

# Independent

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## SIC's reserved seats plea PTI deprived its people of democratic right by not holding intra-party polls: CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Tuesday adjourned hearing till June 24, on an appeal of Sunni Itehad Council (SIC) regarding the reserved seats. A thirteen-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa heard the appeal against the verdict of Peshawar High Court.

Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Amin ud Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha A. Malik, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Irfan Saadat Khan and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan were also part of the bench. However, Justice Musarrat Hilali didn't join the bench due to illness.

During hearing of the SIC's lawyer, the chief justice remarked that the candidates who are not in front of us and you are representing from all the PTI. The candidates of PTI are leaving you and not joining your party.

The chief justice questioned whether PTI or independent candidates requested to take election symbol of bat? Why not challenge if the bat sign was not given, he asked.

He further remarked that we did not say that intra-party elections should not be held, adding that all the problems would have been resolved if intra-party elections were held.

Addressing the lawyer, the CJP said that you are trying to associate yourself with different parties, adding that you are no longer an independent candidate.



QUETTA: Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani talking to media after end protest of Joint Action Committee Baluchistan employees outside Baluchistan University.

## University of Balochistan's 90-day sit-in ends as govt releases salaries

QUETTA (APP): The government of Balochistan has announced the release of salaries for university employees, resulting in the end of the 90-day sit-in by Balochistan University staff.

On Tuesday, Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Durrani arrived at the protest sit-in organized by employees against the non-payment of salaries, where she held talks with the teachers and subsequently announced the end of the sit-in.

The Provincial Education Minister expressed her regret that the teachers were on the streets instead of in the classrooms. She announced the payment of salaries to the employees up to June.

Talking to the protesting teachers, the Education Minister emphasized that employees should not have to take to the streets to receive their salaries, as salaried individuals rely on their wages to run their households.

"On the directives of Chief Minister Balochistan Sarfraz Bugti, the dues of university employees are being paid," she maintained. She hopes that the upcoming budget will allocate funds for university teachers for the entire year. Subsequently, the university employees announced the end of their 90-day sit-in.



LAHORE: President PML (N) Nawaz Sharif shaking hand with Ambassador of Qatar Ali bin Mubarak Al-Khatir. Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz is also present.

## Govt. of Balochistan orders to register case of Sanjdi mishap against mine owner, 2 others

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has ordered to register case against three persons including the owner of coal mine in which a mine manager, contractor and nine workers died in Sanjdi area on Tuesday night.

According to the spokesman of provincial government, Shahid Rind, an official letter has been dispatched to the concerned police station for registration of FIR by the Mines and Minerals Department.

It may be mentioned here that 11 persons including the Coal Mine Manager, contractor and nine mine



SHENZHEN: Group photo of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Mr. Meng Fanli, Party Secretary of Shenzhen Municipal Committee, and Deputy Party Secretary of Guangdong Provincial Committee along with their respective delegations.

## Initiatives for coping with challenges of climate change along with good governance included in top priorities of provincial Govt., says CM

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that the initiatives aimed at coping with the challenges of climate change and establishing good governance are included in the top priorities of provincial government.

He said that clean and fresh climate is the symbol of best health as the lungs and other related diseases are less in the countries which are pollution free. There is also marked reduction in the deforestation and emitting of the green house gases in these countries.

In a message issued here on eve of the World

Environment Day being observed today (Wednesday) all over the world including Pakistan, the Chief Minister said that the increasing temperature has created numerous issues all over the world especially in Pakistan. He noted with concern that unstopable process of natural disasters has been started due to increase in the temperature globally.

He mentioned that there is no precedent of torrential rains and flash floods in Balochistan during last two years.

He said that it is such an example of urban flooding if we try to find out the reasons behind then the climate change

and move ahead with a comprehensive strategy to mitigate the effects of climate change all over the world.

He said that the World Environment Day requires us to plant maximum trees and keep our environment clean.

He said that the Provincial government takes wholehearted part in tree plantation campaign every year. In the campaign, hundreds of thousands saplings are planted.

In addition to this, mass awareness programme is also run by the Environment Department at the public level for the neat and clean environment, adding he mentioned.

## Pakistan, China agree to explore opportunities under CPEC

Frequent leadership's engagements,  
people-to-people contacts characterize  
Pak-China deep rooted ties: PM

SHENZHEN (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday noted that the deep-rooted ties between Pakistan and China were characterized by frequent engagement and dialogue at the leadership level, people-to-people contacts, cultural and educational exchanges.

The prime minister met with Meng Fanli, Party Secretary of Shenzhen Municipal Committee, and Deputy Party Secretary of Guangdong Provincial Committee in Shenzhen, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister lauded the impressive economic growth and exemplary innovative spirit of Guangdong province and also termed Shenzhen a

trade gateway for China's business linkages with Pakistan.

Reaffirming 'the time-honoured All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and China', the two sides agreed on the need to explore opportunities for increased cooperation between Pakistan and the Guangdong province particularly under CPEC.

Prime Minister Shehbaz and Party Secretary Meng underlined the importance of robust linkages and exchanges between scientists, innovators and businessmen to harness the true potential for enhanced partnership in science and technology, innovation and trade and economic cooperation.



VATICAN: Federal Minister for Interior shaking hands with Pope Francis.

## Interior Minister meets Pope Francis in Vatican City

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday met Pope Francis at the Vatican City during his visit to Europe.

The Minister was accorded a warm welcome upon his arrival in the Vatican City.

During the meeting, both sides discussed ways to promote peace, brotherhood, interfaith harmony and dialogue.

Pope Francis commended Pakistan's efforts towards immediate repair and reconstruction of Churches in the aftermath of Jaranwala tragedy.

The Pope said that his message to the people of Pakistan was peace, adding "We all should work together for establishing

peace in the world."

He also stated that the Prime Minister of Pakistan had invited him for a visit and he would try his best to visit Pakistan soon.

The Pope expressed concern over the situation in Palestine, stating that it was a cause of huge concern.

He added that he stayed updated on the humanitarian situation in Palestine through daily briefings with workers engaged in relief efforts.

He emphasized that the interfaith dialogue and harmony was the key to resolve issues.

Minister, Mohsin Naqvi thanked him for his effective stance on the Palestine issue, which had been widely appreciated.



KARACHI: Chairman Senate, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani exchanging views with Kamran Tessori, Governor of Sindh during meeting held at Governor House in Karachi.

## Till completion of hearing IHC stops implementation of death sentence on five former Naval officers

ISLAMABAD (Online): The counsel for petitioners said evidence and documents of court of inquiry were also not shared with the accused.

The order said that according to counsel for the petitioners appeal was filed against death sentence without access to these documents which was rejected.

IHC ordered to give access to the documents to the accused. Only limited access was given to the accused to the documents under the order of IHC.

According to Assistant Attorney General (AAG) the powers to give access to documents rest with Chief of Naval Staff.

It was said therein AAG said Chief of Naval Staff think access to documents can pose threat to interests of state.

## CPEC phase-II to grow business links between Pak-China: Ahsan

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal Tuesday said that the economic and cultural connections between the people of China and Pakistan are strong and focused.

In a video message ahead of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China, he said that a delegation comprising of one hundred and twenty six Pakistani businessmen is also visiting China, PTV news channel reported.

"China has an important role in Pakistan's development. It has always helped Pakistan in difficult times," he added.

He said there is a big opportunity for us to export the country's products to neighboring China, adding, Pakistani business delegation will sign investment and export agreements with their Chinese counterparts during the visit.

The Minister for Planning also recalled that the first phase of CPEC focused on infrastructure development, adding, this also provided two hundred thousand job opportunities to the youth.

## Pakistan playing an important role for peace of the region, says Governor Mandokhail

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that Pakistan is playing an important role for peace of the region. We need support of the international institutions for provision of the basic facilities in the Afghan refugees and the areas affected from them. He said that establishment of sustainable peace is in the interest of the whole region particularly Pakistan.

The Governor was speaking to the country

## CM grieved over death of 11 mine workers in Sanjdi coal mine mishap

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of 11 coal mine workers in the mishap occurred in a coal mine located in Sanjdi area.

The Chief Minister expressed anger over the lack of safety measures in the coal mines.

The Chief Minister also issued orders to the concerned authorities to fix the responsibility of the sorrowful incident of coal mine.

He stressed that the coal mine owners have to implement the prescribed standard operating procedures (SOPs) in the mines. However, most of the incidents occur due to the carelessness of coal mine owners.

The Chief Minister directed the Secretary Mines Department to ensure implementation on the SOPs for prevention of such incidents and stoppage of precious human lives in the mining sector in future.

## CM Maryam, Nawaz meet Qatari envoy

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, along with Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, met with the Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan H.E. Mr Ali Bin Mubarak Al Khater, here on Tuesday.

Possible investment opportunities in Punjab, labor force supply from the province, cooperation in the development of infrastructure and other sectors in Punjab and other matters of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting.

The chief minister briefed H.E. Mr Ali Bin Mubarak Al Khater about the business-friendly policies of Punjab government and invited Qatari businessmen and industrialists to invest in Punjab.

"We want to promote economic relations between Punjab and Qatar," she expressed.

## Pakistan Navy, PMSA seize large consignment of drugs at sea

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency have seized a large consignment of drugs at sea.



According to ISPR, in a joint anti-narcotics operation, PMSS Zhub seized a large quantity of narcotics in the North Arabian Sea, worth thousands of dollars in the international market.

This is the third major operation of Pakistan Navy against drug smuggling in the last ten days.

Pakistan Navy and PMSA maintain constant presence to closely monitor sea lanes Successful joint anti-narcotics operation is a result of effective surveillance at sea by Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency.

## Federal budget 2024-25 likely to be presented on June 12

ISLAMABAD (INP): The presentation of the federal budget 2024-25 is likely to be rescheduled.

Interestingly, it is also unusual that the budget strategy paper (BSP) for the next fiscal year has not yet been 'shared' with parliament, though it is more because of political uncertainties emanating from the legal status of reserved seats and because of the absence of standing committees of the Senate and the National Assembly, particularly those related to finance.

The budget 2024-25 which was earlier scheduled to be presented on June 10 is now likely to be presented on June 12. The Pakistan Economic Survey 2023-24 will be presented on June 11 after a meeting of the council on June 10, the sources said.

The federal budget 2024-25 will likely get approval from the Senate by June 26.



## Cooperation with Qatar will be further increased in various fields: Governor

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: The Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan, Ali Bin Mubarak Al Khatar called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore, here today. Both sides discussed cooperation between the two countries in trade and other fields.

Punjab Governor said that the Pakistani workforce is playing the role of a strong bridge between the two countries. He said that Pakistan is grateful to the government of Qatar for hosting the expatriates. Governor Punjab said that Pakistan wants to benefit from Qatar's expertise in the Oil and Gas sectors. He appreciated Qatar for showing Islamic teachings and values to the whole world during the hosting of the Football World Cup. Governor Punjab said that Pakistan is a peaceful country and its people are loving and hospitable.

Governor Punjab said that the world needs to be shown the real face of Pakistan. Ambassador of Qatar Ali Bin Mubarak Al Khatar said that the Ameer of Qatar will visit Pakistan soon. He said that delegations of experts from Qatar will visit Pakistan and take matters forward in terms of increasing cooperation in various fields.



LAHORE: Consul General of China Zhao Shiren, and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Syeda Falecha Zahra Kazmi visiting the exhibition regarding Pak-China Culture and Environment at Home Economics College University of the provincial capital.

## Performance of food dept remained exemplary in 100 days: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Food Minister Bilal Yaseen said that the Punjab Chief Minister has fulfilled the promise of providing affordable and quality food to the public and during the first 100 days of the provincial government, the performance of the Food Department remained exemplary.

He said this while addressing a seminar organized by the Pakistan Dairy Association in a local hotel on Tuesday. He said that that it was the most valuable relief for 130 million people in the first 100 days of the government and under the leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, Punjab has taken a lead in significantly reducing the prices of food items.

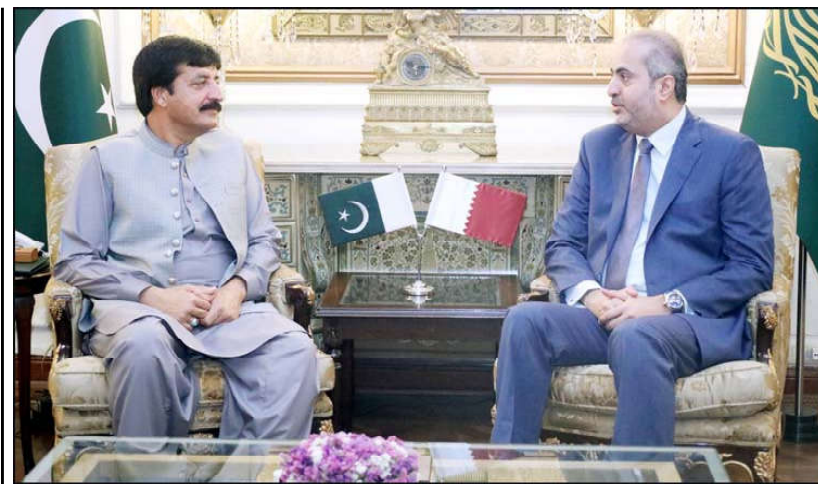
## ANF recovers 49 kg drugs in five operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in its ongoing operations against drug trafficking conducted five raids across the country and managed to recover 49 kg drugs and arrest three accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday.

He informed that 4.4 kg ice was recovered from a parcel booked for Australia at a courier office in Islamabad. 424 grams of ice was recovered from a passenger going to Doha at Islamabad Airport while 35 kg hashish was recovered from Panjgur.

## Efforts underway to control spread of dengue: Zaneera

RAWALPINDI (APP): Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Headquarters Zaneera Aftab on Tuesday said efforts were underway to control the spread of dengue larvae and no negligence would be tolerated.



LAHORE: Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan, Ali Bin Mubarak Al Khatar called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

## PTI's election symbol plea referred to larger bench

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday referred a petition, filed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) challenging the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) authority to withdraw a political party's election symbol, to the LHC chief justice with a request to fix the matter before a larger bench for further hearing.

The court held that identical petitions were already pending before the larger bench, therefore, it would be appropriate that the present petition should also be heard by the bench.

## Meena Afridi says: Federal Govt should pay Rs. 2000 billion arrears to KP

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Higher Education and Libraries Meena Khan Afridi while expressing his extreme concern over the news of the closure of funds for the provincial universities by the Prime Minister, who imposed an educational emergency in the country. The Provincial Minister demanded that instead of closing the funds of the universities, it should be enhanced. Despite this, as

per vision of party leader Imran Khan, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will give full support to the universities and will not let his new generation be deprived of higher education. He said that even if the fake mandate holders don't give us funds, at least they should give us the arrears of more than Rs.2 thousand billion. He announced that we will make full use of every forum for our rights. He expressed these views while addressing the opening ceremony of AQ Khan.

## 153kg narcotics smuggling bid foiled

ATTOCK (Online): The National highway and motorway Police on Tuesday foiled a bid to smuggle 153.60 of narcotics from KP to Punjab through Peshawar-Islamabad motorway (M-1) and arrested two members of interprovincial gang of narcotics smugglers. Sources said that acting on a tip off, patrolling staff of National highway and motorway Police intercepted a car near Chach interchange and during search recovered 153.60 kilogram of narcotics including 117.60-kilogram hashish and 36-kilogram opium. Later the suspects were handed over to Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Police station Attock for further legal action. huge consignment of narcotics from Peshawar to Rawalpindi.

## Anti-Polio drive underway

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief Executive Officer (CEO), District Health Authority, Dr Ejaz Ahmed Tuesday said that the week-long anti-polio campaign, which began in the entire district on June 3 successfully entered into its 2nd day.

## KP Govt to declare Dara Adam Khel as Commercial City, KP Finance Minister

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Finance and Law Aftab Alam Afridi Advocate has said that FATA University is going through an evolutionary process and we are confident that this university will perform better not only nationally but also internationally.

He assured that the provincial government will solve the problems being faced by FATA University on priority basis. He said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is rich enough in great natural resources, but unfortunately the federal government is in control of our resources and has robbed our rights. "We are making full use of every forum to achieve our rights and also recorded its protest to the Federation," he added.

## Religious scholars' conference reaffirms to promote harmony in society

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): A religious conference organized here on Tuesday by Majlis Ulema Azad Jammu and Kashmir in collaboration with the Department of Religious Affairs Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sufi Forum and Ulama Mashaikh Council reaffirmed its commitment to play vital role for creating vitality and harmony in the society and guiding the people to firmly stand with the armed forces of Pakistan for ensuring integrity and security of the country.

The conference was attended by Chief Secretary Azad Kashmir Daood Muhammad Breach, Secretary Religious Affairs and Auqaf Sardar Muhammad Zaffar Khan, member Legislative Assembly Pir Syed Ali Raza Bukhari, besides Ulema and scholars of all sects including Pir Amitaz Ahmed Siddiqui, Allama Kifayat Hussain Naqvi, Maulana Intiaz Ahmed Abbasi, Maulana Zaid Bustan, Maulana Maqsood Ahmad Tauhidi, Allama Asif Akbar Qadi, Maulana Mushtaq Qadi, Allama Azmat Hayat, Mufti Abdul Khaliq, Allama Syed Sadiq Naqvi, Dr. Shaheen Kausar, Maulana Abdul Majid, Maulana Saleem Ijaz, Qazi Shahid Hameed, Maulana Ayub Khan Saqib, Maulana Mumtazul Haque Qasmi, Syed Tofail Kazmi, Maulana Abdul Ghaffar Salafi, Mufti Muhammad Ahmad Khan, Maulana Daniyal Shahab.

# International News

## UN experts urge all countries to recognise Palestinian statehood

**Monitoring Desk**  
GENEVA: A group of United Nations experts called on Monday for all countries to recognise a Palestinian state to ensure peace in the Middle East.

The call came less than a week after Spain, Ireland and Norway officially recognised a Palestinian state, prompting anger from Israel, which has found itself increasingly isolated after nearly eight months of aggression in Gaza. The experts, including the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the Palestinian territories, said recognition of a Palestinian state was an important acknowledgement of the rights of the Palestinian people and their struggle towards freedom and independence.

"This is a pre-condition for lasting peace in Palestine and the entire Middle East beginning with the immediate declaration of a ceasefire in Gaza and no further military incursions into Rafah," they said. "A two-state solution remains the only internationally agreed path to peace and security for both Palestine and Israel and a way out of generational cycles of violence and resentment." Israel's Foreign Ministry did not respond immediately to a request for comment. With their recognition of a Palestinian state, Spain, Ireland and Norway said they sought to accelerate efforts to secure a ceasefire in Israel's war with Hamas in Gaza.



Sebastien Delogu, deputy for La France Insoumise (LFI) party attends a pro-Palestinian protest in central Paris, France.

## Kremlin welcomes Turkey's reported desire to join BRICS

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russia welcomes Turkey's reported desire to become part of the BRICS group of nations, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday, saying the subject would be on the agenda of the organisation's next summit.

Peskov said there was heightened interest in BRICS - a group comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Ethiopia, Iran, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates - from various states, but said it was unlikely the grouping could completely satisfy all interested nations.

## Japan's Nagasaki holds off inviting Israel to peace ceremony

**Monitoring Desk**  
TOKYO: The Israeli ambassador to Japan has not yet been invited to Nagasaki's annual peace ceremony, said city officials who instead sent the embassy a letter calling for a Gaza ceasefire.

The city in southern Japan this week invited dozens of countries and territories to the August 9 event on the anniversary of the US nuclear attack in 1945 that killed 74,000 people. But "as for Israel, the situation is changing day by day... so we have put sending an invitation letter on hold," mayor Shiro Suzuki told reporters on Monday.



A Palestinian man and children push a cart with water containers, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, in southern Gaza City, in the Gaza Strip.

## Iran's top diplomat confirms talks with US

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: Iran's acting foreign minister Ali Bagheri said on Monday his government was engaged in negotiations with arch-foe the United States hosted by the Gulf sultanate of Oman.

Asked about the issue at a news conference during a visit to Beirut, Bagheri said "we have always continued our negotiations... and they have never stopped." Washington and Tehran have not had diplomatic relations since the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran.

## Houthi Red Sea attacks decline in last week as navies act

**Monitoring Desk**  
ATHENS: Closer international cooperation between naval missions in the Red Sea has reduced the number of attacks by Yemen's Houthis over the past week, Greek Shipping Minister Christos Stylianides told Reuters in an interview on Tuesday.

Greece is the home of the headquarters of the European Union's naval operation in the Red Sea, which is dubbed "Aspides" and in Greek means "Shields". "For us, it is a satisfaction that during the past week, we have seen a notable reduction in the number and intensity of attacks. This is the reality," Stylianides said, speaking on the sidelines of the Posidonia shipping week in Athens. "It is another proof that the international community with decisiveness can stop this." Aspides was set up this year to guard vessels against attacks by Iranian-aligned Houthi militants, who have launched repeated drone and missile strikes in the Red Sea region since November and have expanded attacks to other busy waterways.

## China accuses MI6 of using state workers to spy for UK

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: China on Monday accused Britain's Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) of recruiting a couple who worked for the central government to spy for the UK, adding to months of mutual espionage allegations between Beijing and Western powers.

The Ministry of State Security said in a post on its official WeChat that MI6 operatives convinced a man named Wang, who worked in a "core confidential role" in the central state apparatus, to defect along with his wife.

## US urges UN Security Council to support cease-fire plan in Gaza announced by President Biden

**Monitoring Desk**  
UNITED NATIONS: The United States urged the U.N. Security Council on Monday to support the three-phase plan announced by President Joe Biden aimed at ending the nearly eight-month war in Gaza, freeing all hostages and sending massive aid into the devastated territory.

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said the United States circulated a draft resolution to the 14 other council members to back the proposal for ending the conflict that began with Hamas' surprise attack in southern Israel on Oct. 7 that killed some 1,200 people, mostly Israeli civilians.

"Numerous leaders and governments, including in the region, have endorsed this plan and we call on the Security Council to join them in calling for implementation of this deal without delay and without further conditions," she said in a statement.

## Ukraine says extending use of Western arms will weaken Russia near border

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's chief of staff said on Tuesday that using Western weapons to strike inside Russia was a vital decision that would impact Moscow's tactical aviation and its capability to operate in border areas.

The brief draft resolution, obtained by The Associated Press, would welcome by Biden and call on Hamas "to accept it fully and implement its terms without delay and without condition." Hamas has said it views the proposal "positively."

It makes no mention of Israeli acceptance of the deal. When Biden made the announcement he called it an Israeli offer that includes an "enduring cease-fire" and Israeli withdrawal from Gaza if Hamas releases all hostages it is holding.

The decision would also help to better fend off Russian aerial attacks, Yermak said. Ukraine has frequently targeted occupied Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014, with Western-made weapons. But outgunned and outmaneuvered the battlefield, Kyiv had pleaded with Washington to allow it to strike targets on Russian soil with US-made weapons, as Moscow launched a new front in the northeastern Kharkiv region. "Permission to use Western weapons on the territory of the Russian Federation is a vi-

## EAD commends global support at fourth IPSPG meeting

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahmad Khan Cheema on Tuesday commended the global support in chairing the 4th meeting of the International Partners Support Group (IPSPG) at the Prime Minister's Office Islamabad.

This meeting marked almost two years since the devastating floods of 2022, aiming to review the progress of flood recovery and realign efforts for a resilient Pakistan, said a press release issued here.

The meeting was attended by Romina Khurshid, the Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, along with secretaries and senior officials from the ministries of economic affairs, Finance and Revenue, Foreign Affairs, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, and the Climate Change division.

Additionally, representatives from bilateral and multilateral development partners, including ambassadors from Azerbaijan, Sweden, Kazakhstan, Norway, Australia, and diplomats from Germany, China, UAE, South Korea, USA, Qatar, Turkey, Netherlands, Russia, Japan, France, Switzerland, as well as officials from the Canadian and British High Commissions, participated in the event.

Representatives from various international organizations such as UNDP, World Bank, ADB, IMF, AIIB, UNRC, EU, KfW, UNICEF, ISDB, WFP, AICS, and USAID were also present.



SHENZHEN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif arrives in Shenzhen on his 5-day official visit to China.

## IHC says: If date is not given for LB polls in IBD then contempt of court notice will be issued to FG, EC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has sought report within 7 days for holding Local Bodies (LB) election in Islamabad.

IHC also suspended property tax notices on new rate.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked CDA is causing destruction in all the city in the name of MCL. You levied taxes of millions of rupees without local government.

The case regarding non holding local bodies election in federal capital came for hearing before single bench of IHC led by Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani Tuesday.

Barrister Umar Ijaz Gillani and other lawyers appeared on behalf of the petitioners.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked the petitioners will have to deposit property tax at old rates. They will be able to levy tax following the approval by the local government.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani inquired from Election Commission (EC) authorities why the local bodies election are not being held.

EC authorities told schedule has been given with reference to delimitation of constituencies.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked delimitation has been done to the extent of 125 union councils.

There is no need of new constituencies. This is Supreme Court (SC) decision and IHC decision too that local government election have to be held. Are all the governments including PTI founder, Nawaz Sharif and Shahbaz Sharif responsible for it that no one held local government election in Islamabad.



KILLA SAIFULLAH: MPA Molvi Noorullah visiting center of Benazir Income Support Program

## All communities enjoying religious freedom in Pakistan: Law Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday said that all religions were enjoying complete religious freedom in Pakistan.

Addressing a ceremony, he welcomed all the people of the Sikh community who arrived in Pakistan.

The minister said that the people of this country respected the traditions of Sikh community as there was a strong connection between the two sides. The Sikh community has vibrant role in the development of the country.

He further said that promotion of interfaith harmony was need of the hour.

Azam Nazeer Tarar said that teaching of "Guru Nanak" negate the materialism, adding that no religion permits for hate and violence.

Service to the humanity should be our mission, he said, adding that the Prime Minister of Pakistan has sent his greetings to the Sikh community.

## Pak & Saint Vincent, Grenadines establish formal diplomatic ties

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan and Saint Vincent, an island country in the eastern Caribbean, Monday established formal diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Ambassador Munir Akram, Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations, and his counterpart from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Ambassador Inga Rhonda King, signed a joint communiqué to formalize the dip-



ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahmad Khan Cheema, chairs the 4th meeting of the International Partners Support Group (IPSPG) at the Prime Minister's Office.

## Pakistan seeks to emulate Chinese economic model: PM Shehbaz

'We are coming with serious plans; to return with great dividends': PM conveys to Chinese firms

ISLAMABAD (APP): As Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif departed for a five-day official visit to China, he reiterated the commitment to strengthening bilateral ties by engaging in discussions with Chinese business leaders to secure investments and yield dividends, mutually beneficial for companies on both sides.

"We are coming with serious plans. We will engage with you and return to Pakistan with great dividends that will benefit Chinese and Pakistani companies and the two countries will have their relations strengthened and become much higher than the Himalayas or any other highest peaks and deeper than the deepest oceans," the prime minister said in an interview with the representatives of different Chinese media groups including Xinhua news agency, national broadcaster CCTV and CGTN Urdu, prior to his first official visit to China after assuming office.

He said through the visit, Pakistan hoped to promote interaction between enterprises in both countries, utilize Special Economic Zones and Pakistan's labor advantages to establish joint ventures, facilitate the transfer of industries and technologies, and enhance Pakistan's manufacturing output, to promote constructing upgraded China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

## Court orders for immediately de-sealing PTI Central Secretariat

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has ordered to de-seal immediately Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Central Secretariat.

Justice Saman Riffat Imtiaz of IHC issued reserved decision on Tuesday.

The court accepted PTI petition against Capital Development Authority (CDA) and ordered to de-seal the office immediately.

It is pertinent to mention here IHC on June 03 had reserved judgment on the petition filed against sealing the PTI central secretariat and CDA operation.

Justice Saman Riffat Imtiaz heard the case.

On May 17, IHC had issued directives to remove registrar office objections on PTI petition against sealing its central secretariat and CDA operation.

PTI leader through the court to nullify the order issued by CDA for sealing party central secretariat.

The petition said Arshid Dad and Nasim ur Rehman both are PTI members. The both purchased a commercial plot on July 17, 2020 after an agreement.

## Vawda refuses to apologise over his anti-judiciary outburst

ISLAMABAD (Online): Senator Faisal Vawda has refused to tender unconditional apology in contempt of court case.

On the other hand Mustafa Kamal has tendered unconditional apology. He has filed reply as well.

Senator Faisal Vawda filed his reply in connection with contempt of court notice in Supreme Court (SC).

Faisal Vawda said in the reply that press conference was not aimed at committing contempt of court. Its purpose was betterment of the country. Court should exercise restraint in moving forward contempt of court proceedings. The contempt of court notice be withdrawn.

Faisal Vawda presented scripts of speeches of Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Rauf Hassan and Shehbaz Sharif. His reply contains 16 pages. On the other hand Mustafa Kamal has tendered unconditional apology. Hearing of case will take place today (Wednesday).

## Dummar grieves over 11 deaths in Sanjdi Coal Mine

HARNAI (APP): Provincial Minister Haji Noor Muhammad Khan Dummar expressed his grief over the death of 11 workers in Sanjdi Coal Mine, Hamal on Tuesday. According to details, Provincial Minister for Food and leader of Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N), Haji Noor Muhammad Khan Dummar, expressed profound sorrow and grief over the tragic death of 11 workers due to the accumulation of toxic gas in a coal mine in Sanjdi, Quetta.

Sharing the grief of the bereaved families, the minister said that Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has taken notice of the incident and a case has been registered against those responsible. He stated that transparent investigations have been ordered into this heart-wrenching incident. Action will be taken against those who displayed negligence and failed to comply with mining regulations.



HUB: Members of District Bar Association are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at District and Session Court premises.

## Naval Chief for addressing grave threats to marine ecosystems due to anthropogenic activities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf on Tuesday addressed the stakeholders and nation as a whole to address the grave threats to marine ecosystems due to the anthropogenic activities posing serious risk to marine life and ecology.

In his message in connection to the World Environment Day issued by the Pakistan Navy, the Admiral said, "World Environment Day" (WED) is observed on 5th of June each year and calls for protecting our natural surroundings.

The day, celebrated under the ambit of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) marks an occasion to raise awareness on the challenges facing our environment such as: pollution, illegal wildlife trade, unsustainable consumption, rising sea levels and food insecurity.

This year's theme for the WED is 'Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience'.

The occasion will serve as a stark reminder of the urgent need to protect our land, sea, and everything in between.

He said, "Pakistan's long coastline provides access to rich resources of livelihood for millions of people. Our marine resources are a treasure trove of biodiversity that support a vast array of marine life, from majestic sea turtles to colourful coral reefs."

## Blood donation camp for thalassemia patients held

GWADAR (INP): In Gwadar, Rural Health Center Ormara organized a blood donation camp for thalassemia patients with the support of local community and Pakistan Army.

Pakistan Army soldiers actively participated by donating blood to help Thalassemia patients.

## Bilawal grieves over deaths of miners in gas, labourers in firing incidents

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed his grief and sorrow over the deaths of miners and labourers in two separate incidents of gas leakage and firing in Balochistan.

He expressed his regret over the gas in a mine in Sanjdi and the deaths in the firing incident in Dhaka.

The PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari expressed his heartfelt condolences and sympathies with the bereaved families.

He showed his concern over the daily accidents and deaths in the mining sector.

## Tarar grieved over demise of senior journalist Amir's mother

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of the mother of senior journalist Amir Sajjad Syed.

In a condolence message, he expressed his heartfelt condolence and sympathy to the family of the deceased.

The minister said he was really sad to hear about the death of Aamir Sajjad Syed's mother and he shared the grief of the bereaved family.

## Situation of gender based violence in Balochistan reviewed

QUETTA (APP): A meeting under the chairmanship of Advisor to the Chief Minister on Women Development Department, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, here on Tuesday held to review the situation of gender-based violence in Balochistan.

The meeting was attended by representatives of UN agencies, local non-governmental organizations, and stakeholders, including Dr. Sarmad Saeed, head of UNFPA Balochistan.

Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi emphasized the need for necessary amendments in laws, formation of rules of business, and implementation of laws to prevent gender-based violence.

She acknowledged the efforts of civil society organizations working to prevent violence against women and urged lawmakers to support these efforts.

## Heatwaves intensify crisis for millions in Pakistan, warns IRC

ISLAMABAD (INP): As Pakistan braces for severe heatwaves, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) has issued a dire warning about the escalating threat posed by rising temperatures. With 8.6 million people already facing food insecurity, the heatwaves are expected to impact up to 26 districts, compounding the devastating effects of recent droughts and extreme flooding.

Since July 2022, widespread agricultural destruction has led to soaring food prices, leaving many households struggling to feed their families. The educational sector has also suffered, particularly in Sindh and Balochistan, the provinces hardest hit by the heatwaves and floods. An IRC report revealed that the educational disruption caused by the 2022 floods exceeded the impact of the two-year COVID-19 school closures. Since March 2020, 2 million children in Pakistan have been unable to access education, with another 3.5 million experiencing ongoing interruptions due to the floods.

IRC Pakistan Director Shabnam Baloch emphasized the disproportionate impact of climate change on Pakistan, despite the country generating less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions. "The devastating impact that extreme weather events are having on communities across Pakistan cannot be underestimated," Baloch stated. "Heatwaves, in particular, can have long-lasting and far-reaching effects on future generations." The IRC report highlighted that 14% of surveyed households in Sindh reported disruptions to their children's education due to heatwaves.

## President reaffirms Pak commitment to protect environment through innovative solutions, partnerships

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to protect environment and surmount environmental related challenges to ensure a healthier, safer and more resilient planet for the future generations.

The president, in a message on the occasion of World Environment Day being observed on June 5, said that the Day highlighted "our shared responsibility" to protect the environment for the future generations.

"Today, we reaffirm our commitment to overcoming these issues by pioneering innovative solutions and fostering international partnerships," the President Secretariat Press Wing, in a press release, quoted the president as saying.

Today, he said, they were commemorating the 'World Environment Day' to raise awareness about the issues of land degradation, desertification, and droughts.

"Pakistan is among the few countries that have been most affected by the adverse impacts of climate change. During the past few years, Pakistan has witnessed diverse climate phenomena, including floods, droughts, heatwaves, and forest fires," he added.

The president observed that the focus of the Day on land restoration, desertification combat, and drought resilience was quite pertinent.

"Pakistan's unwavering resolve to tackle environmental challenges is showcased through initiatives like the Green Pakistan Programme, which has made significant strides in afforestation and ecosystem restoration," he added.

The president said the initiatives such as the National Adaptation Plan and the Climate Smart Agriculture reflected their dedication to sustainable agricultural practices and land degradation mitigation.

Although Pakistan was taking steps to tackle desertification, land degradation and drought through the restoration of degraded forests, and agricultural lands, but much more needed to be done, he stressed. "We need to adopt sustainable land management practices, and water conservation techniques, besides supporting community action to promote forestry in the rural and urban residential areas," he opined.

The president stressed that they needed to mobilize federal and provincial departments and local communities to combat desertification, land degradation and droughts by efficiently managing and charging their water resources, restoring pastures, and enhancing the water-holding capacity of soils by planting more trees.



QUETTA: Senator Dostain Domki, Parliamentary Secretary Muhammad Khan Lehri, MPA Zarak Khan Mandokhail and Chairman BDA Captain (ret) Javed meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

## Vision & conscious efforts needed to achieve goal of quality education: Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the slogans of quality education are attractive and pleasing, but the getting concrete results are conditional with the vision and conscious struggle in practical field.

He said that neither we are weak nor our higher educational institutions are so weak that may not gather the wisdom of their scholars and researchers and bring improvement in the situation. He believed that what we are going to do would be different and better than the past just because we believe in reconstruction of the institutions and training of the human resource.

The Governor was speaking on visit to the University of Balochistan here on Tuesday.

The acting Vice Chancellor of UoB, Professor Dr Zahoor Ahmed Bazai, Vice

## Chancellor of University of Loralai, Dr Ehsanullah Kakar, Principal Secretary to Governor, Hashim Khan Ghilzai were also present on the occasion.

The Governor appreciated the initiatives of digitalization and conversion of electricity on the solar system in the University of Balochistan.

He said that although marked improvement has been brought in the affairs of the University, however more steps are needed to improve further its performance. The Governor also stressed that the higher educational institutions have to think above from merely collecting heavy fees. He was of the view that new means of income can be generated through research and production.

Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail said that we can achieve the targets of bright future rapidly by ensuring responsibility.



QUETTA: MPA Sheikh Zarak Khan Mandokhail meeting with Provincial Minister Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetrani