

# Independent

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

## Some forces are against stability in Balochistan, Pakistan: President

Expresses willingness to engage with all political forces for the future of the province

QUETTA (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday said that certain quarters did not want stability in Balochistan and in the country and for the future of the province, they would talk to all the political forces in the province. The president was given a briefing on the law and order and the progress on different ongoing development projects in the province.

The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Governor Balochistan Shaikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhel, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, provincial ministers and senior federal and provincial authorities, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. During the meeting, the president underscored the need to eliminate smuggling which was causing damage

to the national economy and observed that there was a deep link between terrorism and narcotics smuggling. He also stressed upon an effective mechanism for provision of job opportunities to the people living at the border areas. In the meeting, it was decided to commence consultations regarding adopting a joint national narrative against terrorism. The president directed the law enforcement agencies to continue their efforts against terrorists. He said that they were fully cognizant of the backwardness and the frail economic situation of the residents of the province, adding that the province lacked health facilities when compared with other provinces. President Zardari also suggested that for the train-

ing of youth in the nursing and other sectors, system of Sindh government could be emulated, besides seeking its services in the health sector as well. He opined that both the provinces could evolve a joint strategy for cooperation in different sectors of public welfare. The president stressed for seeking of cooperation from different countries through Ministry of Foreign Affairs for provision of jobs to the technically educated and skilled youth of the province abroad. For removal of backwardness of the province, release of allocated funds by the federal government was essential and for the public welfare oriented projects, funds could be released for certain projects on priority basis, he added.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, Interior Minister & Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi and Senator Anwaarul Haq Kakar addressing a Press conference

## We want sustainable solution to peace in Balochistan: Provision of basic facilities to people big challenge because of lack of communication infrastructure: CM

Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti expects very cooperation of President Zardari for resolving issues of province

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that the provision of basic facilities to the people is major challenge because of lack of basic communication infrastructure in the remote areas of province. The Chief Minister said that the provincial government is facing challenges of governance, climate change and law and order. He said that

Balochistan faces hardships in timely completion of the projects due to slow release of funds allocated for the federal public sector development programme or other mega projects in the province. These and similar views were expressed by the Chief Minister while speaking at a meeting held on law and order situation and development projects in presence of the President Asif Ali Zardari here at the CM's secretariat on Tuesday. The Chief Minister

said that timely release of the funds is necessary for rehabilitation of the Kachhi canal phase-I and construction of Phase-II besides the southern Balochistan package. He said that the timely completion of public interest development projects would be possible with timely release of the funds from federal government. In this regard, we have lot of expectations and expect cooperation of the President Asif Ali Zardari, he insisted.

Interior Minister calls on CM Balochistan:

## Naqvi assures every possible cooperation for improving law, order situation in Balochistan

Mir Sarfraz Bugti says protection of life and property of masses being ensured while establishing writ of State

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Federal Interior Minister, Mohsin Naqvi has assured every possible cooperation for improving law and order situation in Balochistan. He categorically stated that there is very important role of Balochistan in development of the country, as such all kinds of resources are ready for the province. The Federal Interior Minister was speaking to the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti to whom he called here at the Chief

Minister's secretariat on Tuesday. Also present in the meeting were included the Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove and Federal Secretary Interior, Khurram Agha besides other concerned high ups. During the course of meeting, different matters including law and order situation were discussed beside the matters of mutual interest.

Mohsin Naqvi said that the federal government would extend every possible support to the provin-

cial government for improving law and order in the province. On this, the Chief Minister thanked the Federal Interior Minister for cooperation in law and order in the province. He said that all available resources are being mobilized for restoration of peace in the province. He said that all the security institutions are determined to ensure peace through better coordination. He said that the protection of life and property of the masses is being ensured while maintaining writ of the state.

## May 9 perpetrators, facilitators will have to be punished as per Constitution, law: DG ISPR

May 9 riots not limited to army, concerns whole nation: No talks will be held with any political leader, or group which attacks its own army and indulges in propaganda; Terrorists trying to disrupt peace in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

RAWALPINDI (Online): Director General Inter-Services Public Relations, Major General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has disclosed that plot to kill Chinese engineers in Besham was hatched in neighbouring Afghanistan. Addressing a news conference in Rawalpindi Tuesday, he said the suicide bomber was the Afghan national and the vehicle used in the attack was also prepared in Afghanistan. He said four other key culprits have been arrested by the law enforcement agencies.

The DG ISPR pointed out that there are twenty-nine thousand Chinese nationals in Pakistan. Of them, twenty-five hundred Chinese are engaged with CPEC-related projects and 5500 others are working on other development projects. Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said it is our priority to ensure security of

all Chinese nationals and all possible steps are being taken in this regard. The DG ISPR said the attack on Chinese engineers was aimed at sabotaging Pakistan-China friendship and hurt the CPEC project. He expressed firm commitment to completely dismantle terrorist groups and ensure protection of the people. Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said security forces conducted thirteen thousand one hundred and thirty-five intelligence based operations against terrorists and their facilitators. He said about one hundred operations are carried out on daily basis. The DG ISPR categorically said nobody will be allowed to disturb law and order situation in the country. He said the Army Chief has stated that there is no place for terrorists inside Pakistan.



He said it is because of sacrifices of the security forces personnel and the people that the country is fast heading towards peace. He said those involved in terrorist activities have no links with the state of Pakistan and Islam. Referring to the situation on the eastern border, the DG ISPR said Pakistan's civil and military leadership is fully cognizant of the planning being made in India to divert attention from its internal anarchy. Alluding to the Indian ceasefire violations, the DG ISPR said Pakistan Army has responded in a

befitting manner and it will continue to do so in future. He said Pakistan is fully prepared for the defence of its integrity and sovereignty. The DG ISPR said Pakistan stands by their Kashmiri brothers and sisters and will continue to extend political, diplomatic and moral support to them for their right to self-determination. He said India is also involved in extra territorial killings of Sikhs. He said there are also evidences of the involvement of India in assassination of people inside Pakistan. When asked about May 9 incident, the DG ISPR said it is not the case of Pakistan Army, but of the whole Pakistani nation. Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry emphasized that those involved in the attacks on military installations and disgrace of martyrs' memorials should be

brought to justice at the earliest in accordance with the law of the land and the constitution. He said doing so is also important to ensure that the people have faith in the justice system. The DG ISPR said there are irrefutable evidences of the involvement of a particular party in the May 9 events. He said the narrative based on falsehood cannot sustain. The DG ISPR said they have no objection on the formation of a Judicial Commission for investigation into May 9 incidents. He, however, said this Commission then should also probe into the objectives of 2014 sit-in and the attacks on the PTV and parliament. He stressed it should also be seen as to how the resources of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were utilized for another onslaught on the federal capital.

## Judges letter suo motu notice: Govt not doing anything about interference in judicial matters: SC judge

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has adjourned for indefinite time hearing of Judges letter suo motu notice till the availability of bench. Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has remarked if any judge can do nothing then he should sit in home. Such judges should not be judge who do nothing on seeing interference. It is obligation of we judges to work for independence of judiciary. You did not take oath. I have taken oath. There can be several pressures. We are paid salary for this job. We should appreciate our heroes who faced martial law dictators. Those who have not taken oath under martial law are our heroes. Justice Mansoor Ali

Shah remarked I have been chief justice of Lahore High Court. If some one hurls shoes on any civil judge then it is said go for compromise. Justice Jamal Mandokhail said we had called Prime Minister (PM) that he would ask who had made interference. Did he do something. During the hearing of the petitions filed in SC seeking investigation into the allegations leveled by six judges of Islamabad High Court in connection with interference in the affairs of judiciary, Justice Athar Minallah remarked there is interference in the judiciary at present too. The letter from six judges is fact. See it.



President Asif Ali Zardari being briefed about the law and order situation and the ongoing development projects in Balochistan, Quetta.

## Naqvi & Zia express resolve to eliminate terrorism from country

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Federal Interior Minister, Mohsin Naqvi and Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove have expressed the resolve to fully eliminate terrorism from the country including Balochistan. They were in meeting here on Tuesday. The Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs welcomed the Federal Interior Minister upon his arrival in the metropolis. Also accompanied with him was the Federal Secretary Interior, Khurram Agha. They discussed the overall law and order situation in Balochistan. Speaking on the occasion, Ziaullah Langove said that it is included in the provincial government's priority to maintain law and order in the province. For the purpose, all out efforts are being made, he added. He pointed out that Balochistan has suffered a lot due to terrorism.

## PM, UAE President reaffirm resolve to enhance bilateral ties

### Independent Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a telephonic conversation with President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The Prime Minister conveyed heartfelt condolences to the UAE President on the sad demise of his beloved uncle Sheikh Tahnoon bin Mohamed Al Nahyan and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul as well as patience for the Royal Family to bear this irreparable loss. The UAE President thanked the Prime Minister for the telephone call. Both leaders reaffirmed their resolve to enhance bilateral ties between the two brotherly countries. They also agreed to meet soon at a mutually convenient date.

The Prime Minister said that the people of Pakistan have always held the UAE Royal Family in high esteem and respect, particularly lauding the leadership of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who was a great friend of Pakistan. The UAE President thanked the Prime Minister for the telephone call. Both leaders reaffirmed their resolve to enhance bilateral ties between the two brotherly countries. They also agreed to meet soon at a mutually convenient date.

Reforms being introduced in multiple sectors to transform Pak: Tarar

## Reforms being introduced in multiple sectors to transform Pak: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Tuesday that the country standing at the crossroads was going through transformation and various reforms were being introduced in multiple sectors.



Addressing a press conference along with Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb and Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar here he said that the country's economy was on the right track and all the indicators were positive. The minister said that international organizations including financial journals had confirmed that the figures about the economic stability were correct.

## PTI demands judicial commission on May 9 incidents

### Independent Report

ISLAMABAD (INP) - The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday demanded the establishment of a judicial commission to investigate the events of May 9. Talking to media, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, along with the party's central leaders including Shoaib Shaheen, said peaceful protest is fundamental right any party. They also raised questions about the whereabouts of

CCTV footage of the May 9 incidents. Barrister Gohar underscored the party's stance on the matter of the Public Accounts Committee chairman, stating that it is an internal issue to be resolved upon issuance of the notification. Regarding a recent press conference by the DG ISPR, Barrister Gohar said, "I will read the DG ISPR's statement and then comment."

## Sheikh Jafar Mandukhel assumes charge as Governor Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Sheikh Jafar Khan Mandukhel formally assumed charge as Balochistan Governor on Tuesday. Earlier, Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jafar Khan Mandukhel was warmly welcomed by Principal Secretary to Governor Balochistan Hashim Khan Ghalzai and Military Secretary to Governor Balochistan Lt Col Tanveer

Hussain on his arrival at Governor House Quetta here. Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jafar Mandukhel was given an introductory briefing by the staff of his office about the affairs of the Governor's House and Secretariat. On this occasion, Governor Balochistan said that he is happy that there were very experienced and consci-

entious officers in the Governor's House and Secretariat. My desire and effort is to play my role effectively with my team for the development, prosperity and security of the country and the province, he said. A smartly turned out contingent of Balochistan Constabulary presented guard of honour to the Governor after taking the oath of the office yesterday. Provincial Minister Nawabzada Tariq Magsi, Vice Chancellor of Bolan Medical University Professor Dr. Naqibullah Achakzai, Sardar Yahya Khan Nasir, former Coordinator/Chief Minister of Balochistan Fateh Jamal, Munwar Khan, Mandukhil and Javria Tareem met separately with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jafar Khan Mandukhel at Governor House Quetta.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Nawabzada Tariq Magsi meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhel

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**President Zardari's crucial visit to Quetta**

President Asif Ali Zardari arrived in Quetta on a three-day visit to Balochistan on Monday. The newly sworn-in Governor Balochistan Shaikh Jaffar Mandokhail, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, provincial ministers and parliamentarians received the president at the airport.

Needless to mention here is that it is the maiden visit of President Zardari to Balochistan after taking over his office.

During the visit, the President was briefed about overall law and order situation in Balochistan. In addition to this, he was also apprised of development projects in the province.

On first leg of his visit, the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and provincial ministers called on President Zardari at the CM House. The provincial ministers included Mir Sadiq Umrani, Ali Madad Jattak, Mir Zahoor Buledi, Sardar Abdur Rehman Kethran, Mir Saleem Khosa, Sardarzada Faisal Jamali, Gazala Gola and Nawab Sanaullah Zehri, a member of the provincial assembly and senior PPP leader. At the dinner hosted at the CM House, flanked by CM Bugti and Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, President Zardari reaffirmed the government's commitment to Balochistan's prosperity terming it as a "priority". Accentuating the province's "special importance" due to its mineral resources and coastline, the president reassured that Balochistan's barren lands will be made capable of increased agricultural production. The President Zardari stated the federal government was committed to prioritize development and prosperity in Balochistan. He said that the province was important to the country due to its abundant mineral resources and extensive coastline. The President pledged efforts to increase agricultural production by irrigating barren lands in Balochistan. He also mentioned the 18th amendment in the country's constitution that empowered provinces and its importance in promoting national development.

Zardari also talked about Balochistan's untapped potential in the oil and gas sector. He stated that modern extraction methods were needed to harness the resources for economic growth.

The President pledged support for low-income families through programmes like the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) for the country's least developed and sparsely populated province. He vowed to expand such initiatives to ensure "broader coverage".

Zardari also assured the attendees that maximum efforts would be undertaken for the province's development. He pledged support to the Balochistan government in "creating" development opportunities for its people.

The President also echoed Bugti's statement on the importance of political dialogue in resolving Balochistan's issues.

It may be mentioned here that CM Bugti detailed the significance of Balochistan for the country. Addressing the President, the CM noted that it was the first visit by a President in a long time.

The CM mentioned issues plaguing Zardari's first term as the country's president. He also talked about how granting political autonomy to all four provinces was important in resolving interprovincial issues, especially of Balochistan.

**Extra baggage**

Naeem Sadiq

Undisputedly, the most important, most versatile and most indispensable person in a government office is the naib qasid, often the only moving component of an inert piece of machinery. He is the critical hub, an integral element of a governance system designed for a colonial era. He not only knows the location but also the contents of files and papers that drive and define a government. Naib qasids carry files from one office to another, perform house-keeping, ask visitors to wait, serve tea to their masters, and search, shelve, lose, find, misplace or retrieve files and records — depending upon their mood and motivation.

Using the 'right to information' law, our research, which is spread over a sample of 15 well-known and highly esteemed government organisations, such as National Savings, the Benazir Income Support Programme, the Employees' Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI), the Supreme Court and the Wafaqi Mohtasib, yields startling results. First, 23 per cent of the entire government of Pakistan consists of just one category of individuals — often called 'qasids', 'naib qasids' or 'daftaris'. As per the data provided under the right to information law, the Supreme Court (SC) tops this list with 283 (34pc) qasids and naib qasids, out of a total of 833 regular and contingent employees. Another prominent mention is BISP, that employs 473 qasids out of a total of 2,356 employees. Such governance through naib qasids would be inconceivable in any developed country, where officials must perform their own chores.

The study gets yet more overwhelming as it reveals that the employees designated as upper division clerks, lower division clerks or stenotypists constitute 26.8pc of the entire government of Pakistan. Although most offices have acquired computers and most senior officers have obtained laptops (at taxpayers' expense), there is no let-up in the demand or number of UDCs and LDCs. One wonders why emails, used by the rest of the world for the last 30 years, are still not an accepted form of official correspondence. Have low skills and high status become our biggest hindrance to progress? Should the conditions of employment not specify that every bureaucrat must carry his own briefcase, drive his own (private) car, clean his own table, receive, respond and file his own mail electronically, make his own tea, etc?

The next mind-boggling segment of employees — 22.7pc of government — sadly comprises chowkidars and private security guards. National Savings, with 1,270 security guards, champions this class, followed by Pakistan Post's 754 guards and BISP's 386 chowkidars. There is also no guilt for cruelty on the part of our esteemed organisations who engage guards through private security companies, not registering them with the EOBI and paying them less than half the minimum legal wage for performing 12-hour duty each day. From this, we can conclude that 72.5pc of the entire government of Pakistan consists of three categories of employees: qasids/ naib qasids, UDCs/ LDCs, and guards/ chowkidars. Like ministers, many are inducted on consider-

ations of 'relative', 'friend', 'party', 'clan', etc. Must we not ponder why Pakistan Railways operates with 315 employees per train, as opposed to the Indian Railways' 53, and Japan Railway's 5.9? Why does the SC operate with 833 employees and its British counterpart with 64 employees for around the same number of judges? It is time to admit that only by shedding 70pc of our government workforce will Pakistan see progress.

There are at least two main approaches to reducing the size of this mountain — firstly, by using technology to perform all those functions that can enhance efficiency and convenience. National Savings' latest software, which requires no citizen to visit a savings centre and to automatically receive profits in a designated bank, is a brilliant example. Resultantly, National Savings can potentially cut down 70pc of its employees and branches. The other approach is to eliminate all that is redundant or ceremonial. Almost all commissions and bureaus (NCHR, NCRC, NCSW, etc.) can be closed and their functions performed by their parent ministries.

Numerous ministries such as health, human rights, religious affairs and overseas Pakistanis could be merged and renamed the 'Ministry for Health & Population'. In this manner, Pakistan could reduce the total number of ministries (and logically the ministers) from 32 to 10. These two approaches ought to be identically emulated by the defence services as well as the provincial governments. Our governance system is dysfunctional and bloated. It exists only to preserve the luxuries of an extractive class. Its dismantling is a prerequisite for the progress of Pakistan.

**The Iranian story**

Tasneem Noorani

A few days after the triumphant arrival of Ayatollah Khomeini in Tehran in February 1979, four Pakistani students were having a meal in a suburban restaurant when they were surrounded by Kalashnikov-bearing Iranian Revolutionary Guards, who were inexperienced and more nervous than the students. They were like this because the Shah's ruthless regime had ensured that no one, other than state functionaries, possessed a weapon.

As one of the four students, I recalled the incident at the time of the visit of the Iranian president to Pakistan recently. I was studying in an institution set up by the Harvard Business School, on the request of the Shah, to give Iranians a modern business education in their own country.

The public was so happy when the Shah fled that shops selling sweets and ran empty. People, delirious with joy, were out on the streets displaying currency notes with the Shah's picture torn out. Young people were shouting "Shah raft" (the Shah's left). APCs and tanks, looted from abandoned cantonments, were being driven on the streets of Tehran by euphoric teenagers.

The four of us, all raised in a Western-oriented, English-medium environment, were confused. We felt sympathy for the citizens of Iran, who had been taken over by the mullahs. We felt fortunate to be citizens of Pakistan, where despite all our democratic shenanigans (Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was on trial but had not been hanged yet), we still had a tolerant government. There was nothing equivalent to Iran's secret service Savak, which had its fleet of 'Vigos' to 'fix' and eliminate dissidents.

Khomeini's arrival heralded the curbing of civil liberties. For instance, women, many of whom were used to wearing tight jeans and short skirts in public, could now no longer leave their homes without hijab. Our sympathies were with our Western-oriented class fellows, most of whom had to flee the country. We felt Iran was in for the long grind at the hands of an inexperienced and dogmatic clergy.

Forty-five years later, after watching the Iranian armed forces take on the biggest bully in the region, Israel, and scaring it into backing off through guts, technology and a very well thought-out military manoeuvre, I am compelled to change my mind.

The Iranians have shown that they value their self-respect and beliefs more than their worldly comforts. They have not blinked in 45 years against the most dominant country in the world — the US — and its allies, despite having undergone isolation and economic deprivation, and the harassment of Iranian citizens.

Because of their grit and national pride, they have become a self-reliant and proud nation with their own, indigenous industry, both commercial and military. Their military prowess, despite facing sanctions, is creditable. A photo in the media showing their military high command sitting at the feet of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, when he congratulated them on the Israeli operation, felt unreal to a Pakistani.

Despite a domineering Islamic regime, the Iranians' pride in their culture and history is supreme. The Iranian new year Nouroze, which is basically a Zoroastrian festival, is still the most important event in the Iranian calendar. The country closes down for

three weeks to celebrate it. The celebration of two Eids is hardly notable in this context.

The Islamic government greatly respects citizens' privacy (chador and chardiwari) and believes in the principle that what you do inside your home is your business. I asked an Iranian friend about this contradiction in the perceived harshness of the regime. He said that during the Shah's time, "we used to drink publicly and pray privately; now we pray publicly and drink privately".

People who have travelled to Iran recently talk about a clean and developed country, with good roads, an efficient and modern railway system and huge modern shopping malls. Their literacy level is 89 per cent compared to our 58pc; their expenditure on education is 23pc of the budget, while we spend 11.5pc; on health, they spend 23pc, while we spend 4.3pc. These figures indicate that they prioritise human development. True, Iran has its problems, including corruption, but it still ranks 24 on the Global Corruption Index, while we are at 133rd position.

It is depressing to compare ourselves with our other neighbours too. India and Bangladesh are way ahead of us, economically and in human development indices. Even Afghanistan seems to be better than us in the context of law and order. On the economic front, their currency is stronger and stabler than ours. Four Pakistan rupees is equal to one Afghani. The reasons for the continued decline of Pakistan are many, but the primary one for me is that the people who control power are not made accountable. While I felt proud as a Pakistani 45 years ago, I am not sure I do anymore.

**Commerce News**



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Japanese businessmen and investors led by Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E Mr. WADA Mitsuhiro called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

**PM assures resolution of issues facing Japanese businessmen within week**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday, while calling for enhanced Pakistan-Japan trade and investment cooperation, assured that the government would resolve the issues facing Japanese businessmen within a week through mutual collaboration.

The prime minister, in the meeting with a delegation of Japanese companies and business figures in Pakistan led by Japanese Ambassador

Wada Mitsuhiro, said a committee had been formed to resolve the issues confronting the Japanese firms to promote their business activities in the country.

He told the delegation that the Japanese companies should exploit Pakistan's existing immense potential for investment in the industry of electric vehicles.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that being time-tested friends, the trade relations between

Pakistan and Japan spanned over decades.

He said it was high time both countries promoted trade and investment ties in multiple sectors, reiterating the resolution of problems facing Japanese industrialists and traders.

The delegation members expressed confidence in the Government of Pakistan's pro-business policies and measures to promote investment.

The Japanese

ambassador apprised the prime minister of the upcoming visit of a 20-member delegation of renowned Japanese firms which would prove to be a milestone in enhancing the bilateral trade and investment.

The delegation members viewed that a special focus on investment and pro-business policies of Prime Minister Shehbaz-led government would help enhance the confidence of foreign investors.

**Finance Minister says: Prudent economic governance boosts investor's confidence**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday said that the country's economic indicators were going in the right direction and had increased the confidence of foreign investors in the economic governance of Pakistan. Investors from the European Union and America, including Saudi Arabia, had reached Pakistan and they were meeting us and the talks were going on, the minister said.

He said this while addressing the press conference along with

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar and Federal Minister for Law, Azam Nazeer Tarar. Aurangzeb said the recent visit of a delegation of Saudi's investors to Pakistan was also a part of pave way for this economic cooperation.

The minister said that export-led growth, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and excess to capital were the priority of the government. The senator said that due to the prudent economic policies of the government and the progress in the economic indicators, foreign

investors were ready to invest in Pakistan.

The minister said that all the economic indicators were going positive in the country's economy, which was the proof of progress of the country's economy.

He said that current account surplus was going on in macroeconomic indicators positive.

The minister said that the foreign reserve was stable at \$15 billion and it would increase further, adding that the current tax to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio was 9% which would be increased to 13%.

**Pakistan, Kazakhstan discuss collaboration in IT sector**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, and Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin on Tuesday discussed collaboration in the field of IT and Telecommunication between the two countries. During the meeting, the minister expressed Pakistan's interest in strengthening ties with Kazakhstan in the IT and telecom sector.

She proposed the formation of a joint working group between the two countries to facilitate

connections between tech companies from both sides, said a news release.

Shaza Fatima also suggested initiating technology transfer and IT experts' exchange programs between Pakistan and Kazakhstan. Highlighting the investment opportunities in Pakistan's IT and Telecommunication sector, she invited Kazakhstan tech companies to consider investing in this promising sector. Ambassador Yerzhan Kistafin affirmed his country's commitment to increasing cooperation with Pakistan in the IT and Telecom sector.

**Pak dairy, beef sectors need to be transformed through precision farming**

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan's dairy and beef sectors need to be transformed through precision farming to bring the country at par with the other developed nations of the world.

This was the upshot of the industry experts' input shared at an event that marked the partnership between Cloud Agri Pakistan, with NASNA, an Australian livestock company, one of the leading exporters in live animals, and Denkavit Netherlands, the Dutch global leader in feed for young animals with over 90 years of knowledge and

experience in the field of young animals' feed solutions.

The experts were of the view that Pakistan being the 4th largest milk producer in the world and major sub-sectors of agriculture, contributing, along with livestock, over 60 percent of value-added agriculture and 11.7 percent of the total GDP, the country's dairy sector faces persistent challenges that hinders its optimal potential. With a population of 240 million people to meet their protein and dairy needs, Pakistan's dairy and beef industry is largely under-

performing, which requires huge efforts to improve it, they added.

Dr. Rana Shaukat Hussain, CEO of Cloud Agri Pakistan & Global Business Director of Cloud Agri Group, said, "By joining forces with NASNA and Denkavit, we are not only facilitating the introduction of superior livestock and nutrition solutions but also fostering a platform for knowledge exchange and the implementation of international best practices to Pakistan dairy and beef farmers." The collaboration, he said, is poised to bring

unprecedented benefits to the Pakistani dairy and beef sector. NASNA will serve as the exclusive provider of high-quality Australian dairy and beef animals, while Denkavit will supply state-of-the-art calf rearing solutions to meet the diverse needs of Pakistani livestock farmers. By supplying superior cattle breeds from Australia and introducing advanced calf nutrition solutions, the partnership aims to elevate Pakistan's dairy and livestock sectors to global standards going forward. This strategic alignment is set to empower local farmers and

stakeholders with the tools and knowledge necessary to enhance the production, improve animal health, and drive overall industry advancement, he maintained. Ms. Henny Fokel de Vries, Dutch Ambassador to Pakistan, hoped that partnership between Dutch and Pakistani company Cloud Agri will lead to developing the Pakistani livestock sector on modern lines. She said over 50 Dutch companies are operating in Pakistan, including in the dairy and agriculture sectors.

She assured her full support for Pakistani and



ISLAMABAD: Head of Pakistan for Onic, Omer Bin Tariq and Muntaqa Peracha, CEO Foodpanda sign an agreement for the integration of Foodpanda on Onic's digital platform to jointly develop a comprehensive ecosystem for enhancing the digital lifestyle of customers during ceremony held in Islamabad on Tuesday. President and Group CEO PTCL and Ufone 4G, Hatem Bamatraf and Fahad Sheikh, Head of Partnership and Acquisition Foodpanda also witnessed the signing ceremony.

**SECP proposes enhanced disclosures for Shariah Stock Screening of listed companies**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has proposed amendments to the Fourth Schedule of the Companies Act, 2017.

These amendments enhance the list of disclosures made in financial statements of listed companies for Shariah stock screening shares, according to a press release issued here on Tuesday. Listed companies will be required to provide crucial information about their subsidiary companies for Shariah stock screening purposes to align the regulatory framework with market needs for a fair trading environment.

Additionally, the language of the Fourth Schedule has been simplified to bring clarity to the Shariah stock screening of shares to include in Islamic indices maintained by the Pakistan Stock Exchange. The proposed revisions have resulted from SECP's engagements with stakeholders during a series of Islamic finance sessions. The changes are aimed at enhancing transparency, fostering investor confidence and aiding in informed decision-making.

## Maryam chairs P&D meeting, reviews development projects

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired a comprehensive meeting of Planning and Development Board to review special development projects and health related initiatives, here on Tuesday.

The CM directed to complete 33 development projects on time. "We should work day in and day out for the timely completion of these projects, especially those related to health" she remarked.

The CM directed to complete the first phase of Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cancer Lahore within one

year, besides opening the OPD of Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cardiology in Sargodha by December 2025.

Earlier, the CM was briefed that seven mega projects in the health sector are under completion in the province at a cost of Rs 145 billion. She was also apprised that the first phase of construction and rehabilitation of rural and primary health centers will be completed in October, while revamping of major hospitals will be done by June.

The meeting was briefed by the authorities

concerned that five expressways on important routes in Punjab will be constructed at a cost of Rs 176 billion. The construction and expansion of Multan-Vehari Road, Chicha Watani-Chowk Azam, Sahiwal-Saman dari, Bahawalpur-Jhangra, and Faisalabad-Chinot-Sargodha Road were also reviewed.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed to designate a single complaint number for all departments. She was briefed that the construction of a 204-bed three-storey Safe City.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique presides over the first meeting of Health Insurance Working Group Sub-Committee.

## LHC seeks reply from govt on petition seeking fixation of new price of wheat

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has sought reply from federal government on miscellaneous petition seeking fixation of new price of wheat.

A two members bench of LHC presided over by Justice Baqar Ali Najafi took up the petition filed by advocate Bilal Ahmad for hearing Tuesday.

Advocate Bilal Ahmad has taken plea in the petition that government imported 35 lac tons wheat despite availability of 40 lac metric tons wheat in the country.

The step of importing wheat by federal government caused loss to the tune of 1 billion dollars to national kitty.

It has been further

said in the petition Punjab government has maintained the same price which was fixed last year. The inflation has surged by 20 percent but rate for farmers was not increased.

Advocate Bilal Ahmad requested the court to order government to fix new price of wheat. Court should summon report from federal government with reference to wheat crisis.

It is pertinent to mention here that the court had called reports from government of Punjab and agriculture department Punjab in its order dated April 30. LHC while seeking reply from federal government till May 14 adjourned the hearing of the case.

## ATC grants post-arrest bail to 10 accused in Jinnah House attack case

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday granted post-arrest bail to 10 accused involved in the Jinnah House attack case of May 9 riots.

The court ordered the accused to furnish surety bonds of Rs 100,000 each to avail the relief of bail.

ATC Judge Arshad Javed heard the post-arrest bail petitions of the accused and announced the verdict upon completion of arguments by the parties.

## FIA arrests two on visa fraud

LAHORE (APP): Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Tuesday arrested two individuals involved in human smuggling and visa fraud, here from the city.

According to a spokesman, Human Smuggling Circle Lahore during the ongoing crackdown arrested Syed Akbar Ali Shah and Syed Ali Jan Shah from General Bus Stand.

The suspects were found to be involved in defrauding innocent citizens by offering them employment abroad and extorting millions of rupees. As many as 35 Pakistani passports were recovered from their possession and the suspects failed to provide authorities with satisfactory explanations regarding the passports. The investigation has been initiated.

## Minister reviews health insurance program

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique chaired a first working group meeting of Punjab Health Initiative Management Company (PHIMC) on health insurance, here on Tuesday. The meeting took place at the Specialized Healthcare & Medical Education Department (SH&ME) and brought together key stakeholders to discuss reforms and improvements in the health insurance program.

Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique reviewed the health insurance program's progress and discussed necessary reforms. Experts shared valuable insights and recommendations, emphasizing the program's

potential for significant improvement.

Khawaja Salman Rafique expressed optimism about enhancing the health insurance program. He acknowledged past challenges faced by health insurance initiatives but reaffirmed the government's commitment to addressing these issues.

The minister stressed the need to rectify any shortcomings in the health insurance program and hold accountable those who exploit it for political gains. He also highlighted the importance of strengthening government hospitals' capacity and ensuring financial sustainability for the health insurance program.



HYDERABAD: Children patients of Thalassemia being blood transfusions at Fatimid Foundation Center in connection with International Thalassemia Day.

## PoG provided historic relief by reducing flour, roti prices: Bilal

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Food Minister Bilal Yasin said on Tuesday the Punjab government successfully provided a historical relief to people in 'flour and roti' prices in the province.

Presiding over a cabinet committee meeting at the Civil Secretariat, he said the price of a 20 kg bag of flour was reduced by Rs 1000 within a month and a bag of 20 kg flour was available in the market for Rs 1700 to 1800 while a bag of 10 kg for Rs 900.

Bilal Yasin claimed that 'Naan and Roti' were available across Punjab at notified prices. He said that government's full attention was focused on the relief for common man and reduced the price of Roti with a strong strategy. He said that 50 percent of population of the province lived in cities and the poor people were happy about the reduction in the flour price.

The provincial food minister said that there was a carry-forward stock of 23 lakh metric tonnes of wheat in Punjab which was enough for the next year. The provincial food minister said that during the caretaker period,

## Team Europe launches youth-centric program for green jobs creation in KP

PESHAWAR: The European Union (EU) and the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with essential skills demanded by the job market. The launch event held at the Vocational Training Centre of Excellence in Hayatabad established with previous European Union support, marked a significant milestone of the Team Europe Initiative on building back better to support creation of green jobs in KP province.

Through this programme, the European Union (EU) and the Government of Germany aim at transforming the vocational training landscape in KP through dedicated support to selected VET schools across the province that will be better equipped, have better trained staff and curricula better catered for the demand of the labour market, thus paving the way for economic prosperity and sustainable development.

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Local Government Minister, Zeeshan Rafique giving the keys of vehicles purchased for Anti-encroachment drive in the Metropolitan Corporation of the provincial capital to Deputy Commissioner Rafia Haider.



LAHORE: Provincial Local Government Minister, Zeeshan Rafique giving the keys of vehicles purchased for Anti-encroachment drive in the Metropolitan Corporation of the provincial capital to Deputy Commissioner Rafia Haider.

## Minister for completion of development schemes on priority basis

RAWALPINDI (APP): Provincial Minister for Communications and Works, Malik Sohaib Ahmed Bherth Tuesday directed to take the public representatives on board in district's ongoing development projects for removal of obstruction. He also directed for completion of schemes on priority basis which were hampered due to minor hurdles. He said this while presiding over a review meeting on development schemes of Rawalpindi

district, held here.

Commissioner Rawalpindi Engineer Amir Khattak also accompanied the minister.

Bherth asked public representatives to compile the details of schemes which were stopped even having major work done, in their respective constituencies.

He said the means of transportation and road network played vital role in ensuring economic development of any country.

## KPEC: A game-changer project delayed for two years despite tall promises of PTI leadership

PESHAWAR: Being a gateway to the Central Asia Republic (CARs) and landlocked Afghanistan, Peshawar is a unique strategic city of Pakistan where kings, invaders and monarchs had constructed roads and highways for speedy transportation and promotion of trade in a bid to prolong their rule in the subcontinent.

These invaders used the famous Khyber Pass, which is the major trade and business route connecting Pakistan and Afghanistan via Torkham border, and onward the gas rich CARs. Witnessed the

vigour of Kings Sikandar Azam, Mehmood Ghaznavi, Mughal and British army, Khyber Pass' significance has been further enhanced after construction of Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ) on 1000 kanal land in Nowshera district.

PMNL leader and former member national assembly (MNA), Shah G Gul Afridi told APP that groundbreaking of the project had been delayed for the last two years despite tall promises by the PTI leadership and urged provincial government high ups to inaugurate the project as quickly as possible keeping in view of its enormous benefits.

## International News

## Amid Rafah evacuation order, Hamas accepts truce proposal

RAFAH: Hamas said it had accepted a proposal for a truce in the seven-month-old war in Gaza, after Israel told Palestinians in Rafah to evacuate ahead of a long-threatened invasion of the city. The Hamas announcement brought cheering crowds onto the street amid tears of happiness, chants of "Allahu Akbar" (God is greatest) and celebratory shooting in the air. There was no immediate official response from Israel, and its close ally the United States said it was "reviewing" Hamas's response. Hamas in a statement said that its leader Ismail Haniyeh had informed mediators Qatar and Egypt "of Hamas's approval of their proposal regarding a ceasefire agreement."

A senior Hamas official said Israel must now decide whether it accepts or

"obstructs" a truce in the Palestinian territory after seven months of war.

"The ball is now in the court of Israeli occupation, whether it will agree to the ceasefire agreement or obstruct it," the official told AFP, requesting anonymity to discuss the negotiations.

Earlier in the day, Israel called on Palestinians to leave eastern Rafah, amid increasing global alarm about the consequences of an Israeli ground invasion of the southern Gaza city bordering Egypt. Stephanie Dujarric, spokeswoman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, condemned the order and said it would be "impossible to carry out safely". The evacuation call followed disagreement between Israel and Hamas over the Palestinian group's demands to end the war, during weekend negotiations in Cairo. Egypt-

tian state-linked media said the talks stalled after a rocket attack claimed by Hamas's armed wing killed four Israeli soldiers on Sunday.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to send ground troops into Rafah regardless of any truce, defying international concerns. Cairo's foreign ministry warned in a statement of "grave humanitarian risks" for more than one million Gazans sheltering there and urged Israel to "exercise the utmost restraint". US President Joe Biden and Netanyahu spoke and Biden restated "his clear position" against an invasion of Rafah, the White House said. It also said the Israeli premier "agreed to ensure the Kerem Shalom crossing is open for humanitarian assistance for those in need".



Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, president of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority and CEO of flag carrier Emirates, kicks off the mega travel and tourism exhibition event, Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2024, in Dubai.

## Emirates' CEO kicks off mega travel, tourism exhibition in Dubai

DUBAI: Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, president of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority and CEO of flag carrier Emirates, has kicked off the mega travel and tourism exhibition event, Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2024, in Dubai.

A press release from the Dubai government's media office said the "leading global travel and tourism event" is being held at the Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) from May 6-9, hosting 2,300 exhibitors from 165 countries in its "largest edition to date" and welcoming some 41,000 attendees.

"Policymakers, industry leaders, and travel professionals will gather at the event to explore the theme 'Empowering Innovation: Transforming Travel Through En-

trepreneurship". "The four-day conference agenda of ATM 2024 through May 9 will feature 200 speakers across more than 50 sessions at the DWTC," the press release said.

It added that ATM was launched in 1994 with 300 exhibitors and 7,000 trade visitors and had now established itself as a "globally renowned event integrating multiple travel sectors and verticals from leisure and luxury hospitality to corporate travel." "Exhibitor participation has increased by 26 per cent this year, with growth recorded across all event verticals," the press release said. At the inaugural event, Sheikh Ahmed said that the "massive interest" generated amongst ATM 2024 attendees reaffirmed Dubai's standing as a "major destination".

## Taliban say order restored after Afghan opium poppy protests

KABUL: The Afghan Taliban said on Tuesday they have quelled protests in a northern province over security forces' attempts to eradicate opium poppy cultivation which generates income for many impoverished farmers.

Taliban authorities were holding meetings in Badakhshan, spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a WhatsApp message, after several days of protests, in which two people were

killed. Mujahid said in a separate statement that a delegation from Kabul, led by the defence chief of staff, would this week travel to Badakhshan to investigate, a rare official acknowledgement of civil disturbance since the Taliban returned to power in 2021.

Since then, they have vowed to restore control over the entire war-torn nation and have at times forcefully broken up protests in urban areas.

## Seven killed in attack on Russia's Belgorod region

MOSCOW: Seven people were killed and at least 35 injured in an air attack on Russia's Belgorod region, on the border with Ukraine, on Monday. A Ukrainian drone attack hit vehicles carrying workers in Russia's frontier region, killing six people and injuring 35, the governor said. "Unfortunately, as a result of an explosion, six people died at the scene from their wounds," Vyacheslav Gladkov said. He added that "35 people were wounded" in the attack near the village of Berezyovka. Gladkov said the attack hit two vans transporting employees of a nearby factory as well as a passenger vehicle.

## Al Jazeera to pursue legal action 'until the end' over Israel ban

DOHA: Al Jazeera will look to pursue all possible legal action "until the end" to challenge Israel's ban on its operations there, the TV network's news director told AFP in an interview.

The Qatar-based station was taken off air in Israel after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government voted on Sunday to shut it down over its coverage of the Gaza conflict. Speaking on Monday, Al Jazeera English news director Salah Nagm said the network would "follow every legal path", adding: "If there is a possibility of challenging that decision we are going to pursue it until the end." Under a cabinet decision which Netanyahu said was "unanimous", Al Jazeera's Jerusalem offices were shuttered, its equipment confiscated and its team's accreditation

pulled. "The equipment which was confiscated, the loss that we suffered from stopping our broadcast, all of that is subject matter for legal action," Nagm said.

The Israeli government on Sunday said the order was initially valid for 45 days, with the possibility of an extension.

Hours later, screens in Israel carrying Al Jazeera's Arabic and English channels went blank, apart from a message in Hebrew saying they had "been suspended in Israel". The shutdown does not apply to the Israeli-occupied West Bank or Gaza Strip, from which Al Jazeera still broadcasts live on Israel's fighting with Hamas. Al Jazeera immediately condemned Israel's decision as "criminal", saying on social media site X that it "violates the human right to access information".



Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian meets UN atomic watchdog chief Rafal Grossi.

## Indian gov-owned company exporting ordinance to Israel amid ongoing genocide in Palestine

NEW DELHI (INP): In yet another example of New Delhi's complicity in the Israel's ongoing genocidal war against Palestinians, an Indian state owned defence company exported ammunition and explosives to Tel Aviv as recently as January 2024. Indian news website The Wire citing publicly available records said that Munitions India Ltd (MIL) - a public sector enterprise under the Indian Ministry of Defence - has also been permitted to ship its products to Israel as recently as January 2024.

According to a company brochure, MIL is engaged in the "production, testing, R&D and marketing of a comprehensive range of ammunition and explosives for the army, navy, air force and paramilitary forces".

## IAEA chief in Iran as concern grows in West over nuclear plan

TEHRAN: UN atomic watchdog chief Rafael Grossi arrived in Iran on Monday, where he is expected to speak at a conference and meet officials for talks on Tehran's nuclear programme. The visit comes at a time of heightened regional tensions and with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) criticising Iran for lack of cooperation on inspections and other outstanding issues. News agencies reported Grossi's arrival "at the head of a delegation to participate in the

nuclear conference and negotiate with top nuclear and political officials of the country". He met with Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and is scheduled to meet Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran chief Mohammad Eslami.

Grossi later said in a post on X, formerly Twitter, that at his meeting with the foreign minister he proposed "concrete practical measures" with the "aim of restoring process of confidence building and increasing transparency".

## Hindutva goons ruthlessly beat up Muslim trader in Karnataka state

BANGALORE (INP): In yet another hate crime against followers of Islam in India, a group of goons associated with the Hindutva outfit Bajrang Dal brutally thrashed a Muslim cattle trader in Karnataka state. According to Kashmir Media Service, the victim identified as Bande Nawaz was transporting two bulls.

## Media organisations launch criticism as Israeli cabinet shuts down Al Jazeera's local offices

DOHA: International media organisations and journalists Monday condemned the decision of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet to shut down the local operations of Qatari-owned TV station Al Jazeera.

The Israeli cabinet shut down the network a day ago for as long as its

military offensive bombardment in Gaza continues, saying the outlet threatened national security.

Al Jazeera said the move was a "criminal action" and the accusation that the network threatened Israeli security was a "dangerous and ridiculous lie" that put its journalists at risk.



QUETTA: PPP's MPAs, office bearers and workers meeting with President Asif Ali Zardari. Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti is also present

## Chief Minister Bugti hails announcement: Naqvi announces to install floodlights in Bugti Stadium within three months

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Federal Interior Minister and Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Mohsin Naqvi has announced to install floodlights in Bugti cricket stadium within three months.

He also announced to bring international cricket in Quetta and Gwadar.

These very announcements were made by the Federal Interior Minister while speaking to the media persons during visit to Bugti Cricket Stadium here on Tuesday.

The Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove, former caretaker Prime Minister Senator Anwarul Haq Kakar were also present on the occasion.

Mohsin Naqvi said

that the Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti especially invited him to visit Quetta cricket ground.

He said that the PCB has decided to install floodlights in the Bugti cricket stadium. He announced that the floodlights would be installed in the stadium in three months. He said that we are also looking into the matters regarding participation of Balochistan in the PSL. He also said that we want that the international cricket may come to Quetta.

Regarding his visit, he said that he participated in the meeting on law and order besides visiting the cricket ground in Quetta.

Earlier, speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said he is thankful to the Federal Interior Minister on visiting Quetta and Bugti Cricket stadium.

## Gilani vows to continue mission of masses services

MULTAN (APP): Delegations from different parts of Multan called on Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani at the local circuit house here Tuesday and felicitated him on being elected as Chairman of Senate of Pakistan.

Different delegations including those representing Housing Societies, Private Schools Association besides others led by notables including Babar Shah, Habib ur Rehman Sanghera, Husnain Abbas, Dr Sattar, Fared Khan Bangash, Imtiaz Khan, AD Khan, Malik Riaz were

present at the circuit house.

They apprised the chairman Senate of their problems and sought his help to get these resolved. Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani said on the occasion that he and his forefathers had always served the people wholeheartedly with specific thrust on education and health and added that the Gillani family enjoyed strong political, educational and spiritual relationships with the people. He pledged to continue to serve the masses in future too and promised to resolve problems of the people.

## Negative propaganda drive against judges: Justice Mohsin Akhtar writes letter to CJ IHC for contempt of court proceedings

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani has written a letter to Chief Justice (CJ) Islamabad High Court (IHC) Aamer Farooq for initiating contempt of court proceedings in the matter of Negative Propaganda Campaign against judges.

According to sources the letter written by Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani has come to open seeking initiation of contempt of court proceedings in negative propaganda campaign against judges matter.

Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamer Farooq will likely to constitute a larger bench for initiating contempt of court proceedings in the matter of social media campaign against Justice Babar Sattar.

Sources had said following the publication of personal information about him and his family members including US permit for residing therein, Justice Babar Sattar has requested CJ IHC Aamer Farooq to launch contempt of court proceedings.



QUETTA: Former Chairman of the Ruet-e-Halal Committee and Religious Scholar, Mufti Muneebur-Rehman addressing a Press Conference at Quetta press club.

## UK police close Shahzad acid attack probe for finding no suspects: Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): The UK police have shut down a probe into a reported acid attack on former Assets Recovery Unit (ARU) head Shahzad Akbar after finding no suspects during an around six-month-long investigation, according to a media report published Tuesday. "We have explored all lines of enquiry and have not been able to identify any suspects," the report quoted a police source linked with counter-terrorism policing.

Calling it an extremely complex investigation, the Hertfordshire Constabulary said, "Since November, officers have been working

hard to try and trace those involved. On this occasion, we have explored all lines of enquiry and have not been able to identify any suspects. Incidents of this nature are thankfully rare in Hertfordshire and the safeguarding of any victim remains our priority. Should any new information come to light, we will act on this accordingly." The media report also quoted an intelligence source confirming that the investigation has been closed after no suspects were found during the "dedicated investigation" marking the review of several hours of footage including the entry and exit points of the local area.

## Pakistan pushes for preventing weaponization of outer-space to avert threats to peace

### UNITED NATIONS (APP):

Pakistan has called for steps to prevent the weaponization of outer space, saying such a course would avert a grave danger to international peace and security.

"The threats to security in and from outer space have escalated sharply in recent years. This is evident from the placement of weapons in space, and its increasing characterization as the next war-fighting frontier in the military policies and doctrines of major powers," Ambassador Munir Akram told the UN General Assembly on Monday.

The 193-member Assembly was debating Russia's veto in the Security Council last month which blocked a draft resolu-

tion aimed at preventing a new extraterrestrial arms race.

Due to the negative Russian vote, the 15-member Council failed to adopt last month's text, which received 13 votes in favour, with China abstaining. The draft resolution was introduced by United States and Japan and co-sponsored by over 60 nations.

In his remarks, Ambassador Akram said that the US-Japan draft resolution rightly recognized that the prevention of an arms race in Outer Space would avert a grave danger for international peace and security; underscored the importance of the Outer Space Treaty; and reiterated that the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum.

Pakistan, he said, has always maintained a principled position that resolutions on global disarmament issues should be deliberated and concluded in an inclusive and transparent manner within the appropriate forums—the Conference on Disarmament (CD), the UN Disarmament Commission and the First Committee of the UN General Assembly, which deals with disarmament and international security matters.

The Pakistani envoy regretted that there has been no progress on a Treaty to Prevent an Arms Race in Outer Space for over four decades. "Initially," he said, "some dismissed the possibility of an arms race in outer space."



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Haji Noor Muhammad Durrani, Mir Ali Madad Jattak, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Agha Shakeel Durrani and Amjad Afridi meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

## Nawaz Sharif files acquittal plea in Toshakhana reference

ISLAMABAD (Online): PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif has filed acquittal plea in Toshakhana reference.

The hearing of Toshakhana vehicles reference against President Asif Ali Zardari, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and Yousuf Raza Gillani took place in Accountability Court (AC) Islamabad Tuesday.

Rana Muhammad Irfan appeared in the court as pleader of Nawaz Sharif and he filed acquittal plea in Toshakhana vehicles reference on behalf of his client.

Prosecutor said he sends this application to NAB Headquarters.

AC issued notice for May 22 for arguments on the acquittal plea of Nawaz Sharif.

Counsel Arshid Tabrez said president Asif Ali Zardari enjoys presidential immunity. The case cannot run to his extent.

## Envoy Hashmi visits CATIC HQs, meets Chairman Liu

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi visited headquarters of CATIC and met Chairman, Liu Yu here on Tuesday.

During the visit, the ambassador was briefed on the company's high-quality equipment and products.

As longstanding partners, the two sides discussed ways to further strengthen defense cooperation between Pakistan and China.

Senior officials of the Embassy of Pakistan Beijing accompanied the ambassador.

"Pleased to visit headquarters of CATIC, and meet Mr. Liu Yu, Chairman. Received briefing on the company's high-quality equipment and products. As longstanding partners, we discussed ways to further strengthen our defense cooperation," the ambassador posted on his social media account X after the visit.

Defence ties form a major plank of Pakistan-China relations.

## Govt to introduce pension reforms to lessen burden: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday said that the government would introduce pension reforms to lessen the burden on economy.

The structural reforms in the institutions were part of government's agenda as per the vision of the Prime Minister, he said, adding that practical steps were need of hour for economic growth.

The minister stated this while addressing a press conference here.

He said that political and economic stability were interconnected, adding that the Parliament should also adopt the pension reforms unanimously.

The Parliament, he said, had introduced first legislation with regard to tax collection. Now it was an internationally admitted fact that only a country with economic stability would progress, he added.

The minister said that a committee had been formed on pension reforms which would view the different proposals regarding it.

He said that the pension reforms would be implemented in every government institution across the board.

Nothing was going on under the carpet, he said, adding that the decisions would be shared with the public.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Communication & Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa being briefed by Secretary C&W Qambar Dashti during his visit to site of under construction Customs and Gahi Khan flyover

## Power Division demands Rs 130 billion in subsidies to K Electric, AJK

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Power Division, operating under the Ministry of Energy, has urgently demanded the immediate distribution of approximately 130 billion rupees in subsidy payments to K Electric and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Additionally, the Power Division has called for another technical supplementary grant of 2.5 billion rupees. Interestingly, a supplementary grant of Rs 5.9 billion has also been sought for the erstwhile Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA). Furthermore, the ECC will review a summary for an additional grant payment of 4.8 billion rupees to the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission. The ECC will also deliberate on a summary from the National Food Security Ministry, proposing an increase in the wheat procurement.

lowed by a demand for the payment of 55 billion rupees in tariff differential subsidy arrears for Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

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## Pakistan and China deepen collaboration on CPEC Phase-2

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday expressed the firm commitment of the government to expedite the implementation of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for further strengthening the bilateral relations between both the countries. The minister co-chaired a meeting with the Ambassador of China to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, Secretary Planning, Awaiz Manzoor Sumra and other senior officials from the ministry also attended the

meeting, said a press release issued by the Ministry of Planning.

The discussions focused on further strengthening collaboration on projects related to energy, infrastructure, industry, food security, agriculture, and transportation within the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the importance of deepening the longstanding friendship between the leadership of China and Pakistan and expressed the government's firm commitment to expediting the implementation of CPEC and stated that the upcoming visit of the prime minister to CPEC projects would usher in a new era of cooperation in all sectors.

The minister elaborated on the core objective of CPEC: promoting cooperation in all sectors, including industry, energy, infrastructure, social development, agriculture and regional connectivity within Pakistan. He expressed a desire to enhance cooperation with China through the transfer of modern technology in various sectors, including transportation and agriculture.

He emphasized Pakistan's aim to establish industrial zones for the manufacturing of electric cars in collaboration with China, leveraging Pakistan's competitive advantage to reduce overall production costs and create employment opportunities for Pakistani workers.

Ahsan Iqbal also discussed the upcoming South Asian Games 2025, underlining the importance of comprehensive training programs for Pakistani athletes.

cluding transportation and agriculture.

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Ahsan Iqbal also discussed the upcoming South Asian Games 2025, underlining the importance of comprehensive training programs for Pakistani athletes.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti along with Federal Minister for Interior, Chairman of PCB Mohsin Naqvi and Ex-Interim PM Anwaar-ul Haq Kakar inspecting at Bugti Cricket Stadium

## Minister Education stresses need to prepare comprehensive policy to resolve issues of universities

Rahila Durrani chairs meeting of VCs of public sector universities: says it is shameful for us to see teachers while protesting on roads for their salaries

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Education, Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani presided over a meeting of the vice chancellors of public sector universities of the province here the other day.

The vice chancellors of 10 universities participated in the meeting, and briefed about the overall functioning and matters of their respective institutions.

The matters highlighted during the meeting were included the strength of students studying in the universities as well as the number of departments and faculties besides the short-

age of funds being faced by them.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister Education said that there's no denying the fact that education system has reached the brink of destruction in the province. She said that it is her dream and party's vision to enforce better education system in the province.

She desired that the education system should be so good that the children from outside Balochistan may come to the province to acquire education.

She underlined the need to prepare a comprehensive policy to resolve the issue of universities,

which are varying from each other.

In this regard, there is also a need to form think tank and council so as to find out solution together, she maintained.

She said that it is shameful for us that the teachers are protesting on roads for their salaries.

She said that she respects teachers a lot, and wants to secure respectable status for them in the society. She noted with concern that our scholars are leaving the country. She said that our scholars are our precious asset, and we would be requiring their services for education, she added.



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh and Inspector General of Police Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon hold a vital meeting to improve law and order situation and to eliminate crimes in Balochistan and Sindh

## Mohsin Naqvi arrives in provincial metropolis

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi arrived in Quetta on one-day official visit on Tuesday.

Upon his arrival, the Federal Minister was welcomed by the Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove and other concerned high ups.

The Federal Interior Minister participated in the law and order meeting held in the metropolis.

He also had meeting with Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti and discussed the matters about law and order in the province.

## Toshakhana case: Court grants exemption Gilani, reviews immunity claim

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Accountability Court (IAC) on Tuesday accepted the request Chairman Senate Yousuf Raza Gilani for exemption from appearance on the reference of Toshakhana vehicles.

Meanwhile, the court has scheduled arguments of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's acquittal petition on May 23.

Hearing the Toshakhana vehicles reference, Nawaz Sharif's plea for acquittal was filed.

## Officers to pay attention on solving problems of public: DC Kachhi

### QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Kachhi

retiree Jameel Ahmed Baloch Tuesday directed all officers that they should pay special attention to solving the problems of the people.

He gave this directive while chairing a review meeting of all district heads at his office. All the officers briefed the Deputy Commissioner about the ongoing development projects and public interest issues in their respective departments.

DC Captain Retired Jameel Ahmed Baloch directed all officers that they should pay special attention to solving the problems of the people and that people would get benefit from completion.



QUETTA: A delegation of National Commission on the Rights of Child (NRC) led by its Chairperson Ayesha Raza Farooq in a group photo with Secretary Local Government Abdul Rauf Baloch after a meeting