

# Independent

Member APNS &amp; CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vol XXV No. 250, Shawwal 22, 1445 AH Wednesday May 01, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs.15

## Unless parliament is strong, others will become powerful: CJP Faez Isa

Says solution to this matter will start from legislation; Any party pushing the judiciary towards a certain path is also akin to interference; Justice Shah says high courts, judiciary need to be empowered

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa on Tuesday said that "others" will become powerful till Parliament becomes strong, as the Supreme Court resumed the suo motu hearing pertaining to allegations of spy agencies' interference in judicial affairs.

A six-member bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, resumed the hearing of the suo motu case on the Islamabad High Court

(IHC) judges' letter accusing agencies meddling in judicial matters.

The bench comprises Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Musarrat Hilali and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan.

On March 25, six judges of IHC had demanded CJP Isa to convene a judicial convention to consider the matter of alleged interference of intelligence operatives in the judicial

functions or "intimidation" of judges in a manner that undermined the independence of the judiciary.

The six IHC judges — Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani, Justice Babar Sattar, Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir, Justice Tariq Mahmood Jehangiri, Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan and Justice Saman Rifat Intiaz — had written a letter to the chief justice, who is also chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC).

Seeking guidance from the council on "interference" of the spy agencies in courts' affairs, the judges wrote: "We are writing to seek guidance from the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) with regard to the duty of a judge to report and respond to actions on part of members of the executive, including operatives of intelligence agencies, that seek to interfere with discharge of his/her

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a view meeting of Livestock & Dairy Development Department



RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif departs for Pakistan after participating in a special meeting of the World Economic Forum.

## Govt to block mobile phone SIMs of over 500,000 non-filers

Tax watchdog makes public the names of 506,671 non-filers; Cellphone SIMs of these individuals can be blocked at any time.

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): In a robust action against non-filers amid the prevailing financial crisis being faced by the cash-strapped country, the government on Tuesday directed the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and the telecom companies to block mobile phone SIMs of over 500,000 non-filers.

In a statement, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) said: "In exercise of the powers conferred under section 114B of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, the FBR is pleased to issue this Income Tax General Order (ITGO) to disable the mobile phone SIMs in respect of following persons who are not appearing on active

taxpayer list but are liable to file the Income Tax Return for Tax Year 2023 under the provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001.

The development came a day after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif hinted at undertaking "massive economic reforms" at the special meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Speaking at the closing plenary of a special meeting of the WEF, the premier vowed to introduce deep-rooted reforms and adopt meaningful austerity to steer the country out of the economic crisis.

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Qatar Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.

## Pakistan, Qatar agree to further solidify parliamentary relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Tuesday emphasized the need to further solidify existing fraternal bond between Pakistan and Qatar through expanding parliamentary cooperation, besides deepening ties in other socio-economic sectors.

He expressed these views in his meeting with Ambassador of Qatar Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater who called on him at Parliament House.

Talking to the Ambassador, the speaker remarked, "Pakistan cherishes its historic brotherly relations with Qatar and desires them to take up to new heights through bolstering parliamentary cooperation, expanding economic ties, and furthering people-to-people contacts between the legislatures of both the countries."

Referring to the parliamentary collaboration between the parliaments of both countries, the speaker noted, "Parliamentary diplomacy is quintessential in bringing two nations closer

which are already tied in eternal religious and historic bonds". He said that the Pak-Qatar friendship group in the National Assembly of Pakistan would be fully activated to bring Parliament and people of both the countries closer.

During the meeting, he also mentioned the invitation extended to the Speaker of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar.

Expressing his satisfaction over the economic cooperation between Pakistan and Qatar, the speaker said that investors from Qatar could benefit from investment opportunities in Pakistan by investing in various sectors especially the energy and manufacturing sectors. He said that both Pakistan and Qatar should take advantage of each other's experiences for the mutual benefits of the people of two countries.

Ambassador Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater thanked the speaker for his remarks and congratulated him on his re-election as Speaker of the National Assembly.

## President approves Rana Sanaullah's appointment as Adviser to PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has accorded his approval to appointment of Rana Sanaullah as Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs.

The president approved the appointment on the advice of Prime Minister under Article 93 (1) of the Constitution of Pakistan.

President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release, on Tuesday.

Rana Sanaullah, in his capacity as Adviser to the PM, would have the status of a federal minister.

## PTI ready to talk to establishment: CM Gandapur

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur says {PTI} are ready to talk to the establishment for the sake of the country.

Also, CM Gandapur clarified that no ransom was paid for the recovery of the judge. He said that he saluted the forces that recovered the judge.

Moreover, he said that the federal government is earning Rs 300 billion from tobacco from his province. He criticised the federal government for receiving this money.

The CM further said that this time the federal government would not get this money but only GST.

## NAB clears Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in LNG case

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Tuesday gave a clean chit to former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, ex-finance minister Miftah Ismail and others in the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) reference.

The development comes after the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) withdrew the graft reference against the former premier, who has since long been calling for abolishing the anti-corruption watchdog over political victimization. The Accountability Court (AC) judge Nasir Javed Rana heard the case as Abbasi appeared before the court along with his lawyers.

During the hearing, NAB Deputy Prosecutor Azhar Maqbool told court that the bureau was withdrawing the reference against the former prime minister and others. "The NAB is withdrawing the reference against Shahid Khaqan Abbasi," he said.

## PM satisfied as \$1.1 bln final IMF tranche to bring in economic stability

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday, expressing satisfaction over the disbursement of \$1.1 billion final tranche by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), hoped that it would help bring economic stability to the country.

On Monday, the IMF Executive Board completed the second review under the Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) for Pakistan, allowing for an immediate disbursement of around \$1.1 billion, bringing total disbursements under the arrangement to around \$3 billion. The IMF and Pakistan had reached the Staff Level Agreement on the second and final review on March 20, 2024 for the remaining \$1.1

The prime minister, in a statement, said that in 2016, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Quaid Nawaz Sharif had completed the IMF program in his tenure, and the current one was the second SBA nearing completion.

Highlighting the significance of the IMF program to save Pakistan from economic default, Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the bitter and tough decisions were coming to fruition in the form of economic stability.

"Allah has given us the opportunity to improve the economy. We will make all possible efforts to bring in the economic stability. The real success is not to get loans but to get rid of them," he remarked.



QUETTA: Opposition leader Mir Younis Aziz Zehri, Provincial Minister Mir Ali Madad Jattak, MPAs Zabid Reki and Khair Jan Baloch meeting with Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango

## Govt. taking steps to secure respectable status for labourers, says Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that the government is fully aware of the issues and hardships being faced by the labourers and in view of it, is taking steps to secure respectable status for them in the province.

The Governor stated so in a message issued here on eve of the World Labour Day being observed today (Wednesday).

The Governor said that World Labour day is the

day to recognize the dignity of labourers.

He said that there's no denying the fact that the credit of development and creativity in the society goes to the labourers.

The Governor said that the labourers play key role in economic and industrial development of any country.

He said that we realize that the labourers are facing numerous issues and hardships due to severe poverty and inflation for last some years.

## CM visits residence of President NP in Turbat, condoles death of brother Waja Hasil Khan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti visited the residence of President of National Party and former Chief Minister, Dr Abdul Malik Baloch in Turbat on Tuesday.

During the visit, Chief Minister expressed con-

dolence with Dr Abdul Malik over death of his brother, Waja Hasil Khan.

He also offered fataha for the departed soul and prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into Its eternal peace and give enough strength and patience to the bereaved family to bear the tragic loss.

## Chief Minister advocates debate on all resolvable issues including missing persons in Parliament

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has advocated the need to bring all resolvable issues including missing persons in the Parliament and hold debate on them. He said that one thing that's clear is that freedom can't be acquired by force or with use of gun.

While speaking to a private TV channel and at residence of President of National Party Dr Abdul Malik Baloch in Turbat on Tuesday, the Chief Minister maintained that the Balochistan got the rights through parliament not the weapons.

He mentioned that the Parliament has given the rights to Balochistan right from the status of province

to the 18th constitutional amendment, he said adding that the parliament would resolve the issue even today. He said that if any of the issues is resolved through negotiations, then who can deny to that?

Mir Sarfaraz Bugti asserted that we want negotiations, but question arises with whom negotiations may be conducted? But what to do, if anyone doesn't negotiations, he quipped. The Chief Minister also said that if someone chooses the path of force instead of negotiations, then the Constitution gives us right to take action against one, he insisted.

He asserted that the state would take action against those spoil law and order and target innocent people. e said that there should be debate on all re-

solvable issues including the issue of missing persons in the Parliament.

The Chief Minister strongly believes that not a single citizen should be disappeared. He said that there is a dispute on the number of missing persons.

The Chief Minister said that the present parliament would take political responsibility. However, the Parliament may prepare recommendations for resolving the issues of Balochistan, he pleaded.

In this regard, he proposed to prepare course of action by forming a think tank. The Chief Minister on the occasion made it clear that no operation is going on in the province.

However, smart targeted action would be taken against the terrorists where needed so.

## Overall performance of Livestock not satisfactory: GoB decides to offer small loans to graduate youth for business in livestock and other sectors

Chief Minister directs to vacate thousands of acres of land of Livestock and other departments from illegal occupants; mobile units to be established in 36 districts for vaccination of animals

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has decided to offer small loans to the graduate youths for doing business in livestock and other sectors in the province.

Primarily, grant of Rs. 2 billion would be allocated for provision of loans to the youth at small level. This project would be implemented with assistance of the non-governmental organization, Akhuvvat.

The decision to this effect was made in a meeting of the Livestock and Dairy Development Department held with Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti in the chair here on Tuesday.

The Provincial Minister for Livestock and Dairy Development, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Minister Finance, Mir Shoaib Noshervani, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan,

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate, Syedaal Khan exchanging views with Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, Balochistan Education Minister during meeting held at Parliament House in Islamabad.

## SECP expands financial literacy initiative to Balochistan

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the School Education Department of Balochistan, expanding its investor education initiative "Jamapunji" to the schools and education institutions of Balochistan.

Balochistan's Secretary School Education Department, Saleh Muhammad Nasir and the SECP's head of Investor Education Osman Syed signed the MoU.

The MoU aims to integrate financial literacy

topics into the curriculum of province schools and colleges, equipping educators with necessary skills through a teacher's training program, and conducting interactive seminars for students in Balochistan.

Minister Education Balochistan, Ms. Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, Secretary Federal Education and Professional Trainings, Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani and other senior officials witnessed the ceremony at the Ministry of Federal Education of Professional Training.



TURBAT: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti condoling with President National Party Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch on sad demise of his brother Waja Hasil Khan. Provincial Ministers and MPAs are also present



## AJK President stresses support for workers on World Labour Day

MIRPUR (APP): On the occasion of International Labour Day, Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry reiterated the government's commitment to uplift labourers while preserving their self-respect and dignity.

Highlighting the significance of May 1st, recognized globally as International Workers Day, Barrister Chaudhry commemorated the sacrifices made by labourers worldwide in their struggle for rights and a brighter future.

He underscored the pivotal role of workers in the socioeconomic progress of nations.

Citing Islamic prin-

ciples, the president emphasized the importance of social justice and the protection of workers' rights.

He praised the working class for their indispensable contribution to the nation's economic growth and overall development.

Reflecting on the historic Chicago workers' movement of 1886, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry acknowledged its role in advocating for improved conditions, fair wages, and enhanced privileges for workers.

In his message, he called for renewed dedication to national development, urging collective efforts to bolster prosperity and welfare for all.

## Ambassador Blome hosts Pakistan Team ahead of T20 World Cup in US

ISLAMABAD (APP): US Ambassador Donald Blome, in a display of support for Pakistan ahead of the highly anticipated T20 Cricket World Cup 2024, hosted the Pakistani National Cricket Team for a meet-and-greet.

The ambassador welcomed the national team players accompanying Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Mohsin Naqvi at his residence and extended his best wishes to the players for the upcoming T20 Cricket World Cup



matches in the United States.

Ambassador Blome presented the team members with a commemorative embassy cricket ball and autographed softball bat. The Pakistani team reciprocated by presenting the ambassador with a signed cricket bat and team jersey.

The ambassador then participated in an impromptu cricket demonstration with members of the National Team.

The United States is set to make history this June by hosting the T20 Cricket World Cup for the very first time. Adding to the excitement, both Pakistan and the United States have been slated to play within the same group stage and will compete in a highly anticipated match scheduled for June 6.

## Unless parliament is strong...

Continued from page 1

official functions and qualify as intimidation, as well as the duty to report any such actions that come to his/her attention in relation to colleagues and/or members of the courts that the High Court supervises."

Subsequently, the Supreme Court on April 1 took suo motu notice of the IHC judges' letter and formed a seven-member bench led by CJP Isa to hear the matter.

Following the maiden hearing of the case on April 3, Justice Afridi, who was part of the larger bench, recused himself from hearing the suo motu case, taken up under Article 184(3) of the Constitution.

At the outset of the hearing, CJP Isa clarified

that the Supreme Court Committee had decided to hear this case under Article 184/3 of the Constitution.

He apprised that the committee had decided that all the judges, who were available in Islamabad, should be called.

"There was no pick and choose in this hearing," said the CJP, adding that Justice Afridi had recused himself from the bench.

The chief justice said that he had pointed there might be a full court in the next hearing, however, it could not be convened due to the unavailability of two judges. During the hearing, CJP Isa remarked that if someone wants to impose themselves on the court then it would also be considered "interference".

## PM terms his three-day visit to Saudi Arabia as historic

Says Pak-Saudi bilateral ties, economic partnership getting stronger



ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that the bilateral relations as well as the economic partnership between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were getting stronger.

The prime minister, in a statement issued at the conclusion of his visit to the Kingdom mainly to attend the Special Meeting of World Economic Forum, said a delegation of Saudi businessmen was about to visit Pakistan in the coming days.

The visit would help accelerate the pace of economic partnership between the two countries, he added. The prime minister reiterated the resolve to make all-out efforts to materialise the understanding reached between the two leaderships. With the Pak-Saudi economic partnership, a new era of bilateral ties had begun, he remarked.

He recalled that a record exchange of high-level delegations took place between the two countries during the last couple of months.

Highlighting the significance of his three-day visit to the Kingdom marking the very fruitful discussions, the prime minister also mentioned his interactions with the world leaders which led to positive developments in multifaceted cooperation in trade and investment.

Referring to his address at the World Economic Forum, Prime Minister Shehbaz said that he had categorically made it clear that there could be no peace in the world without establishing peace in Gaza.

He thanked Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman for warm hospitality during the visit, and also for his directives to his ministers regarding Pakistan.

He also expressed gratitude to the Saudi ministers for their efforts and full preparations to help reach understanding between the leaderships of two countries.

## World celebrates International Labour Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): International Labor Day would be celebrated on 1 May with a renewed commitment to upholding workers' rights.

Various public and private organizations host conferences, seminars, marches, walks to honor the ultimate sacrifices of laborers.

However, May 1st was included as a public holiday in the Cabinet Division circular listing all gazetted holidays for the year 2024 and the schools would remain close on this occasion.

## GoB decides to offer small...

Continued from page 1

Secretary Livestock, Muhammad Tayyab Lehri, Secretary Finance, Babar Khan, and other concerned high ups were in attendance at the meeting.

The meeting decided to approve the mobile units for vaccination of cattle in all 36 districts of the province.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister expressed displeasure over illegal occupation of the thousands of acres of land of Livestock and other departments in the province.

He directed to the concerned authorities to evacuate thousands of acres of land of the Livestock and other departments from the illegal occupants.

He warned that action would be taken against the concerned deputy commissioners if the government land or property was occupied in their respective districts.

The Chief Minister also sought details of the civil veterinary hospitals which are under use of the influential persons.

He stressed those have illegally possessed the government land and properties must be made public.

Besides, he also directed to present facts and figures of all dispensaries of Livestock department with geo-tagging.

He said that objective

behind bringing good governance in the province is to reach the benefits of development and good initiatives of the government.

He said that if improvement was brought in the livestock, agriculture and public sector development programme, then many things would be improved bringing marked improvement in quality of life of common men.

He regretfully pointed out that around 7,000 employees are employed in the Livestock department. The total budget of the department is around Rs. 6 billion, but still its overall performance is not satisfactory, he added.

The Chief Minister expressed concern over absence of many employees of the department from their duties. Most employees of the Livestock department don't perform their duties on one hand, while it's offices are non-functional on the other hand, he noted. He also said that there is no mechanism in the department to review its performance.

He on the directed to run the government dairy and poultry farms running in loss through public-private partnership.

Earlier, during the briefing, it was informed that a large number of government buildings of the veterinary hospitals are under private use of the influential persons.

## England announce squad for Pakistan series, T20 World Cup

LONDON (INP): England announced their squad for the Pakistan series and upcoming ICC T20 World Cup, slated to happen in the United States and West Indies from June 1. English fast bowler Jofra Archer returned to England's ICC T20 World Cup squad after a year-long hiatus due to injury.

Despite a series of setbacks, the 29-year-old is fit and ready to contribute. Alongside him, veterans like Chris Jordan make a comeback, while promising

spinner Tom Hartley earns his first call-up. However, there's no spot for seasoned all-rounder Chris Woakes. Archer, hailing from Barbados, brings valuable insight into Caribbean conditions.

With just a day left until the ICC's deadline, this squad, though labelled "provisional," seems set. Their journey begins with a match against Scotland on June 4, followed by a T20 series against Pakistan starting May 22. Jos Buttler (capt, wk), Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Harry Brook, Sam Curran, Ben Duckett, Tom Hartley, Will Jacks, Chris Jordan, Liam Livingstone, Adil Rashid, Phil Salt, Reece Topley, Mark Wood.

## Romina announces Climate Awards for journalists

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Tuesday announced to organise countrywide Climate Journalism awards for environmental reporters under the patronage of the Prime Minister and unveiled her multi-disciplinary vision to enhance resilience against environmental degradation and global warming impacts through cooperation among stakeholders to preserve the dwindling natural reserves and ecosystems vital for human survival.

In a formal interaction with the climate beat reporter, the PM's aide announced that the journalists covering the beat environment and climate change would be called as climate force of the Ministry as they are the force behind every policy endeavour benefitting the society through its effective communication and are the champions of climate action.

Romina said, "Environment is very close to everyone's heart and media's role is very crucial in educating the masses through informed reporting on whooping impacts of environmental degradation triggered through irresponsible anthropogenic activities." The Ministry, she said under the patronage of the Prime Minister will confer awards in the categories of

print, electronic and social media to the climate reporters, whereas the minister expressed her intention to hold these awards after every six months or on yearly basis.

She said it was her third time at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination and was thankful to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for entrusting her with this responsibility. On the occasion, the PM's Coordinator paid an emotional homage to her mentor former Minister for Climate Change, Late Senator Mushahid Ullah Khan who supported her throughout her career to seek active role in policy making. The prime minister's speech at World Economic Forum (WEF) also focussed on peace and climate change, she added.

The Ministry would initiate its drive through single-use plastics' ban enforcement, whereas all officials working on various projects within the Ministry would be engaged to launch inclusive and holistic action, she added.

The PM's Coordinator informed that she has adopted walk-in policy at the office of the Minister to open the doors for all from businessmen to layman for recommendations, suggestions and joint ventures to augment environment conservation interventions.



TURBAT: Jalal Malik Baloch, son of Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch presenting gift of books to Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

## Rana hopes hockey team to glorify Pakistan's name in Azlan Shah Tournament

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP), Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan on Tuesday expressed hope that the hockey team selected on merit would hopefully glorify the name of Pakistan at the international level in the Azlan Shah Tournament scheduled in Malaysia.

Talking to the media at Pakistan Sports Board, Hockey Stadium, he said that the selection of the hockey team had been made on merit to revive the glory of the "National Game" while issues of the hockey federation would be resolved amicably with the consultations of all stakeholders.

"There is no lack of talent among Pakistani youth and the nation's morale raises by the success in the games."

He said that the promotion of sports activities was the priority of the government and plans were being made to re-start hockey in schools, colleges and universities and encourage departmental hockey.

Rana Mashhood said that the government would soon introduce a sports policy while Rs 5 billion will be invested in the endowment fund to upgrade sports in the country.

Earlier the Chairman of PMYP while talking to team members appreciated their passion and dedication to represent the nation at the international level.

Expressing his unwavering faith in the selection process undertaken to unify the team, he stressed the importance of implementing merit in nurturing talent and promoting excellence in sports.

عالی  
مزدور  
یکم منی

مزدوروں کی عظمت کو سلام



حکومت پاکستان

@GovtofPakistan www.moib.gov.pk

PID(1) 6603-D/33

### TENDER NOTICE

TSE-232404402893 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MAINTENANCE I DIVISION QUETTA invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates.

Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	ANNUAL REPAIR & SPECIAL REPAIR OF BUNGLOW NO 49-AZARGHOON ROAD QUETTA (R/O MIR ZAHOOR BULEDI M.PA)	9,680,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 6,776,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-6 and above (Upto 25 million) In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is C5 (11). Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure/Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 17 May, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 17 May, 2024 till 10:30 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:30 AM Address: EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MAINTENANCE I DIVISION QUETTA C&W Complex NEAR CHAMMAN PATAK MIR JAFAR KHAN JAMALI ROAD QUETTA

Phone no: 0812920243 Email: maintainancexen@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
MAINTENANCE DIVISION-I  
QUETTA

PRQ No.2052/30-04-2024

www.dpc.gov.pk @dpc.gob @dpc.gob @dpc.balochistan



## EU ambassador visits Sindh to witness, scale assistance flood hit areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation led by the Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Dr Rina Kionka, embarked on a one-day field mission to Dadu, Sindh, to witness the impact and scale of support provided by the European Union (EU) to flood-affected communities in a district that was among the hardest hit by the devastating floods in 2022.

In the wake of unprecedented rainfall and floods that swept across Pakistan in 2022, the EU launched a comprehensive relief and recovery initiative aimed at immediate relief, building the resilience of communities through climate-resilient housing, sanitation, livelihood opportunities, as well as child protection services, said in a WFP press release issued here.

The delegation visited EU-funded project sites in four villages across Dadu where on behalf of the Eu-

ropean Union the UN World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and Save the Children International (SCI) Pakistan are implementing development projects focusing on rehabilitating community assets, providing child protection, education, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) as well as shelters for the community.

During the visit, the delegation observed the distribution of cash assistance to participants under WFP's project. The Ambassador and her team inspected rainwater harvesting ponds for irrigation, communal washing pads, and protective pathways.

The delegation also met women entrepreneurs who revived their livelihoods since the 2022 floods, e.g. by opening tuck shops and tailoring businesses. Women-led village

development committees shared their challenges and aspirations with the delegation. The delegation also visited sites where UNICEF is providing child protection and education services with EU funds. At the Children's drop-in centre and a safe space for girls and women, the Ambassador witnessed children engaging in recreational activities and adolescent girls and women learning vocational skills such as embroidery and stitching.

At these facilities, trained professionals also provide psycho-social support to help them recover from trauma and raise awareness on protection from violence and abuse. Later, the delegation visited a flood-damaged public school which UNICEF has since rehabilitated. Besides teaching and learning materials, UNICEF has also provided safe drinking water and sanitation facilities.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation from the Implementation Minority Rights Forum (IMRF) and the Christian Lawyers Association Pakistan (CLA) had a meeting with Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar.

## Ghazanfar steps down as CEO of Mobilink Bank after distinguished 12-year tenure

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Ghazanfar Azzam has decided to step down as the President and CEO of Mobilink Bank after 12 years of service. Under his leadership, Mobilink Bank has experienced remarkable growth and solidified its position as a leader in the Microfinance sector. He helped the Bank undergo rapid digital transformation to strengthen its financial stability, business resilience, and future readiness.

The Board of Directors (BoD) has appointed Mobilink Bank's current

Chief Operating Officer (COO), Haaris Mahmood Chaudhary, as the Interim CEO, effective April 29, 2024. This appointment is subject to approval from the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Board has commenced the search for the upcoming CEO who will continue to drive the Bank's mission forward and ensure long-term success. Chairman BoD, Mobilink Bank and CEO Jazz, Aamir Ibrahim stated, "We thank Ghazanfar for his valuable service over the years and wish him luck."

## Christian lawyers' delegation calls on Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation from the Implementation Minority Rights Forum (IMRF) and the Christian Lawyers Association Pakistan (CLA) on Tuesday called on Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar.

The delegation was led by MRIF Chairman Samuel Payara and CLA President Advocate Adnan Shamim Bhatti.

The delegation focused on critical issues concerning the implementation of minority rights and enhancing the role of National Commission for Minorities.

The delegation also discussed the role of National Commission for Minorities.

The delegation also discussed the role of National Commission for Minorities.

The delegation also discussed the role of National Commission for Minorities.

The delegation also discussed the role of National Commission for Minorities.

The delegation also discussed the role of National Commission for Minorities.

The delegation also discussed the role of National Commission for Minorities.

The delegation also discussed the role of National Commission for Minorities.

The delegation also discussed the role of National Commission for Minorities.

The delegation also discussed the role of National Commission for Minorities.

The delegation also discussed the role of National Commission for Minorities.

The delegation also discussed the role of National Commission for Minorities.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui being briefed about departments at NUTECH University.

## Practical education vital to thrive in competitive global environment: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of Science and Technology, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui here on Tuesday highlighted the significance of practical education in enabling students to thrive in a competitive global environment.

He was speaking during a visit to the esteemed National University of Technology (NUTECH).

The minister was warmly welcomed by Rector NUTECH Lt Gen @ Moazzam Ejaz, HI(M), then Registrar Nutech Brigadier Adnan Qasim presented a comprehensive briefing on the university's

operations and its upcoming Karachi campus.

Siddiqui expressed appreciation for the efforts made by NUTECH in expanding its reach and promoting quality education.

He visited the NUTECH labs and Skills Department, where he had the opportunity to witness practical skills being imparted to the students.

The minister acknowledged the importance of such practical education in today's rapidly evolving world, emphasizing that this type of education was need of the hour.

During a media talk held at the university pre-

mises, Siddiqui praised NUTECH for its commitment to providing students with quality education.

He recognized the university's efforts in equipping students with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in their respective fields.

To commemorate the visit, Rector NUTECH presented the minister with a shield and souvenir as a token of appreciation and remembrance.

The gesture symbolized the strong bond between the university and the Ministry of Science and Technology.

## IIUI students delegation visits the Central Police Office; meets IGP

**Independent Report**

ISLAMABAD: The student delegation of the Department of Political Science of International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) Islamabad visited the Central Police Office Islamabad and met with Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, a public relations officer said.

He said that, a large number of students, senior officers of Islamabad Police were present on this occasion.

During the visit, the IGP Islamabad delivered an

awareness lecture to the students regarding the consequences of drug use and

its prevention. He emphasized that the use of drugs among youth and especially in students is destructive to both their health and future.

Therefore, the students should refrain from drugs themselves and to play their role in protecting their peers and community from the curse of drugs.

He urged the educational institutions administration to cooperate with Islamabad Police in the ongoing "Nasha Ab Nahi" tchreek by organizing seminars to protect the young-

sters. During the lecture, the IGP Islamabad also responded to the attendees' questions and briefed them about Islamabad Police legal actions against drug peddling.

He highlighted that Islamabad Police will always bring individuals involved in drug-related businesses to justice.

Furthermore, he said that with the cooperation of citizens the Islamabad Police is employing all means to make the city a safe place.

At the conclusion of the event, IGP Islamabad and the students mingled, and the student delegation reaffirmed their full coop-



ISLAMABAD: A group of people, including students and police officers, gathered for an awareness lecture.

## ICT arranges medical camps, scholarships to mark 'Labour Day'

ISLAMABAD (APP): To celebrate the International Labour Day, the Labour Welfare Department of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), Administration on Tuesday organized an event with a focus on worker's welfare.

Spokesman of the Chief Commissioner Office, Nouman Nazir told this news agency that the event brought together the leaders of various labour unions, medical professionals, and workers from across the federal capital.

Those attended the event include Director General ICT, Asim Ayub Country Director for the International Labour Organization, and representatives from major labour groups like ICT Employees Welfare Association, CDA Mazdoor Union, and Pakistan Workers Federation.

A key feature of the event was the provision of free medical camps, set up by Premium Diagnostic, Al-Safa Eye Trust, and Dr Akbar Niazi Teaching Hos-

pital. Workers received eye test facility, besides dental check-up, and screening for cancer and other diseases.

In addition, Premier Diagnostics offered a 40% discount on medical services to more than 10,000 workers, and

Dr Akbar Niazi Teaching Hospital also announced discounts of up to 50% on various treatments.

To further support the well-being of workers, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Labour Welfare Department and Hashoo Foundation to combat child labour. Another positive development was the Nirma-e-Millat Foundation's announcement of scholarships for 50 children of deserving workers with the help of Labour Department. Women were also the focus at the event, with Mustafa Eye Trust distributing 100 sewing machines to working women, providing them an opportunity for financial independence.



ISLAMABAD: A view of a board fixed on Zero Point Bridge in connection with polio vaccination campaign 2024, in the Federal Capital.

## UNICEF unveils new vision to empower adolescent girls in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan launched its National Gender Strategy (2024-2027) here on Tuesday to deliver lasting, transformative change for millions of girls between 10-19 years.

If the strategy is implemented effectively from urban to rural areas, it can drive change, address inequalities and improve the lives of all girls and women, including those living with disability.

"Striving for equal opportunities for all, especially girls, is fundamental to Pakistan's progress. Investing in girls is a win-win for everyone," said Nilofer Bakhtiar, Chairperson, National Commission on the Status of Women. "It can lead to higher incomes and increased productivity, benefiting not only girls, but also the nation. By investing in girls' leadership, we unlock their full potential and pave the way for their brighter future." Today, adolescent girls in Pakistan

face stark challenges in their education, health, nutrition and well-being. For example, Pakistan is home to nearly 19 million child brides.

In addition, more than half of adolescent girls, or 54 per cent, are pregnant before their 18th birthday which can be life-threatening for the mother and the child. A staggering 88 per cent of adolescent girls live in poverty which hampers the country's progress.

"Millions of children, most of whom are girls, face devastating challenges in their daily lives. Often, they cannot use even basic social services like health care. They are forced to drop out of school due to early marriage, poverty, and deep-rooted social norms," said Inoussa Kabore, UNICEF Deputy Representative in Pakistan. "If all girls and women were to have the opportunities that are their right, such as studying, working, they would contribute.



ISLAMABAD: Andrei Metelitsa, Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus to Pakistan calls on the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema.

## Need to combat plastic pollution for well-being of humanity stressed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The participants of an event titled "Pakistan's Roadmap for Plastic Action" held here Tuesday emphasized the critical need to combat plastic pollution for the well-being of both humanity and the environment. The event was organized by the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) and the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC), to mark Earth Day 2024.

The event, held at the COMSATS Secretariat at Islamabad, featured the introduction of the Pakistan National Plastic Action Partnership (NPAP), a government initiative implemented as part of the Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP) under the auspices of the World Economic Forum. Coordinator to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Climate Change and Environmental Conservation (CC&EC), Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam

graced the occasion as the chief guest. Ambassadors, High Commissioners, and Diplomats from COMSATS member states and other countries in Islamabad also attended the event.

Ms. Romina emphasized Pakistan's pressing issue with plastic pollution, especially in urban areas. Owing to these daunting challenges, Pakistan has taken proactive steps, such as banning single-use plastics and polythene bags in 2019, to mitigate plastic waste generation. She stressed the importance of global cooperation in combating plastic pollution, citing initiatives like the Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP) led by the World Economic Forum and UNEP. She highlighted the government commitment to climate change adaptation and mitigation through policies like the National Adaptation Plan and initiatives such as the Living Indus Initiative, Recharge Pakistan, and GLOF-II, which aim to enhance climate resilience and protect vulnerable sectors.



ISLAMABAD: Labourers sitting along with tools waiting for their daily job as International Labour Day is celebrated on May 1 every year. It's a day to honour and appreciate the contributions of workers all around the world.

## Parents, Society cooperation vital to help eliminate polio virus: Dr Mukhtar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) Dr Mukhtar Ahmad Tuesday said that polio drives along with routine immunization was key in preventing the virus re-infection where parents should cooperate with polio teams and urged the media to play a role in convincing parents.

The ongoing polio eradication campaign till May 3 in 91 districts of the country could only be made successful through the support of the people, he said while talking to PTV news channel. He said that it is the collective responsibility of scholars, teachers, stakeholders and civil society members to play their full role in the success of polio drive so that the country could get rid of this contagious disease.

While appreciating, he said that polio workers are

fulfilling their responsibility by going door to door and the public has a responsibility to vaccinate their children against polio.

"Parents are requested to avoid fake propaganda against the polio vaccine and vaccinate their children to protect them from the polio virus," he advised.

Replying to a question, he said that the campaign was aimed at stopping the alarming trend of positive environmental samples and threatening the health of our children.

"We are utilizing all resources to control Polio virus circulation, adding, our target is to cover 100 percent children in Punjab and other cities."

Pakistan with the help of global partners was fighting the disease and the concerted efforts by all stakeholders would help to eliminate the polio virus, he added.

## Anti-polio drive continues in ICT: 23% target achieved on 1st day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Additional Deputy Commissioner East Usman Ashraf on Tuesday visited several polio vaccination points in the Federal Capital to monitor progress and motivate the teams.

Talking to APP, Islamabad Capital Territory Administration Spokesman, Dr Abdullah Tabassum said that the city's polio vaccination drive entered its second day

with a successful start, reaching 23 percent of its target on day one. As health teams move across the district, local officials were working to ensure that every child was vaccinated.

Additional Deputy Commissioner East Usman Ashraf has encouraged the workers to spread the word about the importance of polio vaccinations and to ensure that no household was left behind.



ISLAMABAD: A man taking a photo of his children with a clown during their visit to Pakistan Monument.

## Govt introducing tech in curricula to align new generations with market demand: Fed Secretary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Secretary of Ministry of Education and Professional Training, Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani Tuesday said that the government was introducing technology in the curriculum to align the new generation with the demands of present era.

He was addressing the "STEM Mela 2024" organized under the project "STEM Pakistan Policy Unit" to provide access to science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics to secondary school girls under the Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training.

"We are bringing technology into our curriculum so that our new generation can also understand technology in time and be in line with the modern requirements of the present," he

said. The federal secretary said that the government was making every effort to bring out-of-school children into schools, adding "We want every child to get education and contribute to the development of the country."

New Tell Pakistan CEO Wahaj Siraj advised the students to make their hobby their profession, maintain their character, be a problem solver, and ask questions to clarify matters.

Thousands of female students from the federal capital participated in the Mela on the day when Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif declared an educational emergency to promote education in the country and learned how their education should be.

One of the objectives of this fair was also to appreciate the schools, school heads, teachers and students who had actively participated in the STEM Pakistan program in the previous academic year.

The STEM Pakistan program has now expanded to over 4,000 public schools across the country, with over 3500,000 students enrolled.

The program aims to engage students in hands-on activities in classrooms and provide them with a better learning environment.

The program is also being implemented in over 200 middle and high schools of the Federal Directorate of Education.

More than 1200 children and 250 teachers participated in the fair.



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

Wednesday May 01, 2024

## All this talk

It is still early days, but there have been several small developments over the past week that, it is hoped, may add up to something bigger in the coming future.

The ice between the government and opposition benches, which began to show signs of a thaw last week, seems to have melted some more over the weekend, and the two factions are apparently in agreement that negotiations can help break the current deadlock. However, it is also becoming clear that there will be some major stumbling blocks.

For one, the PTI clearly does not know what it wants. Over the weekend, its leaders issued conflicting statements regarding whom they want to parley with and what their preconditions are for the talks. It would appear that the party is still seeking a settlement with the establishment, while some of the conditions it has set for the dialogue seem like a very long shot.

There will be progress only when the two factions can differentiate between dialogue and surrender. For example, the PTI may feel it has a moral right to demand its 'stolen' seats back from the government, but it cannot expect the latter to simply hand over its leverage in such a manner. The party ought to realise that any talks will only take place within the existing power configuration, even if its legitimacy is up for debate. Its other demand — the release of imprisoned leaders, including Imran Khan — is reasonable and, in fact, the government should consider facilitating this at the earliest.

The inaccessibility of key central leaders is contributing to the confusion within the PTI's ranks, which will continue to make any talks with it next to impossible. Any negotiation needs to be publicly sanctioned by the PTI founder, even if he does not participate in it himself. Otherwise, it would mean nothing in the eyes of the party's zealots.

Lastly and most importantly, it would be most disappointing if the PTI repeats the mistake of turning to the establishment instead of negotiating directly with its rivals — something which it is shockingly still not averse to. It is an unfortunate reality of Pakistan's power politics that every party wants to engage directly with the security establishment.

However, there is an opportunity right now for democratic forces to retake the legislative domain as long as they agree to respect each other. Regardless of how many seats it believes it won, the PTI does not represent every citizen of Pakistan.

The other parties are equally legitimate stakeholders in the country's political future, and it must give them due consideration. The PTI need only look at how the PDM fared in the Feb 8 elections to realise how sour non-political 'solutions' to political problems can become.

### Arifa Noor

Sunday is a day of rest but not for the hardworking people running the government of Pakistan. These men, and a few women, never rest. This Sunday was no different, as the prime minister was busy with an official trip overseas. But foreign shores didn't distract him from the pending work in Islamabad and he managed to issue a notification declaring current Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar as deputy prime minister.

Predictably, the notification managed to set off a storm of discussion among the other hardworking race — the journalists and commentators who fill the weekend slots.

Has Dar made a comeback? Does it mean Nawaz Sharif is now planning to reassert himself? What does this mean for Shehbaz Sharif? The questions and the ensuing discussions will probably fill the airwaves for some days to come, providing more television opportunities for Rana Sanaullah and Javed Latif, just in case journal-

ists were losing interest and requests to them for interviews were reducing.

In other words, Dar's appointment is going to add more fuel to the whistles that the ruling party is facing inner strife. The story of friction within the party is not new — it has perhaps been around from the time the party first fell into disfavour with the then establishment circa 2016. While the intensity of these 'reported' differences went up and down, the election and its aftermath seem to have added to the fault lines within.

This is not simply due to the innumerable interviews of Javed Latif, who had time for them when he was minister without a portfolio and has even more hours to spare now that he is neither a minister nor an MNA. Rana Sanaullah seems to be similarly bored.

Their pronouncements against each other and other matters such as why N 'lost' the election (according to Latif, it was the same big, bad establishment that also cost the PTI the election, which is what the latter party alleges) have sparked an entire de-

bate as to what their interviews indicate about the party.

Both these gentlemen are seen to be part of the Nawaz Sharif, as opposed to the Shehbaz Sharif, camp, and their talk was also seen to be at the former's behest, raising questions about the elections.

But this was not the only sign of trouble within the House of Sharif; others pointed to Nawaz Sharif's absence from parliament and Islamabad where Sharif junior rules the roost. His only appearances took place alongside Maryam Nawaz — attending meetings of the Punjab cabinet, visiting people and taking trips to check naan and roti prices. It was hard not to conclude that he was deliberately keeping a distance from the government in Islamabad, and was invested only in his daughter's future.

But the 'success' in by-elections seems to have caused a change of heart. In interviews, those in the 'Nawaz Sharif camp' have begun to speak in favour of a dialogue with the PTI. It is important to remem-

ber here that when businessman Arif Habib made this suggestion to Shehbaz Sharif, the response was not too forthcoming.

Along with this came a party meeting after which Rana Sanaullah announced that Nawaz Sharif would be asked to take over the party — again — as the cases against him had been concluded and there was no legal bar on him holding a party position. And now Dar's promotion. No one will believe the PML-N version that it is business as usual; if it was, he would have been made deputy PM from day one. Clearly, something has changed since for this step to have been taken and there are shifts in the balance of power within.

Second, his promotion shows the Sharif family, despite all that has happened, has not understood the change in the country they continue to rule or why they are losing support. They are unable to understand the growing sentiment against the domination of families and dynasties. Why else would they first decide to award both the chief minister and

prime minister's posts to themselves and now make another family member the deputy PM?

Third, this is going to add another level of uncertainty to a rickety government because it will increase rumours of a feud within the family and strengthen the perception that Shehbaz Sharif is a weak prime minister. The latter was already battling views that his mandate is a managed one and that the establishment is in charge; key decisions are being made through the SIFC while some of his cabinet members are not of his choice.

Indeed, arguments that the deputy prime minister's post is a ceremonial one are irrelevant here. After all, Ishaq Dar's proximity to Nawaz Sharif means he has access and influence few can rival.

It is worth noting that he was able to replace a finance minister while sitting in self-imposed exile in London; so to assume that a ceremonial government post will not lead to much is perhaps not correct. Since then, we have also heard Mohammad Zubair's ac-

count of how privatisation was delayed by Ishaq Dar while he was finance minister during the earlier PML-N term.

As it is, he has been overseeing the outsourcing of the airports while being foreign minister. So evidently, with his elevation, his role in economic affairs is far from over. While he may not be able to influence or overrule the SIFC's decision-making, if decisions are being made at the political level of government, the foreign minister/ deputy PM will be there, representing the views and interests of the Punjab chapter of the family.

Indeed, within the possibilities of the role he could play in economic and financial affairs and the impact this decision will have on the space in which Shehbaz Sharif is operating as PM and the face of the PML-N in Islamabad, it is instructive that, other than party and government spokespersons, no one thinks this is a random decision with no consequences. The ride is about to get a bit more bumpy. -- Courtesy Dawn

## What does and doesn't pass for reform?

### Mosharraf Zaidi

Two stories this past week were supposed to be celebrated by Pakistanis that are thirsting for reform. The first was the news that the cabinet has approved the hiring of foreign consulting firms without the burden of PPRAs rules.

The second was that 25 officers of the Inland Revenue Service and Customs Group working in the Federal Bureau of Revenue were 'fired' for being 'incompetent' and 'compromised'. Should serious people celebrate these news items? The reader should decide based on a little background.

Let's take the hiring of foreign consulting firms absent PPRAs rules. One of the most vexing problems governments face everywhere is the challenge of finding the right talent, skills and experience at precisely the right time, for the right purpose, and then providing such talent, skills and experience, the support they need to deliver for their country.

In countries where there are low barriers to innovation, like in Singapore or Estonia, finding the right people and putting them on the job is intrinsic to both the political culture and to how gov-

ernment works — what we might call administrative or bureaucratic culture. Those cultures did not emerge from the blue; they were put in place as part of a national vision and elite leadership that merged purpose-level aspirations with figuring out the analytics and pathways that needed fixing.

Intricate analytics and details are most important in places where people get things done. This is often lost in places where articulating the same principles over and over and over again causes the ecosystem to shower rewards upon those that master the rhetorical expression of the need for reform.

In other places, where barriers to innovation are substantial, the solution is often to apply a high degree of political and administrative will to solve the problem. Indeed, this is what we have seen in places like Saudi Arabia, under Vision 2030, and in places like India, under the leadership of a narrowly coherent Narendra Modi. The brute force of high-level politics can help achieve great heights for some systems — but it is half-baked and incomplete to think that this brute force is merely a top-line articulation of reform intentions. If any part of a

system fails to deliver, what then?

In Saudi Arabia and India (and indeed many rapid-transformation environments), then people pay the price — some will lose their jobs, some will never be promoted again, some contracts will be cancelled, and some folks will suffer reputational damage that will restrict the flow of professional opportunity in their direction. Conversely, if you end up achieving an ambitious target for a reformist regime, you are rewarded handsomely. This could be in terms of money, or positions, or prestige, or public acknowledgement — but accountability is inescapable in a high-achieving environment. You fail, you feel pain. You succeed, you feel joy.

These first principles are important to internalize if you are invested in reform in any country, but especially if you are responsible for reform in Pakistan. The high-level reasons are all well-known — and we don't want to fall into the trap of repeating rhetorical expressions of the need for reform. So, let's restate the first principles again and then proceed to examine some of the reform news from this past week.

First, the articulation

of reform must be clear and high-level political and administrative will for reform is essential. Second, the analytics for the what and how of reform must be clear. Intricate details of how things need to change is important, and knowing how things currently are is a crucial first step to mapping those intricate details and pathways. Third, accountability is inescapable. These first principles cannot be disaggregated and treated in isolation. You cannot have one without having the other two. You cannot have two without having the third. All three must exist, simultaneously. They must be seen to exist. They must be adhered to reasonably consistently.

What this means is that you cannot just articulate: "we are committed to reform" and then expect the system to figure out what reforms are needed. Once you figure out what reforms are needed, you cannot just expect that the analytics and critical paths mapped out will be followed. There has to be accountability. If the pathways are followed, you must reward the people, processes, and organizations that deliver, and if they are not followed, or there is failure, then

you have to act to hold those individuals, groups and systems to account for the failure. If you are allergic to any part of this three-pronged formula for reform — articulation, analytics, accountability — you will not change anything. Indeed, you will most likely end up making things worse. The news that the federal government had 'finally' decided to create a special allowance for foreign consulting firms to be hired by the government is news but is not new. Every incoming government has tried a variation of this. The earliest evidence I could find of this is a notification from the Management Services Wing of the Establishment Division dated January 25, 2002, and amended July 27, 2002 titled: 'Guidelines for Appointment of Consultants'. I am sure there is even more evidence further back.

The second was the Mustafa Iqbal case, that essentially cut off the head of government, and forced the cabinet to become a forum for muddled and faux decision-making — reducing the stature of the PM office, the cabinet itself, and thereby effectively enhancing the invisible powers of the same principal accounting

officers — in appropriations, approvals and decision-making. Cabinet meetings for the last decade or so have become theatres of the absurd, with federal secretaries often occupying much more power and powerful positions than even the most seasoned members of cabinet. Yet year after year, after year, governments can't do the very basic things that governments have claimed they want to do for over a quarter century. This brings us to the arbitrary and unhinged decision to place 25 IRS and Customs Group officers from FBR on the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) list. Does any serious person believe that placing people on OSD is a genuine reform? Is there any doubt that most (if not all) of the officers placed on OSD will be back in key positions across government sooner or later? Can any foreign consulting firm possibly navigate the rivalries and competitiveness within occupational groups, and the bitterness that the other occupational groups have toward the PAS? -- Courtesy TheNews

## Ending conflicts

### Dr Niaz Murtaza

Business gurus, often deemed unwise, gave very wise advice to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Karachi: end conflicts with the PTI and India. These tiffs are the biggest internal and external drains on national energy, curbing our progress. The one with the PTI has polarised society and major institutions and impeded their work. The one with India has contributed to our isolation and wasted scarce resources on defence. There are also the Baloch and Taliban conflicts. Arguably, the shadow of the establishment hovers over all. Three of the issues need a peaceful end; the Taliban a forceful one.

But can they be ended? The PTI, PML-N, PPP and the powers that be must first gather in a room for truth and reconciliation and admit their roles in fanning political instability that causes all our social, economic, security and external issues. The elephant in the room must fulfil its earlier promises to eschew politics.

The PTI, PML-N and PPP must then sign charters of democracy and governance. In the charter of democracy, they must accept that the 2018 and 2024 polls were rigged; agree never to seek the establishment's aid again; see each other as rivals and not enemies; accept each other's mandate; eschew political victimisation via fake cases against rivals; and make institutions independent.

They must also agree on a time frame for early polls, and come to an agreement on legal changes before they are held to make them cred-

ible and agree on a power-sharing formula under which all three get a piece of the pie to compensate for both the 2018 and 2024 alleged rigging. An example of this could be an agreement for two of them to form a federal coalition after the polls to ensure political stability, with the third one leading or being in the Punjab set-up, depending on their numbers.

The charter of governance must commit to ending misrule, especially of the economic variety. All three parties must publicly accept their own input in the economic mess and admit that the cited six per cent growth under the PML-N and PTI was not accurate. Most critically, they must accept that their top leaders are not the best ones to rule at the moment, given how bad our economic status is. They must agree to appoint competent cabinets with experts in key posts for the next five to 10 years, while the top leaders run their parties, like the Gandhi family has since Rajiv Gandhi's death.

While this charter will cover all areas, I focus on the three other conflicts. On the Taliban, all three, especially the PTI, must agree that talks are futile, use China's influence to wean Kabul away from the TTP, and deploy force if the latter still don't end terrorism. On Balochistan, they should agree to give nationalists their due share, end disappearances, ensure development and hold talks with the insurgents to put down their arms. On India, the three must agree on trade and peace, recognising that it holds the aces. Our only small leverage is that the world still doesn't accept India's claims on

occupied Kashmir without a pact with Pakistan and the Kashmiris.

Will the four forces accept this? The PTI, lacking other viable paths, may do so as the dubious case against it might then end and it may lead the centre and/or Punjab set-up. But it too must eschew populism; end its polarising politics of calling the PPP and PML-N chors, while filling its own ranks with some dubious elements; and agree to work with the parties. Perhaps one can conjecture that in such a scenario, the PPP may agree as it won't lose Sindh and may be in coalition in the centre too. But the PML-N may be unwilling to lose power. However, if the others agree, it may not have an option. A piece of the pie may mollify it further.

Finally, what will it take to reduce the establishment's shadow? This is the biggest hurdle. A concerted pushback from political parties, internal ranks, media, civil society, allied states and businesses will help, as would an end to internal and external tensions, political parties working together for progress, and greater military professionalism.

Asif Zardari who pushed reconciliation in his National Assembly speech can nudge all parties to talk as president, while using his vaunted reconciliation skills. All four must see that conflicts and political illegitimacy are pushing us fast towards doom.

Nevertheless, all this is a short-term remedy. Ultimately, new non-elitist parties must emerge. But the path to electoral democracy first may lead later to that end. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Tectonic shifts

### Bina Shah

When I was a teenager, the world was divided between the First World and Third World, terms first defined by the French anthropologist Alfred Sauvy in 1952. The First World was the affluent developed world, the industrialised nations of North America, Europe and Australia; stable and democratic, life held infinite satisfaction for its citizens.

On the other hand, the Third World, where I lived, was characterised as poor, illiterate, underdeveloped, violent and insecure. The Second World was made up of the Soviet Union and the countries aligned with it, but it was more familiarly known either as 'the enemy' or 'those Communists'. We paid little attention to it even when the Soviets invaded Afghanistan, bringing the Second World right to the doorstep of the Third.

We were told that the First/ Third World had more to do with economics than politics, but the two seemed inseparable when it came to the power the First World wielded over the Third. First World countries used a lot of influence and money to keep them away from the clutches of the Soviet Union. Building on the foundations that colonialism and imperialism had laid for them in the previous two centuries, the First World gained free access to the Third World's economic markets, influence on their education systems and a cultural dominance that warped young people's self-esteem and pride in their own identity.

The First World rewarded those Third World countries for their loyalty with generous foreign aid, favourable trade deals, and unending support for their

governments, no matter how corrupt or undemocratic. Indeed, the First World coined the term 'banana republic' to describe some of these Third World countries, even as they propped up their autocrats and encouraged them to function as the polar opposite of Western liberalism for half a century.

By the 1990s, the world had benefited from 20 to 30 years of decolonial studies and Marxist economics, Edward Said's powerful work on Orientalism and Gayatri Spivak's on subalternity, the liberation theologues of South America and the anti-apartheid movement of South Africa. The term 'Third World' began to give way to the 'Global South', somewhat due to political correctness but mostly out of their own loathing for an appellation that symbolised dysfunction and underdevelopment.

The Global South is made up of Latin America, Africa and Asia. Yet some countries in it began to achieve economic industrialisation: India, China, Brazil. Today, the inclusion of very rich countries like the UAE and Saudi Arabia as well as tiny Costa Rica and prosperous Malaysia raises the question of whether the 'Global South' term is now stretched beyond usefulness, too racialised, or even simply obsolete?

Not so, according to political researchers Nour Dadoos and Raewyn Connell. In their eyes, "the use of the phrase Global South marks a shift from a central focus on development or cultural difference toward an emphasis on geopolitical relations of power". Former colonies aligned as countries whose interests clashed with industrialised powers in the West and

the Communist bloc, thus ignoring Cold War divisions of the '50s and '60s. Today, the Global South is more than just "a metaphor for underdevelopment". Instead, it references "an entire history of colonialism, neoimperialism, and differential economic and social change through which large inequalities in living standards, life expectancy and access to resources are maintained".

But as we transition from a unipolar to a multipolar world, political scientist John Ikenberry envisions a Global North, a Global South, and a Global East, led by China and Russia. The Global South, in this scenario, is more passive and lacks leadership, and both the Global North and Global East compete for its loyalty and cooperation.

Still, when South Africa took Israel to the International Court of Justice on charges of genocide in Gaza, many Global South countries rallied behind the cause of ending the conflict in Gaza and getting Israel to face international law for its alleged war crimes. South Africa's historic defeat of apartheid gave the accusers' case moral as well as legal weight. Instead of just backing Palestine in places like the ICJ and the UN, the Global South was now taking direct action against Israel in those very forums. This marks a powerful change in the way these countries align and negotiate global conflicts. In politics, sometimes language reflects these changes and sometimes it is a precursor or even an instigator of change. Like the movement of tectonic plates that creates earthquakes on the higher ends of the Richter scale, the deliberate use of the term 'Global South' will instigate a major shift towards a world where global justice must prevail. -- Courtesy Dawn



## CM approves policy to upgrade all primary schools to bring 4.1 m out-of-school children to schools

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presiding over an important meeting regarding bringing back 4.1 million out-of-school children to schools directed the School Education Department to implement a policy of gradually upgrading all primary schools to post-primary schools and develop a connection with cluster schools to retain children and prevent the dropout ratio from increasing.

The meeting was held at the CM House and was attended by Minister of Education Syed Sardar Shah, PSCM Agha Wasif, Secretary of School Education Zahid Abbasi, and other concerned officers.

The Chief Minister mentioned that the Pakistan Institute of Education (PIE) published a report in January 2024, which stated that there are 26.2 million children out of school in Pakistan. Sindh's share in this number came out to be 7.63 million children, which is a very alarming situation.

In response to this, Education Minister Sardar Shah quoted the latest figures from the Ministry of Education (Federal Government), he said there are 4.1 million children out of school in Sindh.

The education minister further informed the Chief Minister that there are a total of 14,208,257 children in Sindh, out of which

10,204,647 are receiving education in government, private, Madrasah, Sindh Education Foundation, and other institutions, while 4.1 million are out-of-school. Breaking down the numbers, he stated that 4.5 million children attended government schools, 3.9 million attended private schools, and 840,000 children attended Sindh Education Foundation. Additionally, 500,000 children attended Madrasahs, and 500,000 attended federal/Pak Army/ Navy schools. The Chief Minister has stated that in 2019, UNICEF Sindh conducted a sample study to determine the reasons behind children not attending school in the province.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presides over the 6th Punjab Cabinet meeting.

## Mohsin Naqvi visits Sukkur Passport Office & NADRA Center

SUKKUR (APP): Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi has paid a surprise visit to Passport Office and NADRA Regional Centre Sukkur here on Tuesday.

On the occasion, the Interior Minister said two new Nadra Centers will be established in Sukkur City and Rohri in three months and directed to complete the construction of the Passport office building within Six Months.

During the visit, the Interior Minister interacted with the people at passport office and inquired about issues faced by them.

The Interior Minister said steps are being taken to ensure access to Documents for the citizens at NADRA Centers.

He also vowed to make passport offices as efficient as Nadra Centres as he reviewed the arrangements made to

facilitate the Public.

Later, talking to Media, Naqvi said that it's time to work for progress of the country. He said that they have to work for the development of the country.

Mohsin Naqvi said that they will further improve law and order situation in Sindh including Karachi.

To a question, he said that the Army can be called in for assistance in Katcha operation against dacoits of the Sindh.

He said that they will take all possible steps in order to establish peace in Kashmir, Ghotki and Shikarpur districts of Sindh. He further said that there will be a meeting with the Sindh Chief Minister in this regard adding that "I have come here to see the situation regarding unrest in Sindh."

## CM orders strict compliance of one-dish rule in weddings

Approves the launch of the Nawaz Sharif Farmer Card

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif ordered strict implementation of the one-dish rule in wedding events across Punjab while chairing the 6th meeting of the provincial cabinet, here on Tuesday.

The cabinet approved the provision of free medicines to cancer patients and it was further decided to include more patients in the free cancer medication project.

The cabinet in principle approved the launch of the Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Farmer Card and reviewed a proposal to provide direct cash subsidy to small wheat growers.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif stated, "All resources of Punjab are available for farmers. Middlemen and 'aarthi' cannot be allowed to exploit farmers. I intend to make bread cheaper for the people."

It was agreed to link the approval of water supply and sanitation projects to the permission of the Local Government department in the province. A consensus was reached to release Rs.10 billion in seed money to the CBD Authority for Nawaz Sharif IT City. The CEO of CBD was praised for convincing Chinese companies to establish campuses in Nawaz

Sharif IT City Lahore. It was briefed that Saudi Academy Riyadh is ready to open a campus in Lahore's Nawaz Sharif IT City. Ten towers will be built in the IT City, with twin towers being built immediately. The launch of Nawaz Sharif IT City will take place in May.

The CM ordered the chief secretary to devise a pool of competent professionals from various fields, adding that the program for the provision of free medicines at the doorstep will start in May. The cabinet approved empowering deputy commissioners to enforce Section 144 in Punjab.



SUKKUR: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi listening to the issues of women during his visit to Sukkur's NADRA Center.

## Kyrgyz Honorary Consul calls on Punjab Governor

LAHORE: Honorary Consul Kyrgyzstan Mehr Kashif Younis called on the Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman here at Governor House on Tuesday.

In the meeting, issues of mutual interest and promotion of bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan were discussed. Kyrgyzstan Consul's Advisor Dr Waqar Ullah Chaudhry was also present.

The Governor congratulated Mehr Kashif Younis on his appointment as Honorary Consul of Kyrgyzstan and hoped that he would play an active role in promoting relations between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan in trade, education and other fields.

He said his appointment signifies a milestone in diplomatic relations which underscores the importance of fostering closer ties and cooperation particularly in the realm of trade and commerce.

He said that Pakistan attaches great importance to the relations with Kyrgyzstan, and emphasized the importance of enhancing trade relations between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan, highlighting the untapped potential that exists. He said that people-to-people contact is very important in promoting bilateral cooperation.

The Governor said that there are vast opportunities for cooperation between the two countries in the fields of education.

## PHC suspends ECP's summon notice issued to KP CM in assets' case

PESHAWAR (APP): A two-member bench of Peshawar High Court comprising Justice SM Attiq Shah and Justice Shakeel Ahmed on Tuesday suspended the suo moto notice of the Election Commission of Pakistan related to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur's assets case.

The court issued a notice to ECP seeking a reply for issuing a summon notice to Ali Amin for an explanation of his previous years' statements related to assets.

The petitioner's counsel contended that it was no longer the authority of ECP to ask for the assets' details, adding that all the details were available on the website of the Election Commission.

It is pertinent to mention here that the ECP had issued a notice to KP CM to appear before the commission on April 30 and submit details of his last year's assets.

## May-9 violence: ATC grants interim bail to PTI leader in 3 cases

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday granted interim bail until May 21 to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Malik Karamat Ali Khokhar in three cases related to May 9 riots.

The court instructed the PTI leader to provide surety bonds of Rs 100,000 for each case to secure bail.

ATC Judge Arshad Javed presided over the proceedings on the bail petition of the PTI leader, who was also present during the hearing.

Malik Karamat Ali Khokhar has sought bail in three cases, including the attack on Jinnah House, related to May 9 violence.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meets with Ambassador of European Union, Dr. Riina Kionka at CM House.

## Minister ensures transparency in SSC examinations

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Elementary and Secondary Education Faisal Khan Tarakai on Tuesday asserted that transparency will be ensured at all costs in the ongoing matric examinations, with stringent action against those attempting to compromise the examination system.

Addressing Press Conference at Itla Cell Information Department over concerns raised on social media regarding paper leaks in the matric exams, Faisal Tarakai said that prompt action has been taken against individuals involved, resulting in the suspension of 12

individuals for leaking papers.

He said that strict measures will be imposed on examination halls where complaints are received.

Education Minister highlighted that the examination process in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa maintains over 90 percent transparency, surpassing other provinces.

He also noted that papers circulating on social media are often from previous years and are mostly fake.

The minister said that inquiries have been initiated into complaints received by the Mardan, Malakand, and Dera Ismail Khan boards, with legal action to follow against those found guilty.



LAHORE: Honorary Consul of Kyrgyzstan, Mehr Kashif Younis, called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

## UAJKVC condemns India's demographic engineering in Occupied Kashmir

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): In a stern denunciation of India's actions in the disputed region of Jammu and Kashmir, Vice Chancellor of the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK), Prof. Dr Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, has highlighted India's employment of tactics akin to those of Israel to alter the demographic composition of Muslim majority areas.

Speaking at the 5th Inter-University English Debate Competition, Prof. Abbasi emphasized the grave implications of India's actions, labelling them as violations of international law and an assault on the right to self-determination.

Addressing participants of the debate competition jointly organized by UAJK and Jammu Kashmir Liberation Commission (JKLC), Prof. Abbasi stressed the parallels between India and Israel's attempts to manipulate population ratios in disputed territories to sway the outcome of future plebiscites. He underscored the competition's role in raising awareness among the youth about the Kashmir issue, emphasizing the importance of understanding it from its true perspective.

Furthermore, Prof. Abbasi condemned what he termed as "water terrorism" accusing India of exploiting vital resources to further

## ANF recovers 76 kg drugs in 11 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 11 operations across the country managed to recover 76 kg drugs, 580 liters liquor and arrested 15 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday.

He informed that 1.4 kg Ice was recovered from a passenger going to Doha at Lahore Airport.

1.1 kg ketamine, 201 grams heroin and 969 grams caffeine were recovered from the possession of three passengers going to Malaysia from Islamabad airport.

290 grams heroin was recovered from a passenger going to Bahrain at Peshawar Airport.

1 kg Ice was recovered from a parcel booked for New Zealand at Karachi Airport.

## Minister to Launch NourishMaa Program

PESHAWAR: The launch was decided in a meeting chaired by Minister Health Syed Qasim Ali Shah on Tuesday. The NourishMaa campaign will be launched at KP in mid-May to disseminate the efforts in the province. A delegation of Nutrition International, led by Dr Irfan Deputy country director and Imtiaz Ali Shah program Manager Kp met minister health in his office.

Dr Irfan while briefing the minister told that the Maternal Nutrition Campaign (NourishMaa), aligned with the Pakistan Strategy 2022, is a collaborative effort between Nutrition International, the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination

(MoNHS&C), Provincial Departments of Health (DoH), and key Stakeholders such as the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) and the Society of Obstetrics and Gynecologists Pakistan (SOGP).

The NourishMaa Campaign aims to "improve the knowledge and capacity of Health Care Providers (HCPs) and Key Opinion Leaders (KOL) to advance maternal Nutrition interventions in Pakistan". He furthered that the program is planned to be inaugurated in provinces by minister health next month. NourishMaa campaign uses a three pronged approach to sensitize health care practitioners/ female health workers on maternal nutrition through policy influence.



KARACHI: People gather around the shop which was subjected to a cylinder explosion claimed the life of one individual and left six others wounded in Karachi's New Chhali area.

## UAF arranges Besakhi Mela

FAISALABAD (APP): University of Agriculture Faisalabad arranged Besakhi Mela "Wheat Harvesting Festival" to highlight the culture of wheat harvesting and apprising the farming community with latest trends of harvesting.

UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan inaugurated the Mela sponsored by Senior Tutor Office and Directorate of Farms, University of Agriculture Faisalabad.

Speaking on the inaugural ceremony, Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan said that adaptation of modern trends was prerequisite to make agriculture a profitable business. He said that use of latest technologies would help in improving economic condition of the farming community as well as meet the wheat requirement for the growing population.

He said that last year, 35,000 UAF students in collaboration with Agriculture Department Punjab visited various villages across the province to make the farmers aware of modern trends in wheat sowing. He said that the UAF in collaboration with Washington State University was also working on high-yielding wheat varieties that would boost up average production and help in ensuring food security.

## Labours play vital role in national economy: Swati

PESHAWAR (APP): Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Babar Salim Swati on the eve of Labour Day said that labours play vital role in the national economy.

He said that observing International Labour Day acknowledges their contribution to the nation's progress and prosperity.

Speaker Swati emphasized that the Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) has mandated that labour dues be paid before his sweat dries, thus underscoring the recognition of laborers' status and economic rights in Islam.

He stated that workers, regardless of literacy, are pivotal to the advancement of any

society or nation, playing a key role in its development.

Highlighting the efforts of the past Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government towards the welfare and prosperity of laborers, Swati assured that the current government will continue this legacy.

He reiterated the government's commitment to safeguarding the rights of workers and providing maximum relief to the labour class amid the prevailing challenging circumstances. The Speaker concluded by affirming that the protection of workers' rights and alleviating their current difficulties remain among the government's top priorities.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Minorities Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora addressing a ceremony organized in connection with International Labour Day.



LAHORE: Members of Progressive Students Federation are holding protest demonstration against Israeli aggression and atrocities on the Gaza Strip and solidarity with the Palestinians, nearby American Consulate in Lahore.



## Pak-UK agree to enhance cooperation in key socio-economic areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Development Director of the British High Commission in Pakistan Ms. Jo Moir on Tuesday agreed to enhancing the cooperation between Pakistan and Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) in key areas for the socio-economic development.

In a meeting with Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, she also assured her full support in exploring innovative green financing instruments to address climate change and support social sector initiatives in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

The team leader of the FCDO Rizwan Azam and senior officials from the Ministry of Economic Affairs also attended the meeting, said a press release.

Ms. Jo Moir also outlined areas where the UK's expertise in public administration could be utilized for strengthening the capacity of Pakistan's bureaucratic system.

The Development Director thanked the minister for the strong partnership and collaborative efforts addressing issues such as poverty reduction, climate change, financing instruments and the strengthening of financial management and accountability.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Economic Affairs reiterated the commitment of the government to ongoing cooperation with the FCDO for the socio-economic development of the country.

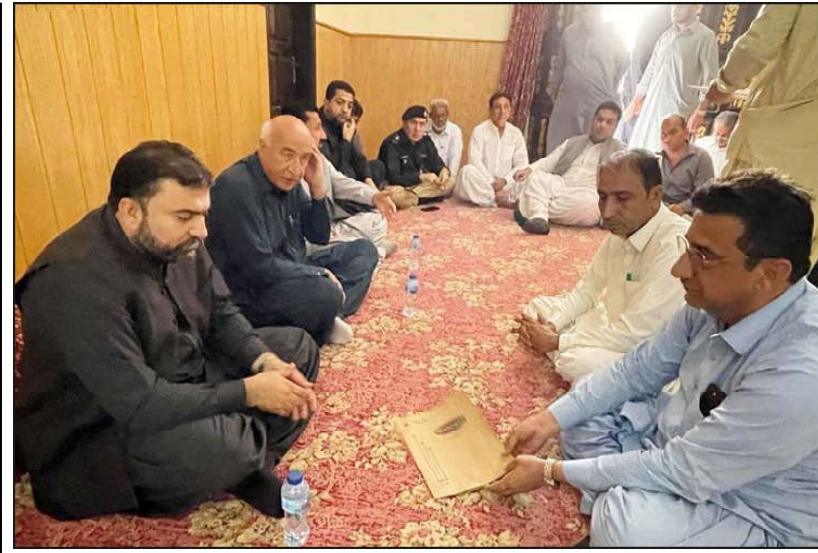
He expressed his gratitude to the Development Director of the British High

Commission in Pakistan for the continued support and assistance provided to the people of Pakistan.

He specifically acknowledged the FCDO's role in providing critical aid during the 2022 floods and their support for the International Partners' Support Group (IPSG).

During the meeting, the minister also discussed strategies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Pakistan's bureaucracy, highlighting the importance of a well-trained workforce in achieving national development goals.

He proposed exploring training programs based on the UK bureaucracy to build the capacity of Pakistan's bureaucratic system. The Development Director welcomed the idea, indicating a willingness to discuss how to support this effort.



TURBAT: A delegation of Anjuman-e-Tajir District Kech meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

## Minister for generating more revenue to make KoFHA viable authority

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Tuesday directed the Korangi Fisheries Harbour Authority for taking steps to increase its revenue and make it a viable authority.

The federal minister issued this directive during his visit to Korangi Fisheries Harbour Authority.

Secretary Maritime Affairs Iram Anjum Khan and other officers were also present on this occasion. The federal minister was warmly received by the Managing Director Korangi Fisheries Harbour Authority Rear Admiral Shahid Ahmed SI

(M) on arrival at the KoFHAMD Korangi Fisheries Harbour Authority Rear Admiral Shahid Ahmed briefed the minister regarding ongoing, proposed as well as future projects of the authority.

Rear Admiral Shahid Ahmed informed the minister that a proposal for the formation of Korangi Fisheries Harbour Authority Board has already been forwarded to the Prime Minister so that the authority could be made more functional.

He said that floating piers would be imported to expand the jetty, which will increase the income of the authority. In order to facilitate small boats to

reach easily at the jetty, Floating Pier is needed while the auction hall will be made as per international standards, the minister was told in the briefing. The federal minister was informed that KoFHA has also planned to lease out its 24 acres land for 30 years for establishing "Sea Food Factories" which will increase revenue of the authority. Rear Admiral Shahid Ahmed informed that a boundary wall will also be constructed outside of the authority to make it more secure while provincial government will be approached for set up of the Rangers/Police picket for the purpose.

## Industries Minister directs to withdraw recent urea price hike

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a move to protect the interests of farmers, Federal Minister for Industry and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain here on Tuesday directed the fertilizer companies to immediately reverse the recent increase in urea prices.

He said while chairing an emergency meeting with representatives of fertilizer companies, including Fauji Fertilizer Company, Engro Fertilizer Private Limited, and Fatima Fertilizer Company, to discuss the sudden price hike.

Secretary Industry and Production Wasim Ajmal Chaudhry also attended the meeting, according to a news release issued here. The minister has rejected the fertilizer companies' justification for the price increase, citing no change in production costs.

He emphasized that

the government's top priority is to protect farmers' interests and ensure the uninterrupted supply of urea during the upcoming Kharif season.

The minister highlighted that the government has decided to import 200,000 metric tons of urea. He directed all provinces to stop hoarding and illegal profiteering of urea fertilizer, adding that fertilizer companies share urea fertilizer distribution plans every month in advance.

Minister assured that all stakeholders should be consulted before increasing urea fertilizer prices in the future and there has been no increase in production cost of urea fertilizer in the country. He stressed that an increase in the price of urea fertilizer without an increase in the cost of production is not acceptable.



ISLAMABAD: Ms. Jo Moir, Development Director, British High Commission, Pakistan calls on the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh chairing meeting regarding shipping companies regulations with business communities and other officials at PNSC.

## Envoy encourages RAK businessmen to explore Pak investment opportunities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan to the United Arab Emirates, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi on Tuesday said that Pakistan was situated at the crossroads of South and Central Asia offering multiple connectivity and investment opportunities.

The ambassador, in a meeting with Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah (RAK) Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi at Al Dhait Palace, encouraged the RAK's business community in to explore these opportunities, said a press release received here.

On behalf of Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Ambassador Tirmizi conveyed warm regards and best wishes to the RAK Ruler.

He applauded the visionary leadership of the

Ruler for the amazing development taking place in RAK.

Tirmizi underlined the importance of historic linkages existing between Pakistan and the Emirates.

Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi said that Pakistan was very close to his heart and that the country had a great future. He appreciated Pakistan's diverse geography ranging from mountains to deserts and fertile lands.

Ambassador Tirmizi thanked the Ruler for facilitating the agreement between the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries and the Ras Al Khaima Chamber of Commerce.

Availing the opportunity, Ambassador Tirmizi extended an invitation to the Ruler to visit Pakistan.

## Fintech helps propel nations forward, fosters inclusion: Aamir Ibrahim

ISLAMABAD (APP): In emerging markets, it's crucial to prioritize financial inclusion to ensure that the benefits of fintech reach beyond a select few, and propel the entire nations forward, fostering widespread inclusion.

These views were shared by Aamir Ibrahim, CEO Jazz and Chairman Mobilink Microfinance Bank in his keynote at Money 20/20 Asia, the world's leading fintech show said a news release.

Around 3,000 senior decision-makers from banks, payment gateways, card networks, big tech, venture capital, lending, blockchain, and bitcoin companies attend

Money20/20. Aamir stressed that a considerable number of individuals have yet to open their first bank account. Ensuring they have easy access to formal financial services is a collective responsibility we must not overlook.

This session, titled 'Pioneering Relevance: JazzCash's Journey of Purposeful Innovation in Pakistan' shed a spotlight on the transformative power of fintech in Pakistan in general, and JazzCash in particular as the industry leader.

JazzCash is Pakistan's leading mobile wallet and digital financial services platform, boasting 44 million users.

## Rupee gains 08 paise against US dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday gained 08 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.31 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.39.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.35 and Rs 280 respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by 42 paise and closed at Rs 297.96 against the last-day closing of Rs 298.38, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen came down by 01 paise and closed at Rs1.77, whereas an increase of 20 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs348.99 compared to the last closing of Rs348.79.

## PSX witnesses bearish trend, loses 592 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Tuesday, shedding 592.49 points, negative change of 0.83 percent, closing at 71,102.55 points against 71,695.03 points the previous trading day.

A total of 560,552,783 shares valuing Rs 25,730 billion were traded during the day as compared to 613,314,754 shares valuing Rs 26,314 billion the last day.

Some 384 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 113 of them recorded gains and 244 sustained losses, whereas the prices of 27 remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 47,688,025 shares at Rs 1.28 per share, Pace (Pak) Limited.

## Engro remains committed to progress, well-being of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Engro has always strived to conduct its business fairly and transparently, upholding strong principles of corporate governance, ethics, integrity, and compliance with the laws of the land over the last six decades.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, Engro Corporation welcomed the long-awaited decision of the Accountability Court, which exonerated and

acquitted Chairman Hussain Dawood, Director Abdul Samad Dawood, and former CEO Sheikh Imran-ul-Haq in the award of the LNG contract to Engro Elengy Terminal Limited.

The LNG Terminal in question is an essential part of Pakistan's energy infrastructure; it supplies 15% of Pakistan's total gas requirement, which is a critical industrial and domestic input, to a growing country.



HUB: Adviser to the Chief Minister Balochistan on Industries and Commerce, Mir Ali Hassan Zehri presides over high-level meeting held at Lasbela Industrial Estates Development Authority (LIEDA) Hall in Hub.

## Pakistan, Malaysia resolve to harness economic potential, take bilateral ties to new heights

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Malaysia on Tuesday reiterated their commitment to strengthen bilateral ties and strategic partnership through enhanced cooperation in trade, defense, tourism and other sectors.

Following their meeting on the sidelines of the Special Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Riyadh, both Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim

engaged in a conversation on social media platform X, with both agreeing to build on their discussion.

"As we agreed during our meeting, there is a huge untapped potential to scale up the cooperation in the different sectors of the economy. Our current level of bilateral trade relations doesn't match the excellent ties between our two brotherly countries," Prime Minister Shehbaz wrote in response to his Malaysian counterpart's

post. Malaysia's Anwar Ibrahim said that in their meeting, they had expressed their commitment to strengthen bilateral cooperation and strategic partnership, including enhancing trade relations which currently stood at US\$1.4 billion.

Prime Minister Shehbaz expressed his pleasure as both sides committed to unpacking the true potential and taking the Pakistan-

Malaysia's Anwar Ibrahim said that in their meeting, they had expressed their commitment to strengthen bilateral cooperation and strategic partnership, including enhancing trade relations which currently stood at US\$1.4 billion.

Prime Minister Shehbaz expressed his pleasure as both sides committed to unpacking the true potential and taking the Pakistan-

## LCCI delegation visits Business Facilitation Center

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) delegation headed by its President Kashif Anwar here Tuesday visited Business Facilitation Center (BFC) and reviewed the facilities of various federal and provincial departments working for the convenience of the business community.

LCCI Executive Committee Members Fareeha Younis, Raja Hasan Akhtar, Ahmed Elahi, Shamim Akhtar, Waseem Yousuf, Mian Atiqur Rehman, Secretary General Shahid Khalil and other members were part of the delegation while the In-charge BFC Abid

Saleem gave a detailed briefing to the delegation. BFC has 31 departments out of which 26 belong to Punjab while five belong to the federal government.

The departments included EPD, LDA, PIEDMC, FIEDMC, Local Government, PFA, SNGPL, Energy, LESCO, PHE, Punjab Small Industries and others.

The LCCI President said that one-window operation, consolidating services from provincial and federal departments under one roof is the biggest relief for the business community as it is saving their capital and time.

## Business community highly obliged to ICCI: Ajmal

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Aij Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajraan Ajmal Baloch has said that the business community is highly obliged to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) for its services to businessmen.

He said, "ICCI has gained the confidence of the entire business community during last two and half years owing to the tireless services of its President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari who has also initiated a unique programme of installation of filtration

plants in different markets of Islamabad from his own pocket." Addressing an agreement signing ceremony here on Tuesday, he stated that before this none of the Chamber's Presidents or any other office bearer has set any example of serving the community at his own expense. Ajmal Baloch went on to say that the ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has signed a MoU with Gulberg Greens for the establishment of a state of the art expo centre.



FAISALABAD: Farmer busy in cutting wheat crop with the help of tractor in his field.



HYDERABAD: A worker preparing cloth on power loom in a local factory as International Labour Day is celebrated on May 1 every year. It's a day to honour and appreciate the contributions of workers all around the world. This day recognizes the hard work and dedication of people who work in various fields to make our lives better.

## Experts demand moderation in tax system

ISLAMABAD (APP): The experts at the pre-budget stakeholder consultation on Tuesday demanded the government to ensure moderation in tax system and cumbersome regulatory steps for macroeconomic stability in Pakistan.

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) with the support of the Revenue Mobilisation, Investment and Trade (REMIT) programme funded by Foreign, Commonwealth and Development office organised the stakeholder pre-budget consultation titled "Optimizing Revenue and Public

Spending for Inclusive Growth" Pre-Budget Consultative workshop at a local hotel in Lahore.

In her welcome remarks, Nagham-e-Tehniat Jerral, Governance Adviser and Tax Lead - REMIT said that UK is a close partner of Pakistan in its development journey with key ambition to make the latter achieve its economic potential.

Pakistan has the beneficial youth population, ideal location at the heart of fastest growing markets, six million diaspora and women potential to play a substantial growth in the economic growth, she

added. She mentioned that World Bank in its report indicated that Pakistan economy could go beyond \$5 trillion by 2057 with correct interventions and reforms in its economic system.

Ms. Jerral said in global race for trade and investment, Pakistan is lagging behind since past three decades, whereas revenue mobilization is also one of the challenges faced by the country amid small tax revenue being collected which was half of the total potential.

She claimed that tax collection was insufficient as compared to the

population of Pakistan. Hamed Yaqoob Sheikh, Team Lead - REMIT briefed the participants on REMIT which was an FCDO-funded programme based on reforms in the economy of Pakistan with the objective to bring macroeconomic stability.

The main areas of focus of the programme included revenue, investment, improving and enhancing trade of Pakistan, he added. "The purpose of the dialogue is to come up with recommendations and solutions to provide guideline to the government for corrective

measures. REMIT has the edge that it can lead the policy recommendations to the highest level forum," he said. Dr. Wasif Ali Memon, Chairman, Sindh Revenue Board said that political will was very important to implement reforms and taxation measures then no change can happen in the system. He added that the country needed to do retrospection of its conduct during the process of seeking International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s program as it had availed some 25<sup>th</sup> so far.

"With a tax-to-GDP ratio below double figures.



## Top UN court rejects Nicaragua's request for Germany to halt aid to Israel

**Monitoring Desk**  
THE HAGUE: The top U.N. court rejected on Tuesday a request by Nicaragua to order Germany to halt military and other aid to Israel and renew funding to the U.N. aid agency in Gaza.

The International Court of Justice said that legal conditions for making such an order weren't met and ruled against the request in a 15-1 vote, effectively siding with Germany, which told judges that it's barely exporting any arms to Israel.

"Based on the factual information and legal arguments presented by the parties, the court concludes that, as present, the circumstances are not such as to require the exercise of its

power... to indicate provisional measures," said Nawaf Salam, the court's president.

However, the 16-judge panel declined to throw out the case altogether, as Germany had requested.

The court will still hear arguments from both sides on the merits of Nicaragua's case, which alleges that, by giving support to Israel, Germany failed to prevent genocide in Gaza. The case will likely take months or years.

Salam said that the court, which earlier this year ordered Israel to allow more humanitarian supplies into Gaza, "remains deeply concerned about the catastrophic living conditions of the Palestinians in the

Gaza Strip, in particular in view of the prolonged and widespread deprivation of food and other basic necessities to which they have been subjected."

He added that the court "considers it particularly important to remind all states of their international obligations relating to the transfer of arms to parties to an armed conflict, in order to avoid the risk that such arms might be used" to violate international law.

The reading of the decision lasted less than 20 minutes.

The German Foreign Office welcomed the ruling in a post on X.

"Germany is not a party to the conflict in the Middle East — on the con-

trary: we are working day and night for a two-state solution," the ministry said. "We are the largest donor of humanitarian aid to the Palestinians.

We are working to ensure that aid reaches the people in Gaza."

But it added that Israel has the right to defend itself and said more than 100 hostages are still being held by Hamas, "which is abusing the people of Gaza as shields."

The court noted that Germany had granted only four export licenses to Israel for weapons of war since the start of the conflict, two for training ammunition and one for test purposes, as well as one consignment of "3,000 portable anti-tank weapons."



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets with Jordan's King Abdullah II and Jordan's Crown Prince Hussein in Amman, Jordan, in this handout image released by Royal Hashemite Court (RHC).



Britain's King Charles and Queen Camilla meet with patient Jo Irons during a visit to the University College Hospital Macmillan Cancer Centre in London, Britain.

## New York's Columbia University suspends students after call to end Gaza camp unheeded

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK: Columbia University, the epicentre of pro-Palestinian protests that have upended college campuses across the United States, began suspending student demonstrators on Monday after they defied an ultimatum to disperse.

The move follows almost two weeks of protests against Israel's military offensive in Gaza that have swept through higher education institutions from coast to coast, after around 100 protesters were first arrested at Columbia on April 18. In the latest crackdown, authorities at the prestigious university in New York demanded that the protest encampment be cleared by 2:00pm (1800 GMT) or students would face disciplinary action.

"These repulsive scare tactics mean nothing

compared to the deaths of over 34,000 Palestinians," said a statement, read out by a student at a press conference after the deadline, referring to the death toll in Gaza.

"We will not move until Columbia meets our demands or [...] are moved by force," said the student, who would not give his name.

A few hours later, Columbia vice president of communications Ben Chang said the university had "begun suspending students as part of this next phase of our efforts to ensure safety on our campus."

He said students had been warned they would be "placed on suspension, ineligible to complete the semester or graduate, and will be restricted from all academic, residential, and recreational spaces."

## Afghan women's plight under scrutiny at UN

**Monitoring Desk**  
GENEVA: The Taliban faced criticism over their human rights record at a UN meeting on Monday, with Washington accusing them of systematically depriving women and girls of their human rights.

However, in an awkward first for the UN Human Rights Council, the concerned country's current rulers were not present because they are not recognised by the global body.

Afghanistan was represented by an ambassador appointed by the previous US-backed government, which the Taliban ousted in 2021. In a series of questions compiled in a UN document ahead of the review, the United States asked how authorities would hold perpetrators to account for abuses against civilians, "particularly women and girls who are being systematically deprived of their human rights."

## Senior US, French officials in Middle East seeking to ease Gaza war

**Monitoring Desk**  
RIYADH: French Foreign Minister Stéphane Sejourne said on Monday talks on a ceasefire in Gaza were progressing as he joined US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Saudi Arabia on a diplomatic push to ease the war between Israel and Hamas.

Sejourne was expected to hold talks in Riyadh with ministers of Arab and other Western countries as well as Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

"Things are moving forward but you always have to be careful in these discussions and negotiations. The situation in Gaza is catastrophic and we need a ceasefire," Sejourne told Reuters on the sidelines of a World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting.

"We will discuss the hostages, humanitarian situation and the ceasefire. Things are progressing, but we must always remain prudent in these discussions and negotia-

tions."

Blinken arrived in Saudi Arabia on Monday, the first stop in a broader trip to the Middle East.

Hamas fighters attacked Israel on Oct. 7, killing 1,200 people and seizing 253 hostages, according to Israeli tallies.

Israel retaliated by imposing a total siege on Gaza, then mounting an air and ground assault that has killed more than 34,000 Palestinians, according to health authorities in Hamas-ruled Gaza.

Palestinians have been suffering from severe shortages of food, fuel and medicine in a humanitarian crisis that has accompanied an Israeli military offensive that has demolished much of the impoverished strip. Blinken, speaking at the opening of a meeting with Gulf Arab states, said the most effective way to address the humanitarian crisis and create space for a more lasting solution was to get a ceasefire that allowed the release of hostages held by Hamas.

## Russia targets railway in Ukraine's Kharkiv, one person dead, officials say

**Monitoring Desk**  
KHAKRIV: Russian guided bombs targeting a railway killed at least one person and damaged civilian infrastructure on Tuesday in the northeastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv, officials said.

Two districts of the city came under attack, regional governor Oleh Synehubov said on Telegram, adding that at least nine people had been injured.

Ukraine's state railway company said one of its employees who was in his twenties had been killed.

"This is another targeted strike by the enemy on the civilian railway infrastructure," Ukrzaliznytsia said on Telegram. It gave no details of the infrastructure damage. Administrative and civilian buildings and some cars were damaged as a result of the strikes, Synehubov added.

## King Charles III resumes public duties as he fights cancer

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: King Charles III on Tuesday reportedly told fellow cancer patients "I'm well", as he carried out his first official public engagement since being diagnosed with the condition.

The British head of state appeared relaxed as he and his wife Queen Camilla met patients and staff at the University College Hospital Macmillan Cancer Centre in central London.

He talked to patients receiving chemotherapy at a day unit, including 60-year-old Asha Millen, who has bone marrow cancer.

"I said, 'How are you?' and he said, 'I'm well,'" she told reporters afterwards.

Another patient, Lesley Woodbridge, 63,

said the king sympathised with her and added: "I've got to have my treatment this afternoon as well."

Charles, 75, suspended most of his duties in February after cancer was found while he was being treated for an enlarged prostate the previous month.

The exact nature of his cancer has not been disclosed but doctors said last week they were "very encouraged" by the progress of his treatment as an outpatient and "positive" about his recovery.

His daughter-in-law Catherine, Princess of Wales, 42, underwent abdominal surgery in January and said in March that she was receiving chemotherapy.

## French charity boycotts Olympic torch relay over Coca-Cola

**Monitoring Desk**  
MARSEILLE: A French environmental charity said it had turned down the chance to take part in the torch relay ahead of the Paris Olympics over the role of Coca-Cola as a major sponsor.

"Clean My Calanques", an NGO in Marseille which specialises in beach cleaning, received funding from the 2024 Paris Olympics organising committee for its work educating school children. But it announced on Monday that it would not take part in the torch relay which will begin in Marseille on May 8, thanks in part to financing from premium Olympics sponsor Coca-Cola.

"We are not going to carry a flame which is paid for by the same people who make us bend over," the founder of Clean My Calanques, Eric Akopian, told AFP. Set up in 2017, the organisation's volunteers clean beaches around Marseille and in the nearby national Calanques Park, whose narrow coves and azure waters make it a popular spot for tourists and locals. Akopian said Coca-Cola was one of the "most polluting (companies) in the world", with its bottles and cans some of the products found most frequently during the charity's beach-cleaning operations.

## Reported Indian role in assassination plots a 'serious matter': White House

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: The White House has said it views the reported role of the Indian intelligence service in two assassination plots in Canada and the United States as a serious matter.

The Washington Post reported that an officer in India's intelligence service was directly involved in a foiled plan to assassinate a US citizen who is one of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's most vocal critics in the United States. It said the officer was also involved in the separate shooting death of

a Sikh activist last June in Canada.

India's foreign ministry said the Washington Post report made "unwarranted and unsubstantiated imputations on a serious matter" while New Delhi is investigating the issue.

"Speculative and irresponsible comments on it are not helpful," foreign ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a statement.

"This is a serious matter, and we're taking that very, very seriously," White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters.

## UK to deport 5,700 migrants to Rwanda

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: The UK expects to deport 5,700 migrants to Rwanda this year, a senior minister said Tuesday, after the government published new details on the controversial plan.

The figures come days after the scheme aimed at deterring migrant arrivals on small boats from northern Europe became law following months of parliamentary wrangling.

Rwanda has "in principle" agreed to accept 5,700 migrants already in the UK, the interior ministry revealed late Monday.

Of those, 2,143 "can be located for detention" before being flown there, it added. Law enforcement agencies will find the remainder, Health Secretary Victoria Atkins said Tuesday when asked about the 5,700 earmarked for deportation. "The expectation is that we remove that group

of people... by the end of the year," she told Sky News television.

"If somebody doesn't report as they should do... They will be found." Migrants who arrived in the UK between January 2022 and June last year are liable to have their asylum claims deemed inadmissible and be removed to Rwanda, the interior ministry said. More than 57,000 people arrived on small boats after trying to cross the Channel during these 18 months, according to official statistics.

The figure underlines the scale of the challenge trying to stem irregular arrivals and the limits of the government's contentious plan to send some of them to Rwanda.

Under the scheme—set to cost UK taxpayers hundreds of millions of pounds—their asylum claims will be examined by Kigali.

## US, Mexico to clamp down on illegal immigration, leaders say

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: The United States and Mexico plan to clamp down on illegal immigration at their shared border, leaders from both countries said on Monday, vowing to disrupt irregular crossings that have reached record levels in recent years.

In a phone conversation on Sunday, U.S. President Joe Biden and Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said their administrations would soon take steps to decrease illegal crossings while also addressing the economic and security problems that cause people to migrate.

"In the short term, the two leaders ordered their na-

tional security teams to work together to immediately implement concrete measures to significantly reduce irregular border crossings while protecting human rights," the leaders said in a joint statement. Biden, a Democrat seeking another four-year term in the Nov. 5 election, has toughened his approach to border security in recent months as immigration has emerged as a top concern among voting-age Americans.

Republicans, including Biden's opponent, former President Donald Trump, have criticized the president for rolling back restrictive Trump-era border policies and failing to stem higher levels of illegal crossings.

The White House has considered utilizing Biden's executive authority to block migrants at the border, Reuters has reported, but such a move could trigger legal challenges and backlash from some Democrats. The White House is also discussing ways to provide temporary legal status and work permits to immigrants in the U.S. illegally who are married to American citizens, which could serve as a political counterbalance to restrictions at the border. Biden backed a bipartisan U.S. Senate bill earlier this year that would grant him new authority to turn away migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border, but Republicans rejected the measure.

## UAE firm stops work in Iraq after deadly strike

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: An Emirati-owned firm suspended operations at a gas complex in Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region on Monday after a drone strike that killed four people last week.

The Khor Mor complex, owned by Dana Gas, was hit several times in recent years, but Friday's attack was the first deadly incident.

Four workers died and eight others were wounded when the drone struck a condensate storage tank, Dana Gas said in a statement to the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange. "Although there was very minor damage to the facilities, for the safety of all our staff and the facilities.

## Gunman kills 6 in attack on Afghan mosque

**Monitoring Desk**  
KABUL: A gunman stormed a mosque in western Afghanistan and killed six people, a government spokesman said on Tuesday, with local residents claiming the Shia community had been targeted.

Interior ministry spokesman Abdul Mateen Qani said that "an unknown armed person shot at civilian worshippers in a mosque" in Herat province's Guzara district on Monday at around 9pm (4:30pm GMT). "Six civilians were martyred and one civilian was injured," he wrote on social media platform X early Tuesday morning. Locals said the mosque served the minority Shia community in a district just south of the provincial capital of Herat

city, and the imam and a three-year-old child were among those killed. They also said a team of three gunmen staged the attack, contradicting the official account. "One of them was outside and two of them came inside the mosque, shooting the worshippers," said 60-year-old Ibrahim Akhlaqi, the brother of the slain imam. "It was in the middle of the prayers."

"Whoever was in the mosque has either been martyred or wounded," added 23-year-old Sayed Murtaza Hussaini.

While no group has claimed the attack, the regional chapter of the militant Islamic State (IS) group is the largest security threat in Afghanistan and has frequently targeted Shia communities.



Afghans mourn at a burial ceremony of the slain Shia Muslims after gunmen attacked a mosque in Guzara district of Herat province.

## Philippine students suffer in wilting heat, thwarting education efforts

**Monitoring Desk**  
MANILA: Sweltering heat in the Philippines can curb farm production, disrupt water and power and weigh on businesses, but it also takes a toll on students, hampering the Southeast Asian nation's efforts to catch up to its neighbours in education.

Heat indices have hit 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit) in various regions in the Philippines, as the weather phenomenon El Nino intensifies the heat enveloping the nation in its summer months of March to May.

The Philippines scores among the lowest in the world in math, science, and reading, partly because of years of inadequate remote learning during the pandemic, according to the Programme for International Student Assessment, an international study of education systems.

## Most of Asia swelters in extreme heatwave

**Monitoring Desk**  
MANILA: South and Southeast Asia braced for more extreme heat on Sunday, as authorities across the region issued health warnings and residents fled to parks and air-conditioned malls for relief.

A wave of exceptionally hot weather has blasted the region over the past week, sending the mercury as high as 45 degrees Celsius and forcing thousands of schools to tell students to stay home.

The Philippines announced on Sunday the suspension of in-person classes at all public schools for two days after a record-shattering day of heat in the capital Manila.

In Thailand, where at least 30 people have died of heatstroke so far this year, the meteorological department warned of "severe conditions" after temperatures in a northern province exceeded 44.1C (111.4F) on Saturday.

And in Cambodia,

Myanmar, Vietnam, India and Bangladesh, forecasters warned that temperatures could exceed 40C in the coming days as people endured searing heat and stifling humidity.

"I dare not go out in the daytime. I am worried we would get heatstroke," said a 39-year-old cashier in Myanmar's Yangon who gave her name as San Yin.

She said she has been going to a park with her husband and four-year-old son at night to escape the heat of their fourth-floor apartment.

"This is the only spot we can stay to avoid the heat in our neighbourhood," she said. Global temperatures hit record highs last year, and the United Nations weather and climate agency said Tuesday that Asia was warming at a particularly rapid pace. Extensive scientific research has found climate change is causing heat waves to become longer, more frequent and more intense.



A Cycle-Rickshaw puller takes a break under the shade of a tree to shelter from the heat in Dhaka.



## Ahsan Iqbal directs study of successful regional export processing zones

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal, chairing the maiden meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Chinese Investment Projects on Tuesday, directed to conduct a research study of export processing zones successfully operating in regional countries.

The Cabinet Committee on Chinese Investment Projects, which comprises nine federal ministers, would be overseeing the progress of Chinese investment projects, expediting the pace of projects being executed under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) besides ensuring the security of Chinese citizens.

Emphasized the need for effective measures to ensure the supply of cheap electricity to special economic zones, the minister directed the Board of Investment (BOI) to conduct a research study on the export processing zones operating in Bangladesh, India, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand, a news release said.

Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the importance of increasing Pakistan's exports from \$30 billion to \$100 billion, noting that the country's national security and sustainable economic development were linked to export growth.

## Chinese solar lights illuminate Gwadar

GWADAR (INP): Thanks to the efforts of Chinese companies, the streets and public places in Gwadar are now illuminated by solar energy.

Local residents in Gwadar had been experiencing unstable power supply, particularly during the night, prior to this development.

The China Communication and Construction Company, in collaboration with the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Karachi, have jointly undertaken the project to illuminate the main streets and public spaces of Gwadar.

A total of 73 solar-powered street lights have been installed at various locations where public activities are concentrated.

Of these, 18 poles have been installed at the junction of the East Bay Expressway with the jetty, 19 poles at the fish landing area on the west bay along Marine Drive.



QUETTA: President Arts Council Karachi Ahmed Shah meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti. Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Naushwerani is also present

## China-Pakistan boosting cooperating for sustainable development in medical sector

GWADAR (INP): China and Pakistan have emerged as pivotal allies in advancing sustainable development, especially in the crucial domain of healthcare.

This was stated by Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz, Chairman of the China-Pakistan Health Corridor and President of the China-Pakistan Medical Association (CPMA), according to Gwadar Pro on Tuesday.

He emphasized their shared dedication to innovation and progress in tackling pressing health challenges and bolstering robust medical infrastructure.

Dr. Shahbaz delivered a compelling address during the International Forum on Science and Diplomacy, held as part of the 2024 ZGC Forum round table session in Beijing.

His speech echoed the event's theme of "Promoting Science for Good, Supporting Sustainable Development," highlighting the critical role of innovation in addressing global issues.

Expressing his deep pleasure and honor to participate in the event organized by the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China (MOST), Dr. Shahbaz commended the dynamic potential of the gathering in fostering numerous opportunities for future collaboration among nations.



QUETTA: Daily wages labors sitting with their work tool along road side while waiting for customers to earn money for their family on eve of International Labor Day.

## In less developed nations like Pakistan Awareness against corruption most viable option for its eradication: DD NAB

Independent Report QUETTA: NAB (Balochistan) organized a Seminar on "Role of Students in Eradication of Corruption at Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University, Quetta

An awareness seminar was arranged by National Accountability Bureau (Balochistan) on the topic "Role of Students in Eradication of Corruption" at Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University, Quetta on 30 April 2024. Deputy Directors of NAB (Balochistan) Mr. Khuram Shehzad, Ms. Saleha Zaman, Dr. Shumaila Mazhar, Ms. Nourreen Lehri and a fair gathering of female students attended the seminar.

Mr. Khuram Shehzad, Deputy Director NAB (Balochistan) explained the students various aspects of corruption and urged them to step forward and join hands with NAB in its drive against this evil.

During the interactive session, the views about corruption and its impact on our society were deliberated.

He said nepotism, favouritism and incompetence are also the branches of corruption which are leading us toward ethical as well as economical destruction.

He said that every individual must act against the curse of corruption to interrupt its way towards depleted economy. He said that awareness against corruption is the most viable option for its eradication in less developed nations like Pakistan. He said NAB (Balochistan) is constituting Character Building Societies in educational institutes wherein students are being motivated to raise their voice against corruption and become whistleblower. He discussed various offences wherein NAB can take cognizance of the matter under NAB's Ordinance and described the complaint filing procedure in NAB (Balochistan). During the session, the questions raised by the students were replied by Mr. Khuram Shehzad Deputy Director NAB (Balochistan).



QUETTA: Deputy Director NAB Khuram Shehzad, Noreen Lehri and other addressing the students during seminar on "Role of Students in Eradication of Corruption" at Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University Quetta



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal chairs a meeting with Chinese enterprises working in Pakistan to discuss their challenges and recommendations for CPEC Phase II projects.

## Dialogue on Impacts of Iranian President's visit to Pakistan: Iranian President's visit to Pak to help strengthen bilateral relations between two countries, promote trade: Speakers

Independent Report QUETTA: The recent visit of Iranian President to Pakistan would help strengthen bilateral relations and promote border trade between the two brotherly countries.

The visit of Iranian President would prove to be beginning of new era in the existing relations between Pakistan and Iran and would cast far-reaching impacts on the development of Balochistan.

The hearts of people of the two countries beat with the oppressed people of Palestine.

The people of Pakistan and Iran would play

their effective role to promote border trade for ridding their countries of the exploitative forces of the world. These and similar other views were expressed by the speakers and participants of the dialogue and seminar organized by the Majlis Fikro Danish and Pak Iran Youth Forum in collaboration with the Khana-e-Farhang Iran here the other day. The theme of dialogue and seminar was Visit of Iranian President to Pakistan; beginning of new era in relations of Pakistan and Iran and its impacts on the development of Balochistan.

Among those prominent who participated and addressed the dialogue were included the leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and Advisor to Chief Minister for Environment, Naseemur Rehman, Member Provincial Assembly from Gwadar, Maulana Hidayatur Rehman, Director Khana Farhang Iran, Dr. Syed Abul Hasan Miri and Deputy Consul General Iran, social activist and Head of Fikro Danish, Abdul Mateen Akhuzada, Hasina Changezi, Muhammad Jumma, Anam Mengal and others.

They said that Iran and Afghanistan have been respectable strong friends

and neighbors of Pakistan before the partition.

The Iranian delegates said that the people of Iran have the ability and consciousness to frame comprehensive policies together with the people of Pakistan.

They said that Pakistan has the basic status in the foreign policy of Iran.

They mentioned that several agreements were made in different sectors during the recent visit of Iranian President to Pakistan. They also said that Iranian government has special interest in development and prosperity of Balochistan besides meeting its basic needs.

## Munir Akram says Occupiers using fake news to de-legitimize freedom struggles, including in Kashmir, Palestine

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Citing Kashmir and Palestine, Pakistan has told a key UN committee that States were resorting to fake news and disinformation in situations of foreign occupation to subdue the voices of people being denied their fundamental freedoms, including the right to self-determination.

"We are witnessing this today in the Gaza war and have witnessed this consistently in the case of occupied Jammu and Kashmir," Ambassador Munir Akram told the Committee on Information on Monday.

The committee oversees the work of the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC) and provides the department with guidance on its policies, programmes and activities.

The Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN, Ambassador Akram greeted his colleague, saying, "Your chairing the 46th session of the Committee on Information symbolizes Pakistan's commitment to multilateralism and the UN's information agenda."

"As a democratic and pluralistic nation-state," he said, "Pakistan reaffirms its commitment to the principles of the UN Charter and international human rights law, including freedom of expression and access to information; to combating disinformation in all its manifestations; and to upholding the principles of independence and diversity of the media."



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) MNAs, Ejaz Khan Jakhani and Syed Naveed Qamar called on PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at Bilawal House.

## Bilawal affirms PPP's dedication to labour empowerment, social justice

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, reaffirmed the founding vision of the Party - Roti, Kapra Aur Makaan, on the International Labour Day, with a conviction that the prosperity of Pakistan is intertwined with the welfare and dignity of its labour force.

He in a message on International Labour Day, paid homage to the martyrs of Chicago. He also paid glowing tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto for the latter's pioneering efforts in enshrining labour rights through the first-ever Labour Policy in 1972, laying the groundwork for equitable representation and empowerment.

Bilawal highlighted that as the then Prime Minister, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto restored the trade union rights unjustly seized by a dictator from the workers. "Shaheed Bibi tirelessly endeavored to expand job opportunities for the underprivileged, fostering employment growth even during her brief tenures in government."

## Sarfaraz Bugti pays rich tributes to labourers: Those exploiting labourers to be taken to task, pledges Chief Minister Bugti

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has paid rich tributes to the labourers on Labour day and said that the provincial government is determined to protect their rights.

He made pledged to take all those exploiting labourers in the province to task.

He also vowed to ensure equal opportunities and necessities to the labourers. He asserted that no discrimination would be made with anyone on the basis of colour and creed.

This and similar other views were expressed by the Chief Minister in a

message issued marking the Labour day being observed today (Wednesday).

Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti said that Labour day is the day to pay homage to the martyrs of Chicago who sacrificed their lives in 1886.

He said that the objective behind observance of the day is to raise voice for rights of the labourers.

He said that the labourers have key role and status in economic development of any society and country.

He said that the role of labourers can't be ignored in development and industrialization of the countries.

He said that the skilled human resource would also put us on path of development. The Chief Minister said that the government is fully aware of the importance of technical education and training. In view of this, technical and vocational training institutions of the province are being put on modern lines, he maintained. He said that the provincial government believes in such labour policy which ensure genuine rights of the labourers.

He mentioned that the provincial government has recently given status of labourers to the fishermen of Gwadar, which would guarantee their rights.

## AG Balochistan to hold open court on May 6

QUETTA (APP): According to the vision of the prime minister, Accountant General (AG) Balochistan Nasrullah Jan Tuesday said that an open court would be held in the office of the AG Balochistan on May 6, 2024 at 11:00 AM.

In an official statement issued here, the AG Balochistan will hear the issues of DDOS, provincial government employees and pensioners during the Khuli Kehchahi and orders to be issued at the same time for their solution.

## 'I didn't leave PTI': Fawad Ch. takes a U-turn

RAWALPINDI (INP): Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry said that he didn't leave the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Talking to media outside the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) of Rawalpindi on Tuesday, the former minister said that the incumbent government doesn't have any credibility as it is standing on the Form-47.

"The government cannot even last for three months if Maulana Fazl ur Rehman and PTI join hands," the senior politician said.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Finance Babar Khan presiding over 34th meeting of Balochistan Education Endowment Fund (BEEF).

## 68,800 Pakistanis to perform hajj this year; Secretary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Secretary for Religious Affairs, Dr. Ataur Rehman has said that around 68,800 Pakistani pilgrims will perform Hajj this year under the government's regular scheme.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, has taken several steps to ensure a smooth and comfortable experience for Pakistani pilgrims during their Hajj journey, he told PTV News.

The operation will cater to 34,300 pilgrims destined for Madinah, while 34,500 will land in Jeddah, continuing their travel to Makkah. The pre-Hajj flight operation is scheduled to conclude on June 9.

Similarly, he said Pakistani pilgrims will be provided with train station tickets for travel during the Mashair days from Mina to Arafat, Muzdalifa, and Jamarat. Dr. Ataur Rehman highlighted that this year, 63 per cent of pilgrims will be stationed in Old Mina and 37 per cent in New Mina, strategically situated along main routes and train stations.

Furthermore, accommodations in Madinah have been arranged to accommodate 100 per cent of pilgrims in Markazia.

The federal secretary said ministry has introduced new initiatives to enhance the pilgrim experience.

## ADC for making anti-polio drive successful in Ziarat

QUETTA (APP): Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ziarat Najeebullah Kakar on Tuesday said that anti-polio campaign was a national campaign to make it successful while everyone should play role for elimination of polio diseases.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting of monitoring officers and zonal supervisors in connection with anti-polio campaign.

District Health Officer (DHO) Dr. Badar Nadeem Ansari, WHO Dr. Shehbaz participated in the meeting.

## PTI slams fascist govt for farmers' economic murder, use of force

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf lambasted the fake inept Punjab government for economic murder of farmers by destroying their livelihoods through its wrong, flawed and anti-people policies and strongly condemned the harassment and use of force against the farmers.

PTI Spokesperson, in a strongly-worded reaction over the farmers' protest against the mandate theft government's delay in procuring wheat and harassment of farmers, vehemently denounced the detention of Punjab Kisan Board head and harassment of the farmer leaders through illegal raids at their houses.

He noted that the farmers were coerced to sell wheat in the open market at a much lower than the officially fixed rate owing to the inept and incompetent imposed government's faulty and anti-poor policies with regard to the procurement of wheat.



QUETTA: Provincial Food Minister Haji Noor Muhammad Dumar meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

## Commissioner orders to review facilities available in primary health centers

QUETTA (APP): Commissioner, Administrator Quetta Metropolitan Corporation Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat has issued instructions to the monitors to review the facilities available in primary health centers, ensure best treatment facilities to the people and take measures to improve other medical facilities.

He was presided over various meetings on Tuesday and discussed the long-standing problems of the city and its people.

He has also asked suggestion from all stakeholders to find the solution of problems and called them to play their role to resolve the issues being faced by the residents of Quetta.

A delegation of Quetta Bar Association in a meeting with Commissioner lauded the measures taken for the betterment and assured all possible supports in that regard.

The Commissioner said it is imperative to find a sustainable solution of the infrastructural development, sanitation and public welfare among other issues of Quetta that have been plaguing the city for years.

He said that steps have been taken to formulate a comprehensive plan to address the challenges of the city and improve the quality of life of its residents by engaging with various stakeholders and addressing their concerns.

The delegation said that this initiative is a positive measure towards resolving the long-standing problems of the city and it will be bringing effective changes in the civic services of Quetta.

The Commissioner issued orders to shift the showrooms out of the city in order to resolve the traffic problems and remove the obstacle, creating disruption in the traffic system.

On the occasion, the owners of the showrooms informed the Commissioner about their concerns.

## ACT alliance demands full implementation of track, trace system amid fiscal failures

ISLAMABAD (APP): The ACT Alliance calls for an immediate, comprehensive, and across-the-board implementation of the Track and Trace System (TTS) as Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif reaffirms commitments to stringent tax enforcement. Despite the system's introduction in 2019, the promises of full implementation by December 2023 have faltered, revealing a critical lapse in our fiscal management strategy.

The recent cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sharif underscored the dire state of tax evasion and illicit trade, with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) failing to effectively deploy TTS across vital industries such

## Miscreants storm school, set papers on fire in North Waziristan

PESHAWAR (INP): Unknown miscreants stormed a school in North Waziristan and set solved examination papers on fire. According to police sources, miscreants stormed a government higher secondary school in Mir Ali, North Waziristan district of KP, and burnt the solved examination papers of ninth and 10th standard. The burnt papers were from 23 examination centres, the sources said. Meanwhile, the peon of the school said as many as 12 miscreants stormed the school. Police have launched an investigation into the incident after registering an FIR. Separately on December 30, 2023, miscreants set fire to a girls' school in district Bannu's Meryan Tehsil.