

# Independent

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ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan H.E. Rashid Meredov called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## Pakistan, Turkmenistan agree to deepen political, economic, defense cooperation

PM invites Turkmen companies to benefit from promising investment climate in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday invited the Turkmen companies to benefit from the promising investment climate of Pakistan and highlighted the role of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in facilitating foreign investors to invest in different sectors.

He also underlined the importance of regional cooperation and connectivity and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to early completion of TAPI Pipeline as well as working together on other connectivity projects. The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov who called on him at the PM House, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Meanwhile Pakistan and Turkmenistan on Tuesday agreed to intensify their efforts for deepening bilateral cooperation in political, economic and defence domains besides reiterating their commitment to enhancing bilateral trade to make it commensurate to existing potential. The bilateral ties were discussed during the one-on-one meeting between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov, as well as the third round of Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) co-chaired by them here. Both the foreign ministers, addressing a joint press stakeout following their engagement, told the media that the BPC undertook a comprehensive review of bilateral relations in all dimensions besides deliberating on the development of closer economic engagement.

## Joint resolution about Women Parliamentary Caucus approved: BA condemns attack Pakistan's consulate in Germany; desecration of national flag

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Balochistan Assembly has condemned the attack at Pakistan's consulate in Germany and desecration of the national flag there. The members of provincial assembly belonging to both treasury and opposition benches condemned the sorrowful incident and demanded action against those involved in it. They were in the session of assembly, which was held with Speaker, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai in the chair on Tuesday. The Speaker gave the ruling to bring joint resolution against the incident of

attack at the Pakistan's consulate in Frankfurt, Germany. The Member of Provincial Assembly, Ms. Farah Azeem Shah raised the point of order and said that the incident of attack and desecration of Pakistani flag in Germany is sorrowful. She urged the House to unite against those attacked the consulate in Germany and desecrated the national flag there. The Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Ali Madad Jatak also condemned the desecration of national flag in Germany. On the point, the Member provincial assembly

belonging to National Party, Rehmat Saleh Baloch stressed to bring joint resolution on it. Similarly, the MPA Maulana Hidayatur Rehman Baloch condemned the desecration of national flag in Germany. He said that he not only condemns the desecration of Pakistani flag in Germany, and so he condemns the police torture on women on sariab road. He said that the use of might is condemnable whether it may take place. He said that the Minister Home should resign over the Sariab incident.

## Welcomes Chinese investment in Pakistan PM directs GPA to provide all facilities to Chinese companies

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday, welcoming the Chinese investment in Pakistan, said that during his recent visit to China, a number of significant bilateral business-to-business agreements between companies of two countries, was a good sign in this regard. The prime minister was talking to a delegation of Hengeng Trading Company led by Chairman Zhang Bin. The meeting was attended by Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanvir Hussain, Minister of State for Finance Ali Pervaiz Malik and other relevant

senior officials, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The prime minister said that Pakistan wanted to seek benefits from the Chinese experience in agriculture sector and directed Gwadar Port Authority for provision of all possible facilities to the Chinese companies. He also asked for ensuring uninterrupted supply of utilities at Gwadar Free Zone. The prime minister was briefed that Hengeng Trading Company was investing in agriculture, livestock, medicines and other sectors of Pakistan. The company was also constructing a slaughter house with all the latest facilities at Gwadar, at a cost of \$50 million.



ISLAMABAD: Members National Assembly of Opposition parties sits outside Parliament House during hunger strike protest in favor of their demands in the Federal Capital.

## PM welcomes Beijing Declaration on Palestine's Unity govt

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has welcomed the Beijing Declaration, which involves an agreement among prominent Palestinian groups to unify and create an interim unity government. The prime minister specifically praised the People's Republic of China for achieving this significant diplomatic milestone. In a statement on his official X account, the Prime Minister remarked that the people of Palestine have endured prolonged hardship and suffering.

## PTI kicks off hunger strike to demand Imran Khan, other leaders' release

**Monitoring Desk**  
ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) set up a symbolic hunger strike camp outside Parliament House in Islamabad. The hunger strike camp continued from 3pm to 7pm. Opposition Leader in National Assembly Omar Ayub Khan led the camp. PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar, Asad Qaiser, Shibli Faraz, Latif Khosa, and other central leaders of the party participated in the hunger strike camp. Other leaders of PTI including Sheikh Waqas Akram and Zartaj Gul also participated.

The PTI leaders announced that they would extend the scope of the hunger strike camp. Shibli Faraz said the scope of the hunger strike camp would be extended to other assemblies. He said their mandate was stolen in the Sindh Assembly and announced a camp there as well. The purpose of the camp is the release of the PTI founder. He said this was a symbolic protest for the release of the political workers. "They want to tell the world what is happening to them," Faraz said.

## Zhob can provide passage to people for other provinces & Afghanistan: Governor

*Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail says there's key role of national highways in sustainable development and prosperity of country and Balochistan; expansion and construction of roads is very crucial for linking different provinces and cities of the country with one another*

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has categorically stated that there's a key role of national highways in sustainable development and prosperity of the province and country and as such expansion and construction of roads is

very crucial for linking different provinces and cities of the country with one another. In this regard, Zhob division has immense importance geographically as it can provide passage to whole Balochistan link with other provinces of the country and neighbouring Af-

ghanistan. Zhob is also the shortest and safest travelling passage to the federal capital, Islamabad. These views were expressed by the Governor while speaking on occasion of the inauguration of Zhob to Wana road in Zhob on Tuesday.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari is signing the Christian Marriage (Amendment) Act 2024 into law in a special ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Signs Christian Marriage (Amend) Act into law President desires enhancement in jobs quota for minorities

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday reiterated that the minority communities living in Pakistan, enjoyed equal rights and stressed upon increasing jobs quota for them in different government departments. Addressing a ceremony after signing Christian Marriage (Amendment) Act 2024 at the Aiwan-i-Sadr, the president said that he would write to the federal government to enhance the jobs quota in different de-

partments including police, FIA etc, for the minorities. "I will definitely write to the government and ask them for this," he said, adding there should be a quota for the minorities in every department. The president said that all the citizens of the country had equal rights and urged the minorities to continue playing their role for the progress and prosperity of the country as this soil and land belonged to them as much as to him.

## Pak Navy takes over command of CTF-150 for 13th time

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Navy has taken over the command of Combined Task Force 150 (CTF-150) for the 13th time. An impressive change of command ceremony was held at Headquarters US NAVCENT, Bahrain. Commodore Asim Sohail Malik of Pakistan Navy assumed the Command from Capt Mathews of Royal Canadian Navy.

## Pakistan desires peace and stability in Afghanistan: Durrani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador Asif Durrani, Pakistan's Special Representative to Afghanistan at a roundtable on Pak-Afghan relations on Tuesday said, "Pakistan desires peace and stability in Afghanistan." He was speaking at a roundtable discussion on "Pak-Afghan Relations: Challenges and Opportunities" at the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) here, a news release said. Ambassador Durrani stated that Pakistan desires socio-economic and political conditions in Afghanistan that would facilitate the return of over 3 million Afghan refugees currently residing in Pakistan. He urged the international community, espe-

cially the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to come up with strategies for dignified return of Afghan refugees to their homeland. He maintained that terrorism emanating out of Afghanistan was a concern not only for Pakistan but other neighbouring countries like China, Iran, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan as well. Therefore, he urged, the Afghan interim administration to take steps against terrorist groups. Ambassador Durrani shared that Afghan interim administration's efforts for poppy eradication were acknowledged by the stakeholders concerned at the UN Doha meeting that concluded earlier this month.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff of Brazilian Armed Forces, Admiral Andre Luiz Silva Lima De Santana Mendes called on Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif.

## Brazilian Naval Chief calls on Defence Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Naval Staff of Brazilian Armed Forces, Admiral Andre Luiz Silva Lima De Santana Mendes called on Federal Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Tuesday. During the meeting, matters related to regional situation and bilateral cooperation, came under discussion, a news release said.

## Mastermind of May 9 conspiracy confesses his crimes: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar Tuesday demanded strict action against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and its founder who, according to him, orchestrated and facilitated the May 9 conspiracy to attack more than 200 military installations, the Corps Commander House Lahore and other important buildings.

According to the Information Minister, the leader of the "Tehreek-e-Intishar" has finally confessed his crime of "planning and facilitating" the May 9 tragedy. His family members found instructing outside the Corps Commander House Lahore to attack the building. He said the PTI sought nothing but violence, chaos and anarchy to do political point scoring on the "dead bodies".

## TTP targeting people through propaganda, direct attacks

ISLAMABAD (Online): In the heinous business of spreading unrest in the country, TTP is targeting the people of Pakistan through propaganda and direct attacks. A series of recent attacks and targeted killing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has revealed the direct involvement of TTP in all such incidents in Pakistan. In their recent attacks, TTP blew up the building of Government Girls Model School Fazal Elahi Kot in village Zirkai of Mir Ali with explosives. Besides, a teacher

named Meera Jan who has been teaching in the Tank for 26 years, was martyred by the TTP terrorists. The targeting of schools and government buildings by this terrorist group and the targeted killing of teachers shows that the implementation on the recent secret call of the TTP leader Noor Wali Mehsud has already. The recent martyrdom of innocent men, women and children by the TTP attack on the rural health center in DI Khan is also a link in this chain.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Sadiq Umrani, Mir Shoaib Naushervani, Mir Ali Madad Jattak, Parliamentary Secretary Meena Majeed Baloch and MPs Mir Younis Aziz Zehri, Mir Rehmat Saleh Baloch, Mir Zaid Ali Reki, Farah Azeem Shah, Mir Asadullah Baloch, Kalsoom Baloch and Molvi Hidayatur Rehman expressing their views during Balochistan Assembly session chaired by Speaker Captain (ret) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai

## PPP files review petition against reserved seats judgment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Tuesday filed a review petition to the Supreme Court of Pakistan against the verdict regarding reserved seats. Advocate Farooq H. Naek moved the petition on behalf of PPP and prayed the top court to review its judgment dated July 12. The petition has named 11 respondents including Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC).

## New gas reserves discovered in Balochistan

QUETTA (INP): In a significant development, Mari Petroleum Company has successfully found new gas reserves from five wells in Balochistan. The company has completed the testing, production, and transmission of an additional 3 million metric standard cubic feet per day (MMSCFD) of gas. This development was announced following the submission of detailed reports to the Pakistan Stock Exchange. According to Mari Petroleum, the natural gas extracted from the Ghazij Gas Field is now being supplied to Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL).

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Frankfurt vandalism**

The state needs to seek serious answers from the German authorities regarding the July 20 mob attack targeting Pakistan's consulate in Frankfurt. A crowd of around 400 protesters — some holding aloft tricolour Afghan flags used before the Taliban takeover — had descended on the consulate in the German city. Later, protesters stormed the premises, "endangering the lives of ... consular staff", as per the Foreign Office. There were also reports of protesters trying to remove the Pakistani flag and pelting the mission with stones. German state media has said the demonstrators were highlighting "complaints" against Pakistan's defence institutions. As the government has pointed out, under the relevant Vienna Conventions, it is the responsibility of the host government to protect foreign missions on their soil. If, for example, a foreign mission had been stormed in Pakistan, all hell would have broken loose, and Pakistan would have been derided for its 'poor' security protocols. Therefore, the German authorities need to explain how a mob of hundreds was able to descend on a foreign mission and storm it relatively unhindered. They must also ensure that such ugly attacks, which endanger lives, are not repeated.

Segments within Afghan society have for decades harboured an anti-Pakistan bias, and it is likely the protesters were inspired by them. Pak-Afghan relations have been testy since independence — Afghanistan voted against Pakistan's entry to the UN — while matters have turned more complicated over the years as Afghanistan has suffered from internal unrest, foreign invasions, insurgencies and terrorism. There is little doubt that Pakistan's own record vis-à-vis Afghanistan has hardly been stellar. Past mistakes and flawed policies must be acknowledged and avoided. Moreover, Pakistan should never again allow itself to be sucked into the proxy war of global powers. The legacy of war, following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, left Pakistan with millions of Afghans on its soil. Each new conflict has compounded the issue. Aggressive international diplomacy is now needed by Pakistan to address the problem of refugees as well as to improve ties with Kabul — in the latter case, through a frank discussion about the past and present and the need for both sides to cooperate to contain violence. Unfortunately, a long history of hate and mistrust — which underpins both Pakistan's ties with Kabul and the violence of the (anti-Taliban) protesters in Frankfurt — will be difficult to overcome.

**On the edge, again**

Dr Niaz Murtaza

We are at a familiar spot today — on the edge of a deep precipice where we land every few years during intra-elite conflicts where some elites act unconstitutionally. We are there for the third time in three years due to the same PTI-establishment tussle as no side has won and imposed order.

The last such long tussle was in the 1950s between political parties and the bureaucracy, which ended in 1958 when our alpha institution trumped both to impose its hegemony till today. It now faces a broad middle-class axis led by the PTI. It has not been able to crush the PTI, despite the no-trust vote, crackdown, rigged polls and false cases. The PTI has been reduced to waging mental warfare since May 9 — gung-ho talk from jail, social media abuse and global cribbing — as against its disruptive street war earlier. Yet, even mere mental sledding is giving powerful people sleepless nights.

Court verdicts have hurt too as they have showed spine on PTI cases, buoyed by strong currents flowing in its favour. The Supreme Court rightly undid the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) original sin in misreading its order on just denying the party its electoral symbol to actually barring the PTI totally from polls, treating its candidates as independents and depriving it of regular and reserved seats. Yet, ignoring this, the PML-N alleges that the court rewrote the Constitution to give the PTI unfair benefit that it didn't even seek and when it wasn't even a party to the case. But no law bars the apex court from

giving relief that no one seeks or to a third party. It has done both, as in suo motu cases and the 62(1)(f) case where Nawaz Sharif profited too. Doing so, using the 'complete justice' clause (187), also makes eminent sense when all pleas of parties to a case violate laws and/or do substantive injustice, as in this case.

Giving reserved seats to the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) violates the law that parties must submit their reserved seats lists before polls and overly rewards a small party adopted by the ECP's fault. Giving them to other parties violates the law on awarding them in line with parties' Assembly strengths and creates the injustice of rewarding some parties who many say plotted to keep the PTI out of polls. Even leaving them vacant violates the constitutional clause on the number of such seats for women and minorities and deprives weak groups of full representation.

This conflict offers little to the masses. Whoever wins — the PML-N, PTI or the establishment — will rule as badly as before. The establishment's new hybrid set-up, like the PTI one, is failing as political and economic stability and security remain elusive due to misrule, the TTP and delayed Gulf billions. It is high time it quit politics. Politicians too must act maturely and jointly pursue political legitimacy via fair polls.

While all of them are inept, regular polls may force them to do well or lose to better new parties. Punjab's politics especially has become truly competitive with two major parties that can't afford not to perform. Thus, the public mandate must be allowed to cleanse politics. — Courtesy Dawn

**Animal farm**

Shahzad Sharjeel

What is common between Jackie Kennedy, Melania Trump, and Princess Nefertabet who lived more than 4,000 years ago in Egypt? All three are known to have draped themselves in leopard print dresses. Only the pharaohs were old money and did not mind faux over fur as leopard spots; to be precise, rosettes were commonly printed and woven into fabric in ancient Egypt.

According to an NYT story, Ms Kennedy's jacket was made from pelts of many wild leopards killed for their lustrous coat. Estimates indicate that some 250,000 leopards were killed in the fashion frenzy ignited by Jackie's sartorial choice.

Appalled by the ever-increasing list of endangered animals, conservationists, fashionistas, and animal rights activists have launched a movement calling for royalties for the species appropriated in any commercial product. The royalties, even if levied in pennies, can raise millions that can be directed towards the well-being of the species.

The leopard print is also a favourite in Pakistan; we call it the 'cheetah print', as it is an oft-used misnomer for a whole range of the Panthera family. If the royalties for appropriation trend catches on, owls, billy goats, and jackasses will stand to benefit the most here.

Not sure how many readers remember the anthropomorphic mascot of a US tobacco company, Joe Camel, aka Old Joe. Created for an advertisement campaign in France and later used in the US, the company stopped using it in 1997 after the Journal of the American Medical Association published a study that led to a lawsuit

claiming the mascot made smoking popular among children.

Fast forward to the camel criminal who went about ordering the mutilation of an animal for trampling on his crops recently. This barbaric act has been wrongly described in the media as an amputation that is usually carried out under strict medical supervision, ensuring against pain and a series of measures to deal with PTSD.

Our diminishing faith in humanity was somewhat restored by offers that poured in to provide medical aid, a prosthetic limb for the leg chopped below the knee, and permanent shelter for the poor animal. The accused has so far faced no serious accountability. Some strawmen have been produced as the executors of this atrocity. While it remains to be seen if the real culprit will ever be awarded a punishment in keeping with the heinous nature of the crime, the accused now has the prefix of 'wadera', a much-maligned honorific, courtesy of its caricatures in the media, added to his name. In the good old days, the title referred to a family or community elder; its feminine, 'waderi', though much less used, does exist.

Historically, cruelty to animals has evoked consequences both divine and temporal. According to the scriptures, an entire nation paid the price for the ill treatment of the prophet Saleh's she-camel.

The British colonialists may never have had any qualms about mistreating an entire people living under their yoke, but they did initiate animal rights legislation in the subcontinent. Our subsequent masters have shown similar disdain for the masses; however, the same degree of empathy

for the four-legged creatures has been missing.

This brings to mind an English sahib named Eric Blair. His father was an opium agent in India. Born in Bengal and raised in Bihar, Eric oversaw floggings and hangings as a 19-year-old policeman in Burma. After returning to England, it seems he got in touch with the more humane side of his character and authored that most quoted line, "All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others". Yes, this is the same man the world came to know as George Orwell of Animal Farm fame.

It is hard to talk of 'wadera' and leave out the 'waderay ka beta' (son of the wadera), another archetype of a spoilt brat of privileged ancestry. This tragicomic caricature was made famous by a rap artist who pointed out that not just the lord himself but his dog demands to be treated like a lord.

Not too long after the song was released, a brown sahib lost his dog on a foreign assignment to Pakistan.

Many a serf who never bothered to refill a birdbath trudged to the sahib's mansion to offer condolences on the junior lordship's demise. For weeks, a pall of gloom hung over the mansion, and all people could talk about was the spiritual experience of attending the junior's last rites, complete with sitting on the ground around incense-burning censers, flower petals, and wreaths covering the soon-to-be cremated remains. The mansion's lawn was turned into a temporary crematorium. Environmental and social safeguards are for the less equal farm animals.

Who knows, maybe this sahib too may have found his humane side; it gives an entirely new meaning to Orwellian, no? — Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**PM gives \$60b target for country's annual exports in three years**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the National Export Development Board wherein he tasked the authorities concerned to take the country's annual exports to \$60 billion within three years.

The prime minister asked the commerce ministry to resolve the issues pointed out by the exporters and present a report within two weeks. He said that he would personally chair the National Export Development Board meeting every one-and-half months.

Calling for collective efforts for the country's development, he paid tribute to the business community and investors for their role in increasing

the government's policies also took the IT exports to over \$3.2 billion.

Exports despite tough circumstances. Prime Minister Shehbaz asked the commerce ministry to finalise the policy proposals, in coordination with representatives of the potential export sectors. He also tasked the Ministry of National Food Security to improve extension services, in coordination with provinces, to enhance agricultural exports.

He instructed for exporting of quality seeds and agricultural products after further processing and

measures to introduce crop varieties with high yields.

He said that the delivery time of Pakistani goods to Europe and America should be reduced by solving the problems related to the shipping of exports immediately. Similarly, the commerce ministry and Board of Investment should ensure cooperation regarding the transfer of Chinese export industries to Pakistan.

He also called for carrying out research and development, innovation and brand development.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of National Export Development Board (NEDB).



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a virtual meeting with the Representatives from Moody's Ratings.

**Senate body on National Food Security & Research convenes**

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Senate Standing Committee on National Food Security & Research convened today under the chairmanship of Senator Syed Masroor Ahsan. The inaugural session included a comprehensive briefing on the roles, functions, and performance of the Ministry of National Food Security & Research and its affiliated departments.

Present at the committee meeting were Senators Danesh Kumar, Dost Muhammad Khan, and Poonjo Mal Bheel, alongside

the Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research and senior officers from related departments. The committee members engaged in an extensive interactive session discussing the ministry's operations, with each department outlining its responsibilities.

During deliberations, the committee raised concerns about the ministry's human resource strength, noting 40 vacant positions which they highlighted as impacting operational efficiency.

**Social media provides modern information to farmers: Secretary**

PESHAWAR (APP): Secretary Agriculture Muhammad Javed Marwat on Tuesday said that through social media, information related to the agriculture and modern methods of cultivation could be provided to the farmers and landowners.

In this connection landlords can also take benefit from it because this is the age of social media. Through YouTube

channel, farmers will have easy access to timely, useful and actionable information related to farming, modern technology and agricultural research, he while speaking as a special guest at the inaugural program of the YouTube channel launched in the name of "Zaraat aur Kisan" in the Bureau of Agriculture Information.

**FM meets virtually with the Representatives from Moody's Ratings**

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb had a zoom meeting with the representatives from Moody's Ratings at Finance Division today. The meeting was also attended by senior officials of the Ministry.

The Federal Minister commenced the session by giving an update on

Pakistan's economic outlook. He highlighted the foreign exchange reserves surpassing USD 9 billion, stable CPI inflation at 12.6%, and a robust 7.7% increase in foreign remittances, reflecting economic resilience. He emphasized a 30% rise in tax collection in FY 2024 and outlined reforms to broaden the tax base, including new agricultural taxes and digital initiatives

at the FBR. He also noted that over 150,000 retailers have registered as first-time taxpayers, marking a significant stride towards broadening the tax base. The Minister mentioned the ambitious targets aimed to increase revenues by 3% of GDP by FY 2027, with plans for a primary surplus of 1% of GDP, demonstrating Pakistan's commitment to fiscal sustainability and growth.

**Indonesian diplomat for collaboration to increase mutual trade**

LAHORE (APP): Charge d' Affaires of Indonesia Rahmat Hindiarta Kusuma has said that this is time of collaboration to bring the trade between the two countries at a par with the potential.

Talking to the business community here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on Tuesday, LCCI President Kashif Anwar welcomed the diplomat and highlighted the trade and economic ties between the two countries. LCCI Executive Committee

Members Raja Hassan d' Akhter and Mian Attiq ur Rehman were also present.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar expressed LCCI's eagerness to learn from Indonesian technology and advancements. He agreed with the diplomat on the significance of economic stability and the low cost of doing business.

He urged LCCI members to participate in the 39<sup>th</sup> Trade Expo-Indonesia, scheduled from October 9 to 12, 2024.

**Gold rates decrease by Rs.500 per tola**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of per tola of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.500 and was sold at Rs. 250,500 on Tuesday against its sale at Rs. 251,000 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs. 429 to Rs. 214,763 from Rs. 215,192 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold came down to Rs.196,866 from Rs. 197,260, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.2,920 and Rs.2,503.42 respectively.

**US, China, and UAE top destinations for Pak exports during FY 2023-24**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the fiscal year 2023-24, followed by China and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Total exports to the US during July-June 2023-24 were recorded at US 5,432,929 million against the exports of US 5,932,358 million during July-June 2022-23, showing a decline of 8.41 percent, according to the

State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US \$2,707,225 million against the exports of US \$2,025,741 million last year, showing an increase of 33.64 percent. UAE was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US \$2,082,206 million during the year under review against the exports of US \$1,475,832 million, SBP data revealed.

## KhUJ office bearers call on Governor; pledges to enhance journalists' skills, resolve problems

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday reaffirmed his commitment to address the province's challenges as well as the problems of journalists community. He said this during a meeting with the delegation of Khyber Union of Journalist (KhUJ) led by President Nasir Hussain, Senior Vice Presidents Abdul Baseer Qalander, Bukhar Shah Bacha, Muhammad Naem and others. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi emphasized the importance of constructive criticism in fostering societal improvement, stating that prioritizing peace is essential for economic progress. He urged the chief minister to convene cabinet and apex meetings regarding recent incidents of lawlessness, stressing that security is paramount for development. Highlighting the significance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he acknowledged the adverse conditions around the Dera Ismail Khan economic zone, proposing enhanced economic zones near CPEC routes. Governor Faisal Kundi commended KP athletes for their achievements across various fields, citing PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's recent visit to Peshawar as a morale booster for provincial sports. He underscored empowerment for women and youth as crucial for fostering progress. He pledged to enhance journalists' skills and

resolve their problems on priority basis. Governor Faisal Kundi also expressed his intent to collaborate closely with the federal government, to resolve issues facing journalists. In reference to provincial assembly rights, he assured support from Parliamentary leader of PPP, Ahmed Kundi and others, advocating for increased public engagement across different regions. Protecting Peshawar's cultural heritage and promoting interfaith harmony were also highlighted as priorities. Governor Faisal Kundi criticized the provincial government for misstatements in court, noting disparities in university funding compared to Sindh.



**GILGIT: Rescue 1122 crew in action, expertly lifting a car from the ditch after an accident.**

## DC stresses for collective work of departments for development of district

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Newly appointed Deputy Commissioner Sarah Rehman on Tuesday underlined the need of collective work among all the departments and administration for the development and prosperity of the district. While chairing an introductory meeting of line departments held at her office, the deputy commissioner said that achievement of the goals would be her priority. The cooperation of all the departments was of utmost importance for the purpose, she added. She said the departments should perform their duties diligently and make all efforts for the development and prosperity of the area and better provision of facilities to the people. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) General, ADC Relief, assistant commissioners and representatives of different departments including C&W.

## ANF seizes 330 kg drugs in 9 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 9 operations across the country managed to recover 330 kg drugs and arrested 8 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday.

He informed that 826 grams ice was recovered from a passenger going to Qatar at Islamabad Airport.

## LDA seals another 15 properties

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Development Authority (LDA) teams, during an on going operation against commercialization fee defaulters, sealed another 15 properties in the Sabzazar Scheme here on Tuesday. On the directions of Director General LDA Tahir Farooq, the teams sealed properties including Plot No. 120 Block A, Plot No. 41 Block G, Plot No. 59 Block G, Plot No. 51 Block C, Plot No. 54 Block C, Plot No. 22 Block C.



**KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Peoples Party (PPP) MPA Nazir Bughio during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.**

## IGP inaugurates model police station Timergara

DIR LOWER (APP): Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan visited Lower Dir and inaugurated the newly constructed Model Police Station Timergara. On this occasion, Regional Police Officer Malakand Range Muhammad Ali and District Police Officer Lower Dir Rai Mazhar Iqbal welcomed the IGP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. During the inaugural ceremony, the young daughter of martyr Israr Ahmed presented a bouquet of flowers to the IGP, and a smartly turned-out contingent of Lower Dir saluted him. The IGP inspected the building of the Model Police Station, equipped with modern facilities, and received a detailed briefing from the DPO Lower Dir. On this occasion, IGP Akhtar Hayat Khan stated that the establishment of the Model Police Station would prove to be a milestone in providing facilities to the local people.

## FIA arrests two human smugglers

LAHORE (APP): Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Tuesday apprehended two members of a group involved in human smuggling and visa fraud here from Laxmi Chowk. According to a spokesman for the agency, the suspects, identified as Malik Naveed and Khalid Munir Bhatti, were arrested during a raid. The authorities recovered three Pakistani passports, fake passports of Iran and Italy, and counterfeit immigration arrival stamps of various countries, including a fake immigration arrival stamp of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

## 3-days training workshop by ICIMOD on cryosphere monitoring in Pak kicks off

PESHAWAR (APP): A three days training workshop by International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), in collaboration with the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC), and the National Centre of Excellence in Geology (NCEG) on cryosphere monitoring has been kicked off on Tuesday. According to a press release issued here, the workshop aims to enhance the capabilities of participants from various institutions and universities across Pakistan, enabling them to conduct independent research and monitoring of glaciers, snow, and permafrost. Participants are introduced to methods and tools for collecting and analyzing data on glaciers, snow, and permafrost, utilizing both fieldwork and advanced satellite remote sensing technology. The cryosphere, including glaciers, snow, and permafrost in High Mountain Asia, supplies water to approximately one-fifth of the world's population. Monitoring these components is crucial for assessing meltwater, especially during dry seasons.

## Tree plantation drive inaugurated in Dir Lower

DIR LOWER (APP): The district's youth office in collaboration with the district administration and the forest department has launched a plantation campaign titled "Green Growth Strategy - Billion Tree Plus Plantation Drive," to make the area clean and green. Additional Deputy Commissioner Plantation (General) and Focal Person of the initiative Bashir Khan inaugurated the drive by formally planting a sapling.

## Now entire nation knows about digital terrorists: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Information and Culture Azma Bokhari has said that the entire nation now knows who digital terrorists are and who is behind them. In a press statement issued here on Tuesday, she said the younger generation is being incited against the country's security institutions through systematic planning. "The children of the person conspiring against the country are living a luxurious life in London. Pakistan's youth should stay away from the agenda of this disruptive party," she added. She mentioned that parents should learn a lesson after the events of May 9. "A specific group and their facilitators are causing unrest, disorder, and divisive politics in Pakistan under their agenda. A progressing and developing Pakistan is not acceptable to this group. They continuously create new obstacles against the country's security and development. The PTI started different movements against the country including resignations from assemblies, jail bhara movement, and hunger strikes. The failed movements of the 'Nakaam' Khan have become a source of disgrace and embarrassment for him. All the narratives of this group have failed just like their politics."



**RAWALPINDI: A view of rain water accumulated in the street at Imambara Mohallah after rain that experienced the Twin Cities.**

## SDMA warns people to refrain from visiting streams, rivers

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): Seasonal nullahs, besides rivers and streams, flowing in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), including in Mirpur division, were flooded after the upper reaches - besides various ground parts of the state lashed with first heaviest rainfall since the wee hours on Tuesday. The AJK State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) has warned people living near the seasonal nullahs and streams to refrain from visiting the flooded ponds, rivers and streams as the main spell of the torrential rains reported in various parts of the State today. The Mirpur district and outskirts lashed with much awaited heavy rains that opened the advent of the monsoon rains which also hit various other parts of the liberated state. Various parts of the AJK state lashed with first heaviest rainfall that affected various areas including Mirpur district causing partial loss to the material - especially in the New City and various adjoining slums areas of this district.

# International News

## Gazans flee after Israel orders safe zone evacuation over rockets

**Monitoring Desk**  
KHAN YUNIS: Hundreds of panicked Gazans fled after the Israeli military on Monday ordered the evacuation of part of a humanitarian zone, warning it was preparing to launch an operation in the area. The military had declared Al-Mawasi, along the Gaza coast between the cities of Khan Yunis and Rafah, a humanitarian zone in May, and told Palestinians to go there for their own safety. But it has now ordered people to leave part of the zone in eastern Khan Yunis that it says militants have been using to launch attacks on Israeli targets. The military said the evacuation was due to "significant terrorist activity and rocket fire toward the state of Israel from the eastern part of the humanitarian area", making it too "dangerous" to remain. In a statement, it urged people to relocate from eastern Khan Yunis to the west of the "adjusted humanitarian area of Al-Mawasi" that runs along the Gaza coast. Many Gazans are hesitant to join the swelling tent camps in Al-Mawasi, however, after a recent attack on the zone killed at least 92 people and wounded more than 300, according to figures from the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory. "No place is safe," said Yussef Abu Taimah, from the town of Al-Qarara in Khan Yunis, as he prepared to relocate his family for the fourth time since the Gaza war broke out in October. "We left in the middle of ongoing air and tank shelling, and drones firing shots," said the 27-year-old, who witnessed dead and wounded people being transported to Nasser Hospital by tuk-tuks and donkey carts. Abu Taimah said his family was heading to Al-Mawasi, but expected to find no space in the crowded, makeshift encampment. "We will stay on the street," he said. "Even the sidewalks are full of people and tents. We are tired and fed up. Enough of this displacement." Ahmed al-Bayuk, 53, said each of his three displacements has been harder than the last. "We barely settle for a few days before the army comes, bombs, displaces us and destroys more," he said. "Where should we go? Every place is at risk of bombing." In recent months the Israeli army has launched intense military operations in several areas of Gaza that were previously declared free of Hamas militants. Earlier this year it carried out a sweeping operation in Khan Yunis for months that reduced swathes of the city to rubble and displaced tens of thousands of people.



**Palestinians flee the eastern part of Khan Yunis as they travel in an animal-drawn cart after they were ordered by Israeli army to evacuate their neighborhoods, amid Israel-Hamas conflict, in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip.**

## Death toll from Ethiopian landslides jumps to 229: official

**Monitoring Desk**  
GFOA ZONE: The death toll from two landslides in southern Ethiopia has jumped to 229 and could rise further as the search for survivors and casualties continued into a second day, a government official said on Tuesday. A landslide buried people in the Gofa zone in Southern Ethiopia regional state on Sunday night, and then a second one engulfed others who had gathered to help on Monday morning. "I don't know when it will stop. We are still recovering bodies," Markos Melese, head of the National Disaster Response agency in Gofa Zone, told Reuters by phone. "We are still digging," Melese said. On Monday, an official said at least 50 people had died and children and police officers were among the dead. Footage shared by the local administration showed people digging up bodies with shovels and bare hands. "The death toll surged after the people who came to rescue also got trapped," said Gofa district administrator Misikir Mitiku.

## Modi says focus on employment and middle class in first post-poll budget

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first post-election budget will focus on employment and the middle class, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday as she began presenting the final financial statement for 2024-25. The government will allocate 2 trillion rupees (\$24 billion) for job creation over the next five years, Sitharaman said. President Joe Biden thanked Cheate for her nearly three decades in the Secret Service and said she had "selflessly dedicated and risked her life to protect our nation throughout her career." "We all know what happened that day can never happen again," Biden said in a statement. "As we move forward, I wish Kim all the best, and I will plan to appoint a new director soon." Cheate appeared before a congressional committee on Monday and said the attack on Trump, who was slightly wounded in his right ear, represented a failure by the Secret Service. She called it "the most significant operational failure of the Secret Service in decades." Both Republicans and Democrats called on Cheate to resign. She drew the ire of lawmakers from both parties by refusing to provide specific details about the attack, citing the existence of multiple active investigations.

## US Secret Service director Kimberly Cheatle resigns after Trump assassination bid

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: US Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle resigned on Tuesday, a day after acknowledging that the agency failed in its mission to prevent an assassination attempt against Donald Trump. Cheatle was facing bipartisan calls to step down after a 20-year-old gunman wounded the former Republican president and current White House candidate at a July 13 campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania. "It is overdue, she should have done this at least a week ago," Mike Johnson, the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, told reporters. "I'm happy to see that she has heeded the call of both Republicans and Democrats." President Joe Biden thanked Cheate for her nearly three decades in the Secret Service and said she had "selflessly dedicated and risked her life to protect our nation throughout her career." "We all know what happened that day can never happen again," Biden said in a statement. "As we move forward, I wish Kim all the best, and I will plan to appoint a new director soon." Cheate appeared before a congressional committee on Monday and said the attack on Trump, who was slightly wounded in his right ear, represented a failure by the Secret Service. She called it "the most significant operational failure of the Secret Service in decades." Both Republicans and Democrats called on Cheate to resign. She drew the ire of lawmakers from both parties by refusing to provide specific details about the attack, citing the existence of multiple active investigations.

## Kamala Harris closes in on US presidential nomination with delegates secured

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: Vice President Kamala Harris will campaign in the critical battleground state of Wisconsin on Tuesday for the first time as a US presidential election candidate after enough Democratic delegates pledged to endorse her, clearing her path to the nomination. Harris has become the party's presumed nominee after President Joe Biden withdrew from his re-election campaign on Sunday, following weeks of party acrimony and internal polls showed his support collapsing in a battle against Republican rival Donald Trump. Less than 36 hours after Biden endorsed Harris, she secured the nomination on Monday night by winning the pledged support of a majority of the party's delegates who will determine the nomination, the campaign said. "Tonight, I am proud to have secured the broad support needed to become our party's nominee," Harris said in a statement late Monday night. "I look forward to formally accepting the nomination soon." An unofficial survey of delegates by the Associated Press showed Harris with more than 2,500 delegates, well over the 1,976 needed to win a vote in the coming weeks. Delegates could still, technically, change their minds but nobody else received any votes in the AP survey; 54 delegates said they were undecided. The Wisconsin trip offers another opportunity for the 59-year-old former California prosecutor to reset the Democrats' campaign and make the case that she is best positioned to beat Trump.

## UK unveils training effort to reduce reliance on migrants

**Monitoring Desk**  
FARNBOROUGH: UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer vowed on Monday to reduce the UK's "long-term reliance on overseas workers" as he unveiled a new skills training organisation aimed at boosting productivity and economic growth. Starmer said his government hopes the new body - named Skills England - will transform "not just how we train our young people and adults, but also the relationship between business and education system." In a speech at the Farnborough International Airshow, the UK leader added that many young people had been "let down" by a lack of skills training, creating an overreliance on migration within the economy. "I do not criticise businesses who hire overseas workers and I certainly don't diminish the contribution that migration makes to our economy, to our public services and of course to our communities," he told the audience. "Yet if you stand back, as a system it cannot be right that some people don't get to feel the pride of making a contribution, the dignity of work, just because we can't find a way of creating a coherent skill system."

## US journalist jailed in Russia for six years

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: A Russian court has sentenced US-Russian journalist Alsu Kurmasheva to more than six years in prison for violating strict military censorship laws, a ruling her employer slammed as a "mockery of justice". Kurmasheva, 47, was convicted on Friday in a secret trial that was not announced in advance - the same day a separate Russian court sentenced US journalist Evan Gershkovich for 16 years on espionage charges. Both journalists have rejected the charges against them as baseless. Kurmasheva, an editor with the US-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) outlet in Prague, was arrested last year while travelling to Russia to see her sick mother.

## Russia says intercepted US bomber planes 'approaching' its border in Arctic

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russia on Sunday said two US bomber planes had approached its border in the Arctic and that it had scrambled fighter jets to make them turn away. Moscow has previously accused the United States of making reconnaissance drone flights over neutral waters in the Black Sea to help Ukraine, and has said it could lead to "direct confrontation" between Russia and NATO. Russia said Sunday that it scrambled fighter jets to prevent two US strategic bomber planes from crossing its border over the Barents Sea in the Arctic. The US military routinely carries out flights over international waters, operations that it says are conducted in neutral airspace and in accordance with international law. But Moscow has responded more aggressively to the exercises in recent months.

## Six Croatians die in nursing home shooting

**Monitoring Desk**  
DARUVAR: Croatia was in a state of shock on Monday after a gunman opened fire in a nursing home, killing at least six people in a rare instance of gun violence in the Balkan country. Five residents and one employee were dead after the gunman entered the private nursing home in the eastern town of Daruvar and went on a killing spree, according to the police. The gunman then fled the scene and was later arrested at a cafe, where he was carrying unregistered firearms.

## Nation stands united with one voice against terrorism: Aleem Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday said the whole nation stands united with one voice against terrorism and it is needed to fully implement the National Action Plan.

Talking to President of Awami National Party (ANP) Senator Aimal Wali Khan who called on him here, the minister said that there was a dire need for taking strict action against the facilitators of terrorists, said a press release.

President IPP Abdul Aleem Khan congratulated Aimal Wali Khan on the success of ANP in the recent by-election at Bajaur. He said that for the development of the country, political harmony among parties was of utmost importance to ensure stability of political policies on a long-term basis. He said that the construction of the motorway from Mansehra

to Babu Sir Top in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province was his top priority because he believed that the fastest road network from Mansehra to Gilgit would be a game changer for the entire province. He said that the entry of overloading trucks and trawlers on the motorways has been prohibited to protect the national highways from vandalism and accidents.

President ANP Senator Aimal Wali Khan discussed the current domestic and political situation with President IPP and Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan and pointed out some problems related to their area. Moreover, the Member of National Assembly of Pakistan Muslim League-N from Mansehra, Sardar Muhammad Yusuf, also called on President of the Ishaq Khan-e-Pakistan Party and Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan and invited him to visit Mansehra.

He discussed with the federal minister about the political situation of KPK province in particular.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Hangeng Trade Company calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## Historic city Zhob to be made hub of modern education, trade and tourism, vows Governor

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that Zhob division has key importance due to its geographical location, archeological sites and tourism places.

He said that the historic city of Zhob would be made the important hub of modern education, trade and tourism soon with the support and cooperation of federal and provincial governments.

He also announced that we would also be hearing the good news of establishment of a modern and standard university in the Zhob division.

He directed to the district administration to take concrete measures for complete protection of life and property of the people.

He asserted that no negligence would be tolerated regarding public welfare.

The Governor was addressing a big public gathering in Zhob on Tuesday. The Provincial Ministers Mir Asim Kurd and Noor Muhammad Dummer were also accompanied with the

Governor. Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that the NADRA office would be expanded in Zhob very soon so as to provide all the basic facilities at their doorstep.

He said that the long-standing demand of people of Zhob and other districts has been met with inauguration of Zhob-Wana road. The Governor said that it has become an important source of linking the people of Zhob with other provinces and cities.

The Governor asked the people that they are witness to that Zhob-Dahna Sar road used to close most of the time due to land sliding before.

He said that all the people like other passengers suffer problems because of suspension of the national highway.

However, by the grace of Allah Almighty got the alternative route to move on to and from Pashtoonkhwah and Punjab.

As a result of which, Balochistan would remain in contact with Punjab and KP all the time and in all weathers, Governor added.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Sadiq Umrani in a meeting with Provincial Advisor for Trade and Industry Mir Ali Hasan Zehri

## Govt. taking steps for provision of basic facilities to people on priority basis: Ali Madad Jatak

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Ali Madad Jatak has stated that the incumbent government is taking steps for provision of basic facilities to people on priority basis. In this regard, practical steps have been started.

Ali Madad Jatak was speaking to different delegations who called on him in his office here on Tuesday.

The delegations included the people from Quetta, Loralai, Pishin, Loralai, Mastung, Kalat and

other areas. Speaking to the members of delegations, the Provincial Minister for Agriculture said that wholehearted efforts are continued to provide maximum relief to the people at every level.

He said that the development works would be started soon after release of necessary funds for the same, which included the construction of roads, improvement in electrification, laying of tough tiles, besides improving the sewerage system.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan, Mr. Rashid Meredov, called on the President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Deputy Prime Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, was also present on the occasion.

## Balochistan product will be showcased in International Expo: Rana Mashood

QUETTA (APP): Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Program, Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan, admitting the decade-long deprivations of Balochistan, reiterated incumbent government's resolve to heal the wounds of the country's largest province and bring economic stability. He expressed confidence that Balochistan will soon become Pakistan's most developed province and will serve as a role model for the world through unity and cooperation.

He was addressing a cheque distribution ceremony for farmers and SMEs organized by the EU funded Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress (GRASP) in collaboration with Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Program here Tuesday.

The Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Program emphasized the role of youth and small businesses in economic development. He said, "Uplift of Balochistan is the development of the country. The federal government is committed to bring economic revolution in Balochistan, and the day is not far when Balochistan will serve as a role model for the world through unity and cooperation."

He praised the concrete steps taken by PPAF in reducing poverty and enhancing economic activities in Balochistan, noting that while no foreign investment came to Pakistan from 2017 to 2024, this trend has now reversed thanks to the efforts of the PML-N led government.

He asserted that those opposing Pakistan's

progress are its enemies, and Balochistan's proud youth will respond to these adversarial forces through their development.

Rana Mashood said despite being considered Pakistan's most backward province, the youth of Balochistan have a distinct enthusiasm for advancement, wishing to see their region and province developed compared to other provinces.

Stressing the need for unity and cohesion, he urged thinking like Pakistanis and healing Balochistan's wounds. He announced that the federal government would organize an international expo in Islamabad to improve the economic condition of Balochistan's people by exporting its dates, grapes, and other products to global markets.

## Gilani extends warm wishes to Egyptian parliament, people

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Tuesday extended heartfelt congratulations and warm wishes to the Egyptian parliament, people, and government.

In his message on Egypt's National Day, he highlighted the enduring friendship and cooperation between Pakistan and the Arab Republic of Egypt, expressing the desire to further strengthen ties between the two brotherly nations. The Chairman also conveyed prayers for Egypt's continued progress and prosperity.

## ECP seeks wealth statements from political parties by Aug 29

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) asked all political parties to submit their respective wealth statements for the last financial year 2023-2024, a mandatory requirement under the relevant electoral laws, by August 29.

The ECP asked all political parties to submit their consolidated statements of accounts for financial year 2023-24 on or before August 29. "The Election Commission of Pakistan reminds all the heads of Political Parties, in terms of section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017 read with section 204 of the Act ibid and rule 159 & 160 of the Election Rules, 2017, thereof, that they are required to file with Election Commission.

## Ahsan chairs meeting on transfer of PSDP projects executed by Pak-PWD

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday chaired a meeting to address the matters related to the transfer of Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) projects being executed by Pak-Public Works Department (PWD) to provinces and various federal government entities.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Housing & Works, members of working groups and senior officials from the Ministry of Planning, who deliberated on the optimal redistribution of these projects,

a news release said.

Out of the 162 PSDP projects managed by Pak-PWD, as many as 138 projects are attributed to provinces and 24 to federal entities. The minister underscored the pivotal role of the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) in this process, emphasizing that all PSDP projects must be presented before the CDWP forum before any transfer decisions were made. He directed the departments concerned to compile comprehensive 'Position Papers' outlining each province's projects for consideration during upcoming CDWP meetings.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar holds talks with Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## Pak digitisation, end to gender digital divide PM's top priority: Shaza Fatima

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Tuesday said Pakistan's digitisation and end to the prevailing gender digital divide is the top priority of the Prime Minister whereas the digital ecosystem diagnostic report is the guiding document for the government's vision.

She was addressing the launching ceremony of the Country Digital Ecosystem Diagnostic Report jointly prepared by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) under the title Pakistan's Transformative Digital Future: Growth Strategy and Roadmap here.

Shaza Fatima Khawaja congratulated the team SDPI and ADB for preparing a comprehensive analytical report and termed such reports evidence pro-

viding baseline data helpful in setting future KPIs and goals in the field of digitisation.

She announced that the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication would focus on implementing most of the Report's recommendations. "The IT sector exports surged to record \$3.2 billion this year which is the highest ever. The Prime Minister has strong focus on digitisation of the country as the IT exports are breaking records every month. The prime minister vision and target is \$25 billion in IT exports, and we are striving to meet it," she added.

The minister said Information Technology is a resilient and robust sector that is growing with every passing year, whereas the PM has not slashed the budget of the IT sector and therefore was given the highest budgetary allocations in the ongoing fiscal year.

## President for expanding ties with Turkmenistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has called for expanding bilateral ties with Turkmenistan across all areas of mutual interest and reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to its relationship with Turkmenistan.

The President expressed these views while talking to the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Rashid Meredov, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President said that Pakistan-Turkmenistan relations were based on a common vision for peace and prosperity in the region. The exchange of high-level visits between the two countries signified the mutual desire to further strengthen bilateral under-

standing and cooperation. Welcoming the Minister, the President urged the need to enhance connectivity and communication between Pakistan and Turkmenistan, saying that Gwadar port offered great opportunities for promoting regional trade and Turkmenistan should benefit from the port.

The President stressed the need for continued exchanges and dialogue at all levels and enhanced trade, economic, investment and cultural relations for the prosperity of the two countries. He offered that Turkmen students could seek education from the medical institutions of Pakistan. The President noted the importance of the Third Round of Bilateral Political Consultations held today by the

two Foreign Ministers. The Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan said that Pakistan and Turkmenistan enjoyed cordial relations. He stated that his country would continue to promote economic, cultural and educational cooperation with Pakistan.

He highlighted the importance of constructing motorways and railways, through Afghanistan, to connect the two brotherly countries. Foreign Minister Meredov conveyed the greetings of the leadership of Turkmenistan to the President.

The President reciprocated the sentiment and said that he was looking forward to welcoming the Grand Leader of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in Pakistan.



QUETTA: Chairman PM Youth Development Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan visiting GI Lab established in Balochistan University

## Senate body on petroleum deliberates on Pakistan Minerals Regulatory Authority Bill, 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Petroleum on Tuesday deliberated on the "Pakistan Minerals Regulatory Authority Bill, 2024." The meeting, chaired by Senator Umer Farooq, was informed that the primary objective of the bill is to create cohesion between the federal and provincial governments to fully utilize and transform the potential of the minerals sector into a value-added commodity for the national economy.

Senator Mohammad Abdul Qadir, the bill's mover, noted that despite the country's vast mineral reserves, a lack of coordination between federal and provincial governments has hindered their full benefit.

Secretary Petroleum Momin Agha apprised the Committee that the ministry is working on the "Har-

monization of Minerals Laws" with the provinces, with the implementation plan expected to be finalized by the end of September 2024. The Committee was briefed on the roles and functions of the ministry and its attached departments. Secretary Petroleum Division Momin Agha informed the Committee that thirteen companies fall under the ministry's ambit.

The ministry's primary role is to facilitate collaboration between these companies to meet the country's oil and gas demand and to oversee their affairs, formulating policies for their smooth functioning. The Committee raised objections over the prolonged vacancy of the Managing Director (MD) position at OGDCL and directed the provision of details on vacant MD and Board of

Directors (BoD) positions in these companies.

The Committee was informed about the current usage and demand for oil and gas in the country.

The Director General (DG) Gas reported that the country's daily consumption of gas and oil is around 3,200 MM CFT and 7,000 million barrels, respectively. However, the total reserves of oil are approximately 192.93 million barrels, and gas reserves are about 18,108.77 BCF.

According to the 2023-24 data (as of May 2024), Sindh holds the highest share of gas at 64%, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has a 42% share in oil. Secretary Petroleum Division Momin Agha highlighted that of the total 3,200 MM CFT of gas, 200 MM CFT is used for production.

## Governor visits residence of late Rahim Kakar; offers fateha for departed soul

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail visited the residence of late uncle of leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Member National Assembly, Rahim Shah Abdullah Zai Kakar in Zhob on Tuesday.

The Provincial Ministers Mir Asim Kurd and Noor Muhammad Dummer were also accompanied by the Governor.

They expressed condolence death of Rahim Shah with the bereaved family and offered fateha for the departed soul.

## Rubaba Buledi says: WDD to provide support to resolve key issues affecting female students of BMC

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Advisor to the Chief Minister of Balochistan for Women Development Department, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi met Principal Bolan Medical College (BMC), Dr. Raza Muhammad Kakar on Tuesday.

During the meeting, several points related to welfare of medical students of the province were discussed.

Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi stated that "Our female medical students are the future of healthcare in

Balochistan. It is imperative that we provide them with a conducive learning environment, adequate facilities, and support to help them thrive. She assured that women development department will provide complete support to resolve key issues affecting Female Medical Students of Balochistan Medical College. Dr. Raza Muhammad Kakar expressed his gratitude to Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi for her unwavering support and dedication to resolve the issues faced by medical students



QUETTA: Principal Bolan Medical College Dr. Raza Muhammad Kakar meeting with Provincial Advisor for Women Development Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi

## NA body informed Spectrum auction for 5G to be completed by March 2025

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunications on Tuesday informed that the Spectrum auction for 5G is under consideration and expected to be completed by March 2025. The Committee, chaired by Syed Amin ul Haq, recommended that the ministry require service providers to ensure proper 5G services in major cities without compromising quality after the auction.

The Committee advised that the ministry incentivize service providers in the 5G spectrum auction and ensure these incen-

tives are properly spent on infrastructure improvements to guarantee uninterrupted 5G services in the country. The Committee also discussed "The Establishment of Telecommunications Appellate Tribunal Bill, 2024" in detail. According to the bill, a tribunal will be established to expedite pending cases in the telecom sector, which are currently delayed in the High Court. Once established, the tribunal will be bound to decide within 90 days. Currently, 71 cases are pending before the High Court and will be transferred to the tribunal upon the bill's passage.



QUETTA: Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Nausherwani and Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani presiding over a joint meeting regarding financial issues of public sector universities