Ireland, and Spain to recognise Palestine, prompting Canadian lawmakers to discuss the issue. Several Liberal MPs have urged Prime Minister Trudeau to follow suit and the call within Canada's Parliament for formal recognition of a Palestinian state is growing.

12 Palestinians killed and 25 wounded in Israel's 2-day West Bank operation

NEW YORK: The Israeli military said Thursday it has completed a two-day operation in the occupied West Bank that the Palestinian Health Ministry says killed 12 Palestinians and wounded 25. Rippling tensions from the Israel-Hamas war were also felt in the Red Sea, where a missile splashed down in the water near the crucial Bab el-Mandeb Strait on Thursday, but caused no damage, and in Lebanon, where state-run National News Agency says an Israeli drone strike killed one person and wounded three school students who were passing nearby in a bus. More than 400 people have been killed in Lebanon since Israel and Hezbollah began exchanging fire the day after the latest war in Gaza began. Norway, Ireland and Spain said Wednesday they were recognizing a Palestinian state, a move welcomed by Palestinians as an affirmation of their decades-long quest while Israel recalled its ambassadors to the three countries. It was the second blow to Israel's international reputation this week after the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court said he would seek arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his defense minister. The International Court of Justice is also considering allegations of genocide that Israel has strenuously denied.

US will announce \$275 million more in artillery and ammunition for Ukraine, officials say

WASHINGTON: The United States is expected to announce an additional \$275 million in military aid for Ukraine on Friday as Kyiv struggles to hold off advances by Russian troops in the Kharkiv region, two U.S. officials say. This will be the fourth installment of military aid for Ukraine since Congress passed a long-delayed foreign aid bill late last month and comes as the Biden administration has pledged to keep weapons flowing regularly and to get them to the front lines as quickly as possible. The package includes high mobility artillery rocket systems, or HIMARS, as well 155 mm and 105 mm high-demand artillery rounds, according to the two U.S. officials. They spoke on the condition of anonymity to provide details of the aid package before the public announcement. It follows a monthly gathering Monday of about 50 defense leaders from Europe and elsewhere who meet regularly to coordinate getting more military aid to Ukraine. At this latest meeting, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Ukraine was in a "moment of challenge" due to Russia's new onslaught on Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city. He pledged to keep weapons moving "week after week." Russia has sought to take advantage of Ukrainian shortages in manpower and weapons while the war-torn country waits for the arrival of more U.S. assistance, which was delayed for months in Congress. Ukrainian forces have been pushed backward in places, while Russia has pounded its power grid and civilian areas.

## Minister says; Action against political party office taken in accordance with law

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Azam Nazeer Tarar, informed the Senate that action against a political party office had been taken in accordance with the law and for violating building bylaws. Responding to a point of order raised by opposition leader Shibli Faraz, he further explained that the first notice was issued to the political party in 2020 for violating building bylaws. Notices were repeatedly issued from 2020 to 2024 at six-month intervals, with the final notice given on May 10 for ongoing viola-

lions. "In view of the last notice dated May 10, the action is in accordance with the law," the minister said. He elaborated that he had talked to the chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA), who confirmed that the process had been ongoing for the past four years due to the violations. The final notice was issued to ensure compliance with CDA directions, he added. The minister further explained that reminders were issued to the political party regarding two floors constructed without CDA approval and the misuse of a public place for parking containers.



Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal co-chairing the 13th JCC meeting with China on CPEC in Islamabad.

## Dar emphasizes uniform high quality medical education in Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday underlined the need to improve the regulatory framework for medical education in Pakistan, besides establishing a coordination mechanism between medical institutions, and the public and private sectors to ensure uniform high-quality education. He was chairing the first meeting of the Committee on Medical Education that was constituted by the prime minister earlier this week on May 20. The deputy prime minister emphasized the important responsibility of the committee to address the gaps in medical education in the country. Highlighting the importance of nurturing a conducive environment for medical students to excel and contribute meaningfully to the healthcare sector, Ishaq Dar stressed that the world-class quality of medical education should be ensured in all the provinces.

The committee conducted a comprehensive review of the country's medical education system, fee structure, and identified key areas for improvement and development of a strategic plan to align medical education with international standards. It specifically focused on devising a plan to solve the issues faced by Pakistani medical students studying abroad. It also discussed strategies to support and empower medical students in their academic and professional endeavours. The meeting was attended by the Minister for Law and Justice, the Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Health, Secretary Health, the Deputy Chairman Planning Commission and Chairman Higher Education Commission, MNA Dr Nafeesa Shah, heads of prominent public and private medical institutions, and eminent experts from the medical community.

The committee members include key stakeholders from the medical community, the education sector, and government officials. It aims to reform the medical education across the country. This initiative underscores the government's commitment to improve healthcare standards and ensure the highest quality of medical training for future generations of healthcare professionals. After a detailed discussion in the meeting, a sub-executive committee was constituted with Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmad, National Coordinator for Health as Convener and Tariq Bajwa as Co-Convener. The sub-committee will deliberate on the existing terms of reference (ToRs) along with additional tasks including synergies among regulatory bodies, streamlining procedures for foreign students in Pakistan and the uniformity in curricula.

## EC fixes hearing of PTI intra party poll case on May 30

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI intra party case has been fixed by Election Commission (EC) for hearing on May 30. A five members bench of EC led by chief election commissioner will hear the case. PTI has already given reply to questionnaire of EC. EC issued notice to barrister Gohar and Rauf Hassan.

## 5 persons killed in exchange of firing between two rival groups

PESHAWAR (APP): As many as five persons were killed as a result of firing between two rival groups with five other injured here on Friday, an official of the Chamkani Police Station told media men. The incident of the cross firing between the two rival groups accused in the jurisdiction of the Chamkani police station, the Police official said. As a result of firing between two parties, five people were injured, Police said. Three people died from one side and two from the other side, Police officials informed the media men. According to the Police, there was a property dispute between the two rival groups. Police reached the spot and sent the bodies for autopsy. Syed Niaz Ali Shah, Babar, Wasiullah, Jameel Shamil and a policeman are among the dead. Injured Iftikhar was shifted to hospital for medical assistance, police said.

## PM Shehbaz visit to UAE to yield fruitful results: Tirmzi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Envoy to the United Arab Emirates, Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmzi Friday said that Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif's much-anticipated and comprehensive visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was highly successful which would eventually bring about extensive positive results within the next few months. In his exclusive talk with PTV news, he said that the visit will yield positive results not only in terms of economic and other cooperation but also in terms of forging alliances and friendship. He said that the Saudi "believes in the economic potential of Pakistan" including its demography, location and natural resources, adding, the UAE will be "moving ahead significantly" to invest in projects in Pakistan.

## Ahsan Iqbal terms CPEC a transformative force in region

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal on Friday said that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has become a transformative force in the region as the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), especially for Pakistan. The minister said that CPEC will enhance cooperation and development for both countries in the fields of agriculture, industry, information technology and science. The minister and Vice Chairman National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) Li Chunlin jointly chaired the 13th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting. At the beginning of the meeting, Li Chunlin praised the Pakistani minister of planning for his deep com-

mitment to CPEC and his active role in promoting it. Ahsan Iqbal chaired 10 of the 13th JCC meetings held so far, which is quite an honour in itself, said Li Chenlin. Federal Minister for Privatization, Minister of Communications, Federal Minister of Information Technology, Secretary Planning, Secretary Energy, Secretary Communications, Secretary Board of Investment, and senior officials of federal and provincial ministries participated in the meeting. In the JCC meeting, the Pakistan side appreciated the vision of Chinese leadership to upgrade the second phase of CPEC with the inclusion of these new corridors which are in harmony with Pakistan's 5E framework. Meanwhile speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Iqbal said, "We are ready to work with NDRC to finalise the scope and implementation plan on these corridors. Both sides are highly committed to this shared vision, and together, both countries have embarked on a journey of shared dreams, working hand in hand to build high-quality development projects."

Last year, Pakistan and China celebrated a decade of successful high-quality development and ever closer collaboration under CPEC, he said. The minister stated that during the celebrations, Vice Premier He Lifeng unveiled five new corridors proposed by President Xi Jinping, including the Growth Corridor, Livelihood Enhancing Corridor, Innovation Corridor, Green Corridor, and Opening Up/Regional Connectivity Corridor.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Nawabzada Tariq Magsi and former MPA Malik Sikandar Advocate meeting with Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

## Pakistan's border crossing with Iran at Taftan, Gabd to remain open 24/7

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistani Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassar Tipu announced on Friday that Pakistan's border crossing with Iran at Taftan and Gabd will remain open 24/7 to promote business between the neighbouring countries. Calling it a big step forward, the ambassador said it would hopefully sharply increase the flow of goods between the two countries and consequently widen economic opportunities.

common border between the two states from a 'border of peace' to a 'border of prosperity', both countries had reiterated the importance of cooperation in the energy domain, including trade in electricity, power transmission lines and Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project. During Raisi's visit to Pakistan, both sides had underscored the imperative of a long-term durable economic partnership and collaborative regional economic and connectivity model, particularly for socio-economic development in Iran's Sistan-Balochistan and Pakistan's Balochistan provinces. This was stated by the Foreign Office in a 28-point joint statement, hours after the Iranian head of state had departed for Tehran from Karachi.

Pakistan and Iran on April 24 reiterated the importance of energy cooperation and electricity trade, despite the warning of potential sanctions hinted at by the United States following the then Iranian president Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi's three-day visit to Pakistan. Agreeing to turn the

## 43 Pakistani prisoners in Sri Lanka to return home

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's success on the diplomatic front will bring 43 Pakistani citizens back to their homes from Sri Lanka jails. In a high-level meeting on Friday with the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, Admiral (Retd) Ravindra Chandra Srivijaya Gunaratne, it was agreed to immediately repatriate 43 Pakistani citizens imprisoned in Sri Lanka. The Ministry of Home Affairs had been working with the Sri Lankan authorities for the past month to bring back these prisoners. The Sri Lankan High Commissioner assured all possible cooperation in this regard. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi thanked the Sri Lankan High Commissioner for his support for the repatriation of the prisoners.

The arrangements for the return of Pakistani prisoners will be finalised in a few days, Mohsin Naqvi said in his statement. The minister said that relations between Sri Lanka and Pakistan have been going from strength to strength over the past seven decades. He said that Pakistan wants to further develop mutual relations in various fields with Sri Lanka. In the meeting, it was agreed to take immediate steps to return the prisoners of both countries to their country. Issues of mutual interest and the development of bilateral relations were also discussed in the meeting. Both sides agreed to increase cooperation in the field of security and counter-narcotics. Earlier, Mohsin Naqvi welcomed the Sri Lankan High Commissioner on his arrival at the Ministry of Interior.

## Joint opposition in KP rejects provincial budget

PESHAWAR (APP): The joint opposition in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assembly has rejected provincial budget and termed it misleading and puzzle of number that lacks ground realities. Talking to media on KP Assembly premises, opposition leaders said that provincial budget is against expectations of people and devoid facts and figures. They said that government is unaware of the required procedure and policy to run the province keeping in view expectations of the people. Opposition said that provincial government has failed to fulfill its pledges and promises made to people of KP during elections.

## Govt utilizing resources for facilitating people in Balochistan: Adviser

QUETTA (APP): Adviser on Environment and Climate Change to Chief Minister Nasseem-ur Rehman Khan Mulakhel on Friday said that provincial government was utilizing all available resources to provide basic facilities to public in the respective area of province. He said that while talking to Parliamentary Secretary Social Welfare Wali Noorzai called on him at his office. The Secretary Wali Noorzai congratulated him on taking over the portfolio of Environment. The Environment Adviser thanked the Parliamentary Secretary and congratulated him on joining the Cabinet and taking charge of the Department of Social Welfare. In the meeting, the importance of both departments in the development of the province was discussed and the commitment was expressed that all resources will be utilized for public service. Later, a delegation led by socio-political leader Chaudhry Naem Karim also met the Provincial Adviser on Environment and congratulated him on taking over the portfolio of Environment.

## Dr Khalid meets Malala

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui had a meet with Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousofzai here on Friday. Provincial ministers for education and British Council representatives were also present, said a press release. Malala reaffirmed that the Malala Foundation's support for education, especially girls' education, will continue across all provinces in the country.

## 4 dead, 5 injured in traffic accident

ZHOBI (INP): Four people lost their lives, and five others were injured when a tractor trolley overturned due to over speed in Zhob. According to a private news channel, the accident occurred when the driver of the tractor trolley, carrying nomads, lost control of the vehicle due to over speeding. Rescue officials responded promptly, arriving at the scene to provide immediate assistance. The bodies of the deceased and injured were transported to the hospital for medical treatment. The victims included women and children, all reportedly from the same family.

## ECP employees to get three salaries as bonus

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) decided to give three salaries as bonus to its officers and employees. According to letters dispatched to the provincial election commissioners, the ECP has informed that employees and officers will get three basic salaries as bonus. Those who are facing departmental inquiries and moved to services tribunals or judiciary will not be eligible for the bonus, the ECP letter stated. The ECP has already given two salary bonuses to its employees in March after conducting the general elections in February.



Deputy Prime Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Chairs the First meeting of the Committee on Medical Education at Ministry of Foreign Affairs Islamabad.

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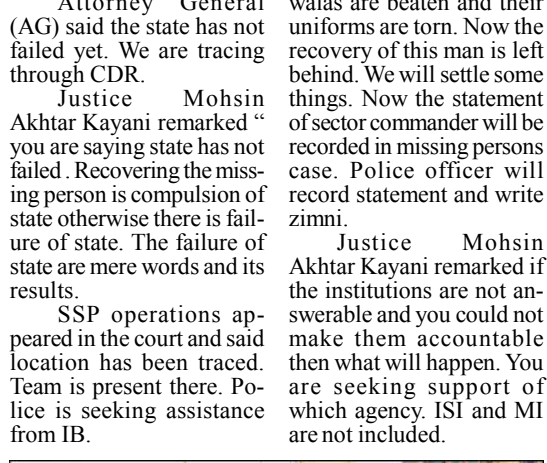
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ISLAMABAD: JUI F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman met with deputy chairman senate Syedaal khan Nasir and discussed overall political situation, in the Federal Capital.

## Recovery of missing Ahmad Farhad case: IHC summons defence secretary, sector commander ISI in person

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani of Islamabad High Court (IHC) has summoned defence secretary and sector commander ISI in person in the matter of recovery of missing poet Ahmad Farhad. The petition seeking recovery of Ahmad Farhad came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani. Attorney General (AG) said the state has not failed yet. We are tracing through CDR. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked "you are saying state has not failed. Recovering the missing person is compulsion of state otherwise there is failure of state. The failure of state are mere words and its results. SSP operations appeared in the court and said location has been traced. Team is present there. Police is seeking assistance from IB. The court remarked defence secretary should make understand about ISI working by appearing on next hearing. Sector commander and how many persons work under him in ISI. Now agencies will not sit hidden any where. These police wala are sitting here only because they are answerable. The court further remarked law and situation deteriorates too. Police wala are beaten and their uniforms are torn. Now the recovery of this man is left behind. We will settle some things. Now the statement of sector commander will be recorded in missing persons case. Police officer will record statement and write zimni. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked if the institutions are not answerable and you could not make them accountable then what will happen. You are seeking support of which agency. ISI and MI are not included.



HUB: Members of All Balochistan Transport Ittehad are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of police and coast guards.

## Digital X-Ray machines provided in 30 districts of Balochistan, says Dr. Asif Anwar Shahwani

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Manager, TB Control Programme, Dr. Asif Anwar Shahwani has stated that the digital and artificial intelligence based new X-Ray machines have been provided in 30 districts of the province. According to an official press release issued here on Friday, the digital X-Ray machines have been provided in the districts with assistance of the Global Fund. Dr. Asif Anwar Shahwani said that the digital machines can diagnose the TB disease by itself. The Manager TB control Programme said that the technical staff would be imparted necessary training to operate the digital X-Ray machines. It would also effectively help control the disease, he added.

## All necessary measures taken for Gwadar security: DC

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Hamood ur Rehman Friday dismissed rumors about the erection of a fence in the coastal city of Gwadar, labeling such claims as baseless. Talking to APP, Rehman categorically denied any ongoing or future plans for constructing a fence in Gwadar. The DC emphasized that the government was committed to provide all necessary facilities to the local population, ensuring their freedom of movement within the city. He mentioned that false rumors are being spread by certain political groups, obscuring the facts from the public. Addressing the concerns about the so-called fence, Rehman clarified that a temporary trench was dug as a security measure, which has been misrepresented as a fence by some factions for propaganda purposes. DC Gwadar further noted that before initiating work on the trench, the local community was taken into confidence.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers, Bakht Kakar, Zareen Magsi are in a group photo along with stranded Pakistani Students from Bishkek-Kyrgyzstan on their arrival, in Quetta.