

# Independent

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ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari hosted a state luncheon in the honour of President of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ilham Aliyev, at Aiwan-i-Sadr, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif was also present on the occasion.

## Pakistan, Azerbaijan affirm commitment to expand bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Azerbaijan have affirmed their commitment to further expanding mutually beneficial cooperation in the areas of bilateral interest, especially energy, trade, connectivity, defence, and people-to-people linkages.

These topics were discussed during a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and the visiting President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Friday.

Welcoming President Ilham Aliyev, President Asif Ali Zardari said that both countries enjoyed excellent relations and had a great scope of further improving ties in various areas of mutual interest.

He underlined the need for more regular engagements between the people and businessmen of Pakistan and Azerbaijan to cement bilateral ties.

He highlighted the importance of Gwadar port, suggesting that Central Asian Countries and Azerbaijan could benefit from it for promoting regional trade, connectivity and tourism, besides bringing shared economic prosperity to the region.

President welcomed the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, adding that the MoUs would give a new impetus to bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade, commerce, tourism, mines and minerals, science and technology, law & justice, and culture.

President highlighted that the East had the potential to lead the world towards prosperity. He added that Pakistan wanted to build a sustainable and result-oriented engagement with Central Asian Republics and Azerbaijan.

Speaking on the occasion, President Ilham Aliyev said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoyed a high frequency of people-to-people exchanges and both the countries needed to promote business-to-business relations for enhancing economic relations. He stated that Pakistan and Azerbaijan could also explore the possibility of working together in the renewable energy sector.

Later, the President also hosted a banquet in honour of President Ilham Aliyev and his delegation, which was also attended by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Federal Ministers, parliamentarians, diplomats, and journalists, at the President's House. The President expressed his warm greetings for the people of Azerbaijan and reassured Pakistan's unwavering support for Azerbaijan.

## Major win for PTI as SC rules party eligible for reserved seats

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah announces 8-5 majority verdict, nullifying PHC verdict which upheld ECP's order

ISLAMABAD (APP): A 13-member bench of Supreme Court of Pakistan on Friday declared Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) as eligible for the reserved seats for women and minorities in the national and provincial assemblies. The court nullified the decision of Peshawar High Court (PHC) and notifications of the ECP regarding the reserved seats, and also declared PTI as a political party.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah announced the 8-5 majority verdict of the bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha Malik, Justice Syed Hassan Rizvi, and Justice Irfan Saadat Khan favored the judgment.

A nine-page written order of the top court said: "The impugned judgment dated 25.03.2024 of the high court is set aside. The order of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) dated 01.03.2024 is declared to be ultra vires the Constitution." It further said: "The notifications of various dates, whereby the persons respectively mentioned therein, being the persons identified in the Commission's notification, dated 13th of May, 2024, have been declared to be returned candidates for reserved seats for women and minorities in the national and provincial assemblies, are declared to be ultra vires to the Constitution, without lawful authority and of no legal effect, and are quashed from 6th of May 2024 onwards, being the date an interim order was made by the court in CPLA no. 13289 of 24, the leave petitions out of which the instant appeals arise."

"It is declared that the lack or denial of an election symbol does not in any manner affect the constitutional and legal rights of a political party to participate in an election (whether general or bye) and to field candidates and the Commission is under a constitutional duty to act, and construe and apply all statutory provisions, accordingly." The order said, "It is declared that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was and is a political party, which secured or won (the two terms being interchangeable) general seats in the National and Provincial Assemblies in the General Elections of 2024 as herein after provided."



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Dostan Jamaldini meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

## PM vows to collaborate with provinces for farmers' welfare

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday vowed that after Balochistan, the federal government would also work in collaboration with the governments of Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for the welfare of farmers regarding the conversion of agricultural tube wells to solar energy.

Chairing a meeting on solarization of agriculture tube wells and anti-power theft campaign at the PM House, the prime minister highlighted that solar energy was the cheapest source of producing electricity, therefore promoting the solar energy in the country had become the government's top priority.

The prime minister directed the relevant authorities to prepare a comprehensive strategy after consultation with the provincial governments regarding the conversion of agricultural tube wells to solar energy in the provinces.

In the meeting, the prime minister was told that shifting diesel-powered agricultural tube wells to eco-friendly solar energy would save US\$ 2.7 billion in foreign exchange.

PM Shehbaz also instructed to formulate a comprehensive plan to further improve electricity theft prevention measures.

The prime minister appreciating the provincial governments for their cooperation with the Power Ministry to prevent electricity theft, directed the authorities concerned to present a comprehensive plan to introduce smart metering system in the country.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on solarization of agriculture tubewells and anti-power theft campaign.

## No threat to govt after ruling on reserved seats: Azam Nazeer

Says SIC demanded relief but relief given to PTI which not respondent in case

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Friday said that there was no threat to the government after the decision of apex court regarding reserved seats as it had a clear majority of 209 members in the House.

Addressing a press conference, Azam Nazeer Tarar said that the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) didn't recognize non-Muslims as its members, adding that legal action would be decided in consultation with political parties.

He questioned that what about the condition of Article 51 of the Constitution. The independent members of PTI were on the stance that the reserved seats should be given to the SIC, he said, adding that apparently Article 51 and 106 were re-written, he said. The minister said that they were viewing the contents of the verdict. He said that there was a law exist about the reserved seats and it should have been allocated to the SIC.

He clarified that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was not a party in this case and that independent members of PTI did not approach any forum after winning.

Azam Nazeer Tarar said according to the SIC's manifesto, they should not be allocated minority seats. He added that PTI never claimed that their party should get reserved seats.

## PM directs enhanced security coordination for Ashura

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday to enhance security coordination with provinces, including Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, especially for Youm-e-Ashur during Muharram ul Haram.

In a meeting with the interior minister, who also holds the portfolio of narcotics control, the prime minister issued these directives. They deliberated on the law and order situation throughout Muharram-ul-Haram.

Additionally, they discussed the wider political landscape, interior ministry affairs, and other pertinent matters during the meeting.

## ANP wins Pak-22 Bajaur by-polls

BAJAUR (APP): Awami National Party's candidate Nisar Baz has won by-election for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assembly seat PK-22 Bajaur by securing 11,926 votes. According to unofficial results, in a total of 91 polling stations independent candidate Najeebullah Khan bagged second position.



ISLAMABAD: Pak army patrolling at Constitution Avenue in the Federal Capital.

## UN report Pakistan population to hit over 400 million mark in 2092; to surpass Indonesia in 2048

UNITED NATIONS (APP): A key UN report has placed Pakistan, whose current population is over 245 million, in the group of countries whose population is expected to increase through 2054 and could potentially peak in the second half of the century or later.

According to the current projects in the UN's World Population Prospects 2024 report, Pakistan will reach its peak population in 2092 of 404.68 million people.

It said that Pakistan's population is expected to surpass that of Indonesia in 2048 when it will reach 331.29 million.

Between 1998 and 2017, Pakistan's average population growth rate was 2.40%, the report said. For a population of over 220 million, this is a growth of about 5.28 million people per year.

Pakistan has one of the highest birth rates of 22 births per 1,000 people, it was pointed out. "Very few women use any type of birth control in Pakistan, and the surging population can put too much pressure on water and sanitation systems, result in millions of unemployed people, and overwhelm health and education systems."

Since the year 1947, when the country became a sovereign state, the population of Pakistan has increased significantly, particularly because more and more people felt comfortable moving their families and businesses to the area, the report said.

Compared to the other countries in the region, the growth rate of Pakistan is about 2.1 percent higher, it said.

The report predicted that in about 35 years, if this growth continues, the population of Pakistan will eventually become double of what it was back in 2001.

Judging from how the population has grown significantly over just ten years, this "doubled population" figure does not seem to be far off, it said.

## PTI demands of CEC to step down in backdrop of SC decision on reserved seats

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI while terming Supreme Court (SC) decision in reserved seats case victory of democracy has demanded of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) to step down immediately.

Talking to media men outside SC PTI chairman Barrister Gohar said decision will be remembered in the history for ever. We have got our right.

"We kept on saying our right was robbed. SC made it clear. Those who wanted to erase PTI, they received message."

He went on to say SC full court had given decision based on truth and justice in respect of reserved seats case.

Today is day of jubilation for 250 million people, democratic forces and patriotic Pakistanis, he said adding this decision will be remembered in the history.

He maintained today 11 out of 13 judges gave decision in favor of PTI. Today decision was given by 8-5.

He stressed Election Commission (EC) should implement SC decision forthwith. We hope reserved seats will be given to PTI. Our election which stands halted should be held as soon as possible.

We congratulate Chief Minister KP Ali Amin Gandapur from the core of our heart, he remarked.

He underlined Justice Mansoor Ali Shah read this decision. The way stands blocked what they were going to make amendment now. PTI counsel Suleman Akram Raja has said we have won legal war today. We have to win political war yet. This is the biggest day in the history of Pakistan. The coercers and tyrants who were trying to distribute PTI seats among others consider it spoil had to suffer defeat.

## Reserved Seats: PTI needs to confess mistakes, not malign ECP: Attaullah Tarar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar has said that in issue relating reserved seats in the Parliament, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) needs to confess its mistakes instead of maligning the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). Ironically, it was portrayed that all in the country were guilty except the PTI, he added.

In a statement on Friday in response to the PTI's propaganda against the ECP, he said it was the PTI which failed to hold intra-party election in accordance with the law besides not submitting declaration and party tickets to the concerned.

Attaullah Tarar said that the PTI also failed to join any party which had presence in the Parliament.

"In this case, they did not request to be declared as MNA of the PTI," he added.

The information said that the PTI after all these blunders did not have the right to question the ECP's credibility.

Ironically, it was portrayed that all in the country were guilty except the PTI, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Gohar Ali Khan talking with media persons after the PTI reserved seats case outside supreme court in the Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Fauji Fertilizers Company Pakistan meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti. Senator Danesh Kumar is also present

## Mandokhail calls for launching Umrah flight operation from Qta

QUETTA (APP): Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail on Friday called for launching of Umrah flights operation from the provincial capital Quetta.

In a statement issued here, Governor Balochistan deplored that pilgrims in Balochistan, on account of no direct Umrah flights are forced to go other cities to take flight for Saudi Arabia.

"Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, during his visit to Quetta promised to initiate Umrah flight operation from Quetta, he said adding that the flight operation will help resolve issues facing the pilgrims in Balochistan. Governor Balochistan further urged the PIA authorities to take concrete step in this connection.

## PTI to emerge as largest party in National Assembly after SC ruling on reserved seats

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD: Enjoying a D-Day after the Supreme Court's verdict in the reserved seats case earlier today (Friday), the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is expected to emerge as the largest party in the National Assembly as the number of Imran Khan-led party is likely to soar to 109.

In an unexpected legal victory for the main opposition party, the top court of the country ruled that the party of incarcerated Imran Khan is eligible for the allocation of reserved seats.

The decision has not only paved the way for the PTI's return to parliament, which was kicked out of the February 8 polls owing to the ECP's December 2023 ruling but has also increased the pressure on the coalition alliance by changing the composition of the National Assembly.



QUETTA: Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Duurrani in a group photo with staff during his visit to Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education

## Never said PTI was not a political party: ECP

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) claimed on Friday it never said the PTI was not a political party.

The commission came up with its stance after the Supreme Court announced its verdict in the reserved seats case.

The ECP said the PTI was a political party with its name included in the list of political parties on website. Moreover, it said, the Election Commission had not misconceived any decision.

The Election Commission declared PTI's intra-party election invalid. The PTI went to various forums against it.

In the SC's decision announced on Friday, as many as 39 MNAs are declared to be with the PTI.

The Election Commission sources further said the decision of the ECP had been "upheld". PTI's intra-party elections were not valid, the logical consequence of which was that the bat symbol was withdrawn from it under Section 215 of the Elections Act.



Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Misery and despair

A pervasive gloom darkens the days of almost all working-class Pakistani households. From tea shops to opinion columns in local newspapers, the conversations reflect a growing uneasiness with the status quo.

Meanwhile, on online discussion forums, increasing numbers of desperate mothers post queries for part-time jobs because they are no longer able to meet school fees and household expenses on one pay cheque.

Is a life lived happily and respectfully too much to ask for from your country? Many young citizens seem to believe so. A worryingly high proportion of the demographic wants nothing more than to leave.

Never before has Pakistan been tested with such severity of economic distress, nor has society ever been as demoralised as it appears now.

For starters, the unending political crisis must be resolved urgently. Prolonging it is only exacerbating feelings of despair about the country's future.

This does not mean promises of more motorbikes and laptops: there needs to be a bigger, more forward-looking plan in place that can help absorb millions of new entrants into the workforce in meaningful employment opportunities.

Possible solution

Anwar Kemal

The Russia-Ukraine conflict traces its origins back to the Soviet era when certain districts in eastern and south-eastern Ukraine, most notably Crimea in 1954, were transferred from Russia to Ukraine.

When Mikhail Gorbachev assumed power in 1985, he adopted policies of Glasnost and Perestroika that were meant to rejuvenate the Soviet Union.

Remarkably, it was Russia's president, Boris Yeltsin, who clandestinely orchestrated the Soviet Union's coup de grace in 1991, in concert with the presidents of Ukraine and Belarus.

After the Soviet Union's dissolution, the West extended NATO eastward, expanding it from 16 members in 1999 to 32. President Vladimir Putin regarded NATO's expansion and Ukraine's 2014 Euromaidan nationalist movement, which toppled the pro-Russian president Viktor Yanukovich, as a strategic threat.

Yanukovich, as a strategic threat.

In April 2014, Russia annexed Crimea and backed separatists in eastern Donbas, igniting a low-intensity conflict. A full-scale war erupted in February 2022 when Russia launched an extensive invasion of Ukraine.

Russia currently controls over one-fifth of Ukrainian territory. A hiatus in American aid enabled Russia to advance and further erode Ukraine's military capabilities and infrastructure.

President Putin's recent ceasefire proposal demanded that Ukraine withdraw entirely from Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia, officially abandoning its NATO aspirations.

Ukraine cannot afford to become a hostile outpost bordering Russia's heartland, while Russia must regain Ukraine's trust by respecting its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

for Ukraine as well as additional assistance totalling \$43.3bn. The possibility of escalation between Nato and Russia, each wielding thousands of nuclear weapons, highlights the urgency of finding a just solution.

A solution to the Russia-Ukraine conflict requires both sides to acknowledge that a military solution is neither feasible nor desirable. The Russian demand that Ukraine forgo Nato membership will have to be accepted.

Recognition by the two sides that the exercise of sovereignty is often symbolic may help them understand that their decade-long conflict is not about annexing territory or collecting tribute like medieval monarchs.

The sovereignty issue could be addressed through a formula for shared governance/sovereignty and dual citizenship in certain disputed areas transferred to Ukraine during the Soviet era.

Ukraine cannot afford to become a hostile outpost bordering Russia's heartland, while Russia must regain Ukraine's trust by respecting its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Parents' concern

Zubeida Mustafa

Here comes yet another attempt at kick-starting a public discourse on the most neglected issue in Pakistan: public sector education.

Nearly a dozen speakers have expressed their views on the malaise of 'stagnated' public sector schools in the country.

However, this exercise has so far not produced an answer to a frequently asked question: 'What can civil society do to get the government to put its education house in order?'

Only those in office can undertake this task. All the speakers were eloquent in analysing the problems, and identifying tentative solutions.

Returning to the earlier question of what is to be done, I would suggest the Dr Akhter Hameed Khan approach. Doctor Sahib launched the Orangi Pilot Project in Karachi, based on his faith in the ability and native knowledge of the people, who were its beneficiaries.

First, by denying the masses knowledge and education, the powers that be hope to keep the people ignorant and incapable of thinking critically and developing problem-solving skills.

The second reason for our rulers wanting to maintain the status quo is that it would add to the loot that accrues to so many employed in the sector.

Some honest, hardworking, well-qualified and conscientious people who work within the system but they are, arguably, heavily outnumbered by the corrupt.

The power of money to buy or sell 'privileges' and 'advantages' that are not legally earned is now taken for granted.

Returning to the earlier question of what is to be done, I would suggest the Dr Akhter Hameed Khan approach. Doctor Sahib launched the Orangi Pilot Project in Karachi, based on his faith in the ability and native knowledge of the people, who were its beneficiaries.

leaders who can solve their own problems if facilitated by outside expertise that also understands this philosophy. That is how Orangi's drainage system became a success story narrated all over the world.

In the context of education, it would mean restructuring and expanding the powers of school management committees so that they act as regulatory bodies that give the community a greater say in the future of their children.

Above all, some members of the public, the likes of school adopters, should be invited to join the SMC and play the role of middlemen and use their good offices to mediate in the conflicts that will be inevitable.

The adopters could invest some of their funds in providing extra benefits to the school.

Perhaps they could pay the salaries of one or two teachers who are needed and provide snacks to undernourished children. Some donations for libraries with librarians would also help.

Commerce News

PM directs preparing action plan for PASSCO's privatisation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed the authorities concerned to prepare an action plan for the privatisation of the Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Cooperation (PASSCO).

He said the restructured Wheat Board should include representatives of farmers, Land Information Management System and PASSCO. The prime minister called for taking effective measures to enhance the yield of wheat and other crops.

He asked the relevant authorities to formulate an alternate strategy for restructuring of the Wheat Board.

He said the restructured Wheat Board should include representatives of farmers, Land Information Management System and PASSCO.

The participants of the meeting were briefed about the ToRs and restructuring of the Wheat Board, and also on increasing the crops yield as well as reforms in the PASSCO.

Federal cabinet members including Ahmad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Rana Tanveer Hussain, Attaullah Tarar, and Ali Pervaiz Malik, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Jahanzeb Khan, PM's Coordinator Rana Ehsan Afzal and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.

The meeting approved the restructuring of Wheat Board.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on restructuring of Wheat Board and matters related to PASSCO.



ISLAMABAD: Mr. XU Hangtian, Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of the People's Republic of China called on Federal Minister, Rana Tanveer Hussain.

Shaza, Dr Jack Lau discuss matters of mutual interest

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja and President Qatar Science and Technology Park Dr Jack Lau on Friday discussed matters of mutual interest and regarding start-up ecosystem and innovation.

Shaza Fatima said present government was taking steps for promoting entrepreneurship and innovation in the country.

She said Prime Minister of Pakistan was focused upon equipping youth with latest tech training and their capacity building.

She said youth of Pakistan has great potential and talent, adding that start-ups exchange program can be started between Qatar and Pakistan. Ignite and Qatar Science and Technology Park can jointly work regarding this exchange program.

SBP injects over Rs10 trillion into market

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) injected Rs10,129.3 billion in the market on Friday through Reverse Repo Purchase and Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operation (OMO).

According to OMO results issued her Friday, the SBP conducted Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) on July 12, 2024 for 7-day and 28-day tenors and accepted all the 42 received bids amounting to Rs10,074.3 billion. The central bank received 25 bids for 7-day tenor cumulatively offering an amount of Rs 8,102.75 billion at the rate of return ranging between 20.54 to 20.60 percent.

PSX Inducts Meezan Bank as the First Market Maker for GoP Ijarah Sukuk

KARACHI: Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) is pleased to announce the induction of Meezan Bank as the first market maker for CDS-eligible Government of Pakistan (GoP) Ijarah Sukuk (GIS) issued through primary market auction at PSX. This addition aims to enhance liquidity in the CDS-eligible Government Debt Securities (GDS) market through the quotation of two-way prices and to facilitate secondary market depth of GoP Ijarah Sukuk (GIS).

Since the commencement of GIS auctions through the PSX platform on December 8, 2023, and the subsequent secondary market trading of GIS, there has been a gradual increase in retail investor participation. Meezan Bank's induction as a market maker for GIS marks another milestone in PSX's journey towards becoming a world-class exchange.

Spanish envoy calls on Finance minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Spain to Pakistan Jose A. de Ory Friday called on Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb at Finance Division.

The minister welcomed the Ambassador and discussed the cooperation and longstanding relations between the two countries, said a press release here.

of inflation rates with CPI inflation clocking in at 12.6% in June 2024, and increase in foreign remittances by 7.7% as compared to last year. He also highlighted the successful conclusion of the 9-month Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and apprised about the government's intention to continue with the economic reform agenda under a fund supported medium term program.

Pakistan to send 1000 agriculture graduates to China; Rana Tanveer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Industries, Production and National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain on Friday said Pakistan will send 1,000 agricultural graduates to China for higher education and training, which will focus on specialized skills in agriculture and food security.

The minister said this during a meeting with the Counselor, Embassy of the People's Republic of China XU Hangtian, said a news release. The meeting aimed at finalizing the modalities for sending Pakistani agricultural graduates to China, which was announced during the Prime Minister's recent visit to China.

Rana Tanveer said that the basic objective of the scholarship was to enhance the capabilities and skills of Pakistani graduates in the food and agriculture sectors, and equip them with modern agricultural techniques and technical skills.

PSX loses 48 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Friday shed 48.26 points, a slight negative change of 0.06 percent, closing at 79,944.10 points against 79,992.35 points on the last working day.

A total of 437,315,657 shares were traded during the day as compared to 389,024,310 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 23,484 billion against Rs 20,924 billion on the last trading day.

Around 444 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 155 of them recorded gains and 245 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 44 companies remained unchanged.

Financial news section containing a table with market data and a list of news items in Urdu.



## CM directs establishment of Quran Mahal to preserve old copies of Holy Quran

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has decided to establish a "Quran Mahal" in the provincial capital Peshawar in order to preserve the old copies/pages of the holy Qur'an and directed the Peshawar Development Authority (PDA) to provide a suitable plot for this purpose.

He further directed that the proposed Qur'an Mahal should be a masterpiece of Islamic architecture, adding that the shaheed copies/pages of the holy Qur'an from across the province would be preserved in the above mentioned Quran Mahal.

He was chairing the first meeting of the Auqaf department, held here at Chief Minister's House the other day. Provincial Minister for Auqaf, Adnan Qadri, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Amjad

Ali Khan, Secretary Auqaf and other concerned officials attended the meeting.

On this occasion, the chief minister was briefed about the administrative and financial matters of the department, lease policy of the Auqaf's properties and other important matters.

Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur decided to hold Rehmatul-lil-Alameen (AS) conferences this year in a grand and impressive manner across the province at official level. He directed the quarters concerned to make arrangements for holding these conferences at provincial as well as divisional and district headquarters level throughout the province.

He announced that Rs. 5.00 million would be provided for holding Rahamtu lil Alameen Conference events at the provincial level, whereas Rs. 2.00 million would be

provided to each provincial headquarter for this purpose. Similarly, district headquarters would also be provided with Rs. 1.00 million each to hold such conferences/events.

The chief minister further decided that the Ulema-o-Mashaikh Conference would also be held in the province. He, on this occasion, directed the authorities concerned to identify suitable land for a government graveyard so as to meet the requirements of Peshawar City in this regard.

The meeting also decided the establishment of Assets Management Unit and GIS mapping of the Auqaf properties across the province. Similarly, it was decided to hire a reputable law firm for better follow-up of the cases pending in various courts related to the waqf properties of the Auqaf Department.

## Cabinet committee members visit processions routes, imambargahas

SARGODHA (APP): Provincial Minister and Chairman Cabinet Committee on Law and Order Khawaja Salman Rafiq visited the main procession route and Imambargahs of Sargodha city along with other members of Cabinet Committee.

According to a handout issued here, they met with local peace committee officials, processions organizers and Shia leaders at Imambargah 7-block.

Later talking to the media, Khawaja Salman Rafiq said mobile service would be suspended only in sensitive declared areas on Ashura Day. He said administrations and scholars of all schools of thought are on a one

page.

"Alhamdulillah, Muharram is passing in a peaceful manner," Khawaja Salman Rafiq said.

The minister said there is no problem of law and order in the province and the arrangements for Aushra Muharram are going on according to the rules and regulations.

"Unity among Muslims is the guarantee of our safe future," he added.

Provincial Ministers Mujtaba Shujaur Rehman, Chaudhry Shafay Hussain, Bilal Akbar Khan and Secretary Interior Punjab Noorul Amin Mengal, Commissioner Sargodha Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti.

## 11 dead, 1,298 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least 11 people were killed and 1,298 others injured in 1,266 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 570 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 728 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by rescue medical teams.

The data analysis showed 720 drivers, 58 underage drivers, 148 pedestrians, and 441 passengers were among the victims of road crashes.

The statistics showed that 300 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 320 persons, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by Faisalabad with 108 accidents and 114 victims, and at third Multan with 75 accidents and 66 victims.



LAHORE: People make their way through a flooded road after heavy monsoon rains in the Provincial Capital.

## Minister promises investigations by JIT into mysterious death of woman

MULTAN (APP): Punjab provincial minister announced that he along with WPA Chairperson conveyed their heartfelt condolences to the woman's father and offered Dua for elevation of her stature in the afterlife.

The minister said that case would be thoroughly investigated and disinterment of the grave would be carried out for her post burial post-mortem to collect more evidence.

He said that Punjab government would extend all out support to the family of the deceased woman.

## More tours to be arranged for orphan children: CM aide

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to Chief Minister on Tourism, Culture, Archaeology and Museum Zahid Chanzab said on Friday that more tour trips and training sessions would be arranged for orphan and street children to provide them an opportunity to participate in recreational and healthy activities. "The leadership camp and other healthy activities are providing the best opportunity to these children to learn more about eco-tourism, hone their innate capabilities and become useful part of society and face the present-day challenges effectively," he said in a release issued here Friday.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA) and the Al-Khidmat Foundation (AKF) arranged a five-day tour and leadership camp for the orphan children to the scenic spots in Swat Valley.

## Chinese CG visits Sundus Foundation

LAHORE (APP): Chinese Consul General Lahore Zhao Shirin visited the Thalassemia Center Sundus Foundation here during which he presented a check of 2.3 lakh to the Director of Sundus Foundation Khalid Abbas Dar and assured to provide further support in treatment.

Talking about the visit of Sundus Foundation, Chief Operating Officer Abdul Sattar said that this is the second visit of the Chinese Consul General in 15 days, for which "we are grateful to him". He has promised that including donations, he will help Sundus Foundation in all matters, Sattar added.

## Drug peddler awarded 9-year imprisonment

FAISALABAD (APP): Additional District and Sessions Judge Saqib Farooq Awan has awarded nine year imprisonment and Rs 80,000 fine to a drug peddler, here on Friday. According to the prosecution, Balochni police had arrested a drug pusher, Asif Ali, of Chak 96/R-B red handed with 1.4kg hashish on April 4.

The convict will undergo additional imprisonment if he fails to pay the fine.

## Governor Punjab visits residence of Barrister Mian Amir Hassan

LAHORE (Online): Punjab, Sardar Ali and others were present.

Later, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan visited the residence of Barrister Mian Amir Hassan to attend a Majlis. In the Majlis tragedy of Karbala was discussed. On this occasion tributes were paid to Imam Hussain (peace be upon him) and the martyrs of Karbala. Barrister Amir Hassan, Mian Tariq Sajjad, Dr. Mazhar Iqbal, Engineer Mansoor Hussain, Shahzad Saeed Cheema, Information Secretary of People's Party Central



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan during his visit to residence of Barrister Mian Amir Hassan to attend a Majlis.

## CJ LHC to constitute larger bench Petition against allowing by govt to ISI to tap phone calls of citizens

LAHORE (Online): Justice Farooq Haider of Lahore High Court (LHC) has recommended to constitute larger bench in respect of petition filed against allowing by government to Inter Service Agency (ISI) to tap phone calls of citizens.

Justice Farooq Haider took up for hearing petition filed by former member of assembly Ghulam Sarwar Friday. Justice Farooq Haider sent the petition to Chief Justice (CJ) LHC to constitute larger bench. The court said in its note important points have been raised in the petition. Therefore, larger bench be constituted to hear the case. The federal government step for allowing ISI to tap phone calls of the citizens was challenged in the court.

Prime Minister, federal government and Pakistan Telecommunication have been made respondents in the petition.

The petition said government of Pakistan through a notification has allowed ISI to tap phone calls of the citizens. The PTA act under which this notification has been issued, its rules have not been framed so far.

Constitution of Pakistan ensures privacy and freedom of expression to the citizens.

The petition added as per Indian SC decision tapping phone calls of citizens is violation of the constitution.

## International News

## 60 bodies found in Shujaiya after Israeli assault on Gaza City

**Monitoring Desk**  
GAZA CITY: Residents of Gaza City were trapped in houses and bodies lay uncollected in the streets under an intense new Israeli assault on Thursday, even as Washington pushed for a peace deal at talks in Egypt and Qatar.

The civil defence agency in Gaza said that around 60 bodies have been found in Gaza City's Shujaiya district, devastated by a two-week Israeli offensive.

"Once the Israeli occupation forces withdrew from the Shujaiya neighborhood, civil defence crews, with local residents, managed to recover about 60 martyrs up to now," agency spokesman Mahmud Basal said.

Israel said on Wednesday it had ended its operation against Hamas in the district.

Hamas says a heavy Israeli assault on Gaza City this week could wreck efforts to finally end hostilities just as negotiations have entered the home stretch. In a statement, the Palestinian group said mediators had yet to provide it with updates on the state of the talks since it made concessions last week in response to a US-backed Israeli peace offer.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said the head of Israel's Shin Bet security agency was headed to Cairo for more ceasefire talks. US envoy Brett McGurk was in Israel, where he met Defence Minister Yoav Gallant.

White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said on Thursday that many details still need to be hammered out to secure a deal between Israel and Hamas for a ceasefire

and the release of prisoners.

"There's still miles to go before we close if we are able to close. So I don't want to say that it's immediately around the corner, but it does not have to be far out in the distance if everyone comes in this with the will to get it done," Sullivan told reporters, adding that there has been no change in policy with regard to a US pause of shipment of 2,000 pound bombs to Israel.

Sullivan also said President Joe Biden will soon give an update on the status of ceasefire talks.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said US President Joe Biden and his administration are complicit in Israeli war crimes and violations of international law in the Gaza conflict, and he called for sanctions against Israel.



Displaced Palestinians arrive in Nuseirat, central Gaza Strip.

## Nato boosts Asia ties to counter China

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: Nato leaders on Thursday looked to bolster ties with Asian partners after slamming China as a "decisive enabler" of Russia's war, before holding talks with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky at the end of a summit in Washington. The 32-nation alliance has used the pomp-filled set piece in the US capital to showcase its resolve against Moscow and backing for Kyiv.

The three-day gathering has been overshadowed by political uncertainty in the United States as President Joe Biden fights for his own political survival.

After spending the bulk of the summit focused on bolstering Ukraine, Nato shifted attention eastwards by welcoming the leaders of Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea.

A strongly-worded declaration from Nato released Wednesday called Beijing a "decisive enabler of Russia's war against Ukraine" through its supplies of dual-use goods such as microchips that can help Moscow's military.

China "cannot enable the largest war in Europe in recent history without this negatively impacting its interests and reputation."

## Biden mistakenly introduces Zelensky as Putin at NATO event

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden accidentally introduced Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky as "President Putin" in a gaffe during a signing ceremony on the final day of the Nato summit in Washington DC on Thursday. The blunder will further fuel concerns about his mental acuity after a disastrous debate performance against Donald Trump two weeks ago. It comes just before a press conference that could decide the fate of his reelection bid. US President Joe

## 63 missing after Nepal landslide sweeps two buses into river

**Monitoring Desk**  
CHITWAN: At least 63 people were missing in Nepal on Friday after a landslide triggered by heavy monsoon rains swept two buses off a highway and into a river, authorities said.

Dozens of search and rescue personnel were combed the site for survivors of the accident in the central district of Chitwan, district official Khimananda Bhusal told AFP.

Bhusal said that the buses were carrying at least 66 people between them but three passengers had been able to escape before they crashed into the Trishuli river and were now being treated in hospital.

"We are not sure of the total number because the buses could have picked up others on the road," he said. "The river has swollen and no one else has been found yet."

The accident took place along the Narayanghat-Mugling highway, around 100 kilometres west of the capital Kathmandu early Friday at 3:30am local time.

One bus was heading from the capital Kathmandu to Gaur in Rautahat district in southern Nepal and the other was en route to Kathmandu from southern Birgunj.

A driver was killed in a separate accident on the same road after a boulder hit his bus. He died as he was being treated at a hospital. Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal expressed sadness over the accident in a post on social media platform X. "I direct all agencies of the government, including the home administration, to search for and effectively rescue the passengers," he said.

Deadly crashes are common in the Himalayan republic because of poorly constructed roads, badly maintained vehicles and reckless driving.

## Zelenskyy says to win the war, US needs to lift limits on striking military targets inside Russia

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Thursday embraced the support of allies who have provided substantial new military aid and a path to joining NATO, even as he emphatically pushed for the help to arrive faster and for restrictions to be lifted on the use of U.S. weapons to attack military targets inside Russia.

"If we want to win, if we want to prevail, if we want to save our country and to defend it, we need to lift all the limitations," Zelenskyy said alongside NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg in the final hours of a summit that saw Ukraine receive fresh commitments of weapons and other support to firm up its defense against Russia.

The summit unfolded against the backdrop of a tumultuous American political cycle, with mounting angst among Democrats about President Joe Biden's ability to serve another four years following a shocking debate flop two weeks ago that threw the future of his presidency into doubt.

An untimely verbal flub Thursday evening did little to soothe concerns, when Biden at an event for the unveiling of an agreement called the Ukraine Compact mistakenly introduced Zelenskyy as Russian President Vladimir Putin. Some in the room gasped at Biden's gaffe, which the U.S. president quickly sought to clean up by saying, "President Putin? You're going to beat President Putin," Biden said to Zelenskyy. "I'm so focused on beating Putin, we got to worry about it."

## Finland passes law to block migrants crossing from Russia

**Monitoring Desk**  
HELSINKI: Finland's parliament passed a law on Friday granting border guards the power to block asylum seekers crossing from Russia, after more than 1,300 people arrived in the country, forcing Helsinki to close its border.

Finland has accused neighbouring Russia of weaponising migration by encouraging scores of migrants from countries such as Syria and Somalia to cross the border, an assertion the Kremlin denies.

Helsinki believes Moscow is promoting the crossings in retaliation for Finland joining NATO, which backs Ukraine against Russia's invasion.

The right-wing government of Prime Minister Petteri Orpo has said

the bill is vital to stop future arrivals, despite the law being at odds with its international human rights commitments.

"This is a strong message to Russia, a strong message to our allies, that Finland takes care of its own security, we take care of the security of the EU border," Orpo told a press conference after the vote.

There have been no new arrivals by asylum seekers since March. Finland shut its land borders with Russia late last year.

Finland's move is similar to steps taken in recent years in other European countries, including Poland and Lithuania, to make it more difficult for migrants to cross the border from Russia and Russia-ally Belarus.

## 4 migrants die while attempting to cross the English Channel from northern France

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: Four migrants have died while trying to cross the English Channel on an inflatable boat from France to the U.K., French authorities said Friday.

The migrants' vessel capsized and punctured off the coast of Boulogne-sur-Mer, in northern France, the prefecture responsible for the region said in a statement. Sixty-three people were rescued by the French coast guard.

A French navy patrol boat spotted the overcrowded vessel early Friday as it deflated off the French coast. Several people were "drifting in the water while others were still clinging to the broken rubber dingy," the statement said. Navy vessels, a fishing boat and a Navy helicopter joined the effort.

## Indirect nuclear talks with US ongoing via Oman, says Iranian FM

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Iran is still conducting indirect nuclear talks with the United States via Oman, Iran's Etamad newspaper on Thursday quoted Iran's acting foreign minister as saying. Ali Bagheri Kani's reported comments followed remarks on Monday in which a White House spokesperson said the United States was not ready to resume nuclear talks with Iran under the newly elected president, Masoud Pezeshkian.

"Indirect talks are being conducted through Oman but the negotiation process is confidential and its details cannot be recounted," Bagheri Kani was quoted as saying. Efforts were being made to leave "suitable grounds" for negotiations for the new Iranian government that will take office in the next few weeks. Pezeshkian, a low-profile moderate who won Iran's run-off presidential vote last week.

## Kenya's police chief resigns following criticism over protests

**Monitoring Desk**  
NAIROBI: Kenya's police chief Japhet Koome resigned on Friday following intense criticism of officers' conduct during recent anti-government protests that left at least 39 people dead.

The office of President William Ruto announced Koome's resignation the day after Ruto sacked nearly his entire cabinet, bowing to the demands of protesters.





**Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairs the first meeting of High-Level Committee on the Requirements and Arrangements for the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) Meeting to be held in Islamabad (15-16 October 2024) at Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

## Pakistan urges UN-backed framework to govern cyberspace facing threats from technologies' misuse

UNITED NATIONS (APP): A senior Pakistani diplomat has called for a UN-backed legally-binding comprehensive framework to govern global cyberspace that he said was the common heritage of mankind.

"Threats from ungoverned global cyberspace prompted Pakistan to establish a national position on this critical issue," Ambassador Usman Jadoon, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, said at an event sponsored by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) at UN Headquarters on Thursday.

"Like many countries," he said, "we face significant challenges from the misuse of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)." Cyber-attacks, cyber-terrorism, disinformation campaigns, and attacks on critical infrastructure directly impact regional and global security, the Pakistani envoy said.

Offensive cyber capabilities possessed by certain states and sophisticated hacking tools available to non-state actors have

turned cyberspace into an arena of conflict, he pointed out.

"In given circumstances, Pakistan believes that it's time to create a legally-binding comprehensive framework, under the UN's auspices, to govern global cyberspace," Ambassador Jadoon added.

The unique nature of ICTs, he said, complicates the application of international law in cyberspace as the borderless nature of the internet leads to a fragmented legal landscape, hindering cohesive international cooperation.

## Ahsan proposes four-pronged approach to synergize efforts to achieve sustainable development

BEIJING (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal Friday said that by aligning its national strategies with global objectives, fostering regional and international collaboration, driving innovation, and sharing knowledge, the world community could synergize efforts to achieve sustainable development.

"It is through these collective actions that we will create a future that is prosperous, inclusive, and resilient," he made these remarks while speaking at a panel discussion during the Second High-Level Conference of the Forum on Global Action for Shared Development with the topic Sustainable Development: Continuous Actions for a Better Future.

Ahsan Iqbal proposed a four-pronged approach: Alignment, Collaboration, Innovation and Knowledge Sharing to align national development strategies with regional and global initiatives to exert joint efforts and achieve comprehensive effectiveness.

Explaining his proposals, he said that firstly, aligning national development strategies with regional and global initiatives requires a

shared vision. Each country must tailor its national goals to reflect the broader objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the GDI.

"For Pakistan, this meant embedding the principles of sustainable development into our Vision 2025 framework and our 5Es national economic transformation plan, ensuring that our economic, social, and environmental policies are in harmony with global standards," he added.

He said that the 5Es plan — encompassing Exports, E-Pakistan, Environment & Climate Change, Energy & Infrastructure, and Equity & Empowerment — aims to create a holistic and integrated approach to development.

By focusing on these five pillars, Pakistan is working towards inclusive growth, efficient resource utilization, and environmental sustainability, he added.

For instance, he said: "Our efforts in green energy, particularly the shift towards renewable sources, directly contribute to global climate goals and added, by setting national targets that mirror international commitments, we create a

cohesive and unified front against global challenges."

About the second proposal, he remarked that true synergy is achieved through robust collaboration. Initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Global Development Initiative (GDI) provide excellent examples of how regional and global collaboration can amplify national efforts.

Ahsan Iqbal pointed out that a prime example of this collaboration is the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), adding, the CPEC has significantly contributed to sustainable development in Pakistan by enhancing infrastructure, boosting energy production, and creating economic opportunities. The development of new highways and railways under CPEC has improved connectivity, facilitating trade and economic growth.

Additionally, CPEC projects in renewable energy, such as wind and solar power plants, have increased Pakistan's energy capacity while promoting cleaner, sustainable energy sources.

"We must foster partnerships that transcend borders, encouraging public-private partnerships,



**ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi visiting Markazi Asna Ashri Imam Bargah in G-6.**

## Deputy PM Dar reviews arrangements for SCO CHG to be held on Oct 15-16

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday chaired the first meeting of High-Level Committee on the Requirements and Arrangements for the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) Meeting to be held in Islamabad on 15-16 October 2024.

The committee has been constituted in pursuit of the Prime Minister's directive to ensure hosting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting in Islamabad in a befitting manner.

The committee comprises, as its members, Federal Ministers for Economic Affairs, Interior, Information and Broadcasting, and Secretaries of the Foreign Affairs, Cabinet, and Interior as well as Chairman CDA.

The committee discussed the needs assessment and gave directions to the concerned authorities for making efficient arrangements, in line with SCO practice, Pakistan's international standing, concomitant with Pakistan's traditional hospitality.

The committee members expressed satisfaction at the ongoing preparations. The Deputy PM stressed the need for maintaining the momentum of preparations.

Since becoming full member of SCO in 2017, Pakistan has been actively participating in various SCO formats. As Chair of the SCO CHG, Pakistan will be hosting the 23rd meeting of the CHG in autumn this year.

CHG is the second-highest decision-making body of the SCO.

## Pakistan-Hungary pledge to enhance Parl. cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Friday highlighted the importance of bolstering parliamentary cooperation between Pakistan and Hungary during a meeting with Hungarian Ambassador to Pakistan, Béla Fazekas.

Emphasizing the longstanding friendship between the two nations, Sadiq pointed out their shared commitment to global peace and sustainable development.

He advocated for regular interactions between parliaments, particularly through friendship groups and exchanges of delegations, to facilitate shared learning and collaboration.

## Amir calls for addressing concerns of Afghan refugees

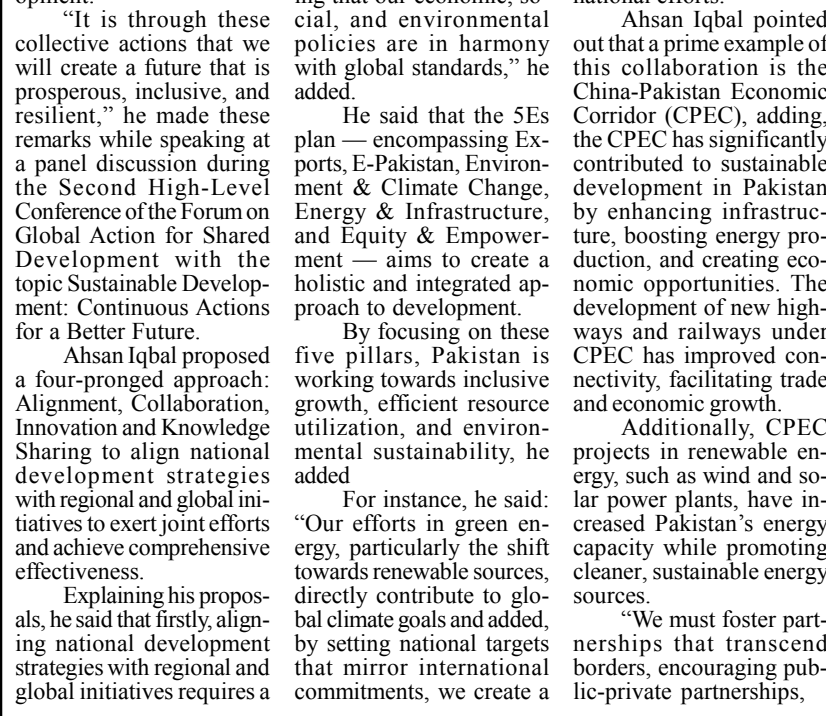
ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for States & Frontier Regions (SAFRON), Engr Amir Muqam on Friday emphasized Pakistan's enduring friendship and cooperative spirit with Afghanistan, particularly in addressing the concerns of Afghan refugees.

The minister in a meeting with Afghanistan's Charge d'Affaires Sardar Ahmed Khan Shakeeb called for strengthening bilateral ties.

Muqam said that Pakistan has extended the stay of Proof of Registration (POR) card holders for one year, recognizing the ongoing humanitarian situation.

The Speaker also stressed the need to expand cooperation beyond parliamentary initiatives, focusing on trade, investment, and education — key areas that could yield mutual benefits. Ambassador Fazekas expressed gratitude for Sadiq's remarks and reaffirmed Hungary's recognition of Pakistan as a vital regional player. He extended an invitation for Speaker Sadiq to lead a parliamentary delegation to Hungary, underscoring Hungary's commitment to strengthening bilateral ties.

The meeting concluded with a mutual pledge to enhance cultural and parliamentary exchanges, setting the stage for deeper collaboration.



**ISLAMABAD: Official delegation of Azerbaijan held session with Federal Ministers, Abdul Aleem Khan, Dr Musaddiq Malik, Jam Kamal Khan and Awais Leghari.**

## Pakistan, Azerbaijan agree to enhance bilateral trade, investment

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the side lines of the visit of the President of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, a high-level official delegation from Azerbaijan held meeting with Federal Minister for Petroleum and Water Resources Dr Musaddiq Malik to enhance bilateral trade and investment. The Azerbaijan side was led by Mr Parviz Shabbazov, Minister for Energy accompanied by Mr Sahib Mammadov, Deputy Minister for Economy, Mr Yusif Abdullayev, Executive Director of Export and Investment Promotion Agency (AZPROMO), Mr Ulvi Mansurov, Executive Director of Azerbaijan Investment Company, Mr Elchin Mammadov, Advisor to the Minister of Digital Development and Transport, Mr. Togral Kocharli, Head of Global

## PTI to convene Awami assembly amidst political uncertainty

LAHORE (INP): In a significant move amidst the ongoing political turmoil, Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has scheduled a crucial meeting of its Awami Assembly members. The gathering is set to take place tomorrow at 11 o'clock outside the Punjab Assembly. Opposition leader Malik Ahmed Khan Bhachar is slated to address the assembly, with the discussion focusing on the strategic response following the recent Supreme Court decision. Additionally, PTI ticket holders, who have declared victory according to Form 45, will be in attendance. This assembly aims to formulate a cohesive plan of action, reflecting the party's stance and future steps in light of the judicial verdict. The meeting is expected to chart the course for PTI's next political maneuvers in Punjab.

## Larger bench recommended on plea challenging decision of phone tapping

LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) has recommended a larger bench formation on a petition challenging federal government decision mandating ISI and other agencies of intercepting phones of citizens.

LHC's Justice Farooq Haider heard the petition filed by former MPA Ghulam Sarwar, remarking that key legal points were raised in the application. The court suggested formation of a larger bench for hearing on this petition.

An application was sent to the LHC chief justice for the formation of a larger bench.

Citizen Fahad Shabbir has filed a petition challenging the notification in

the LHC through Advocate Nadeem Sarwar, making the prime minister, the federal government and the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) respondents.

The petitioner contends that the constitution allows the privacy and freedom of speech to citizens. And phone tapping is a clear-cut violation of the constitution according to the Indian Supreme Court, he argues.



**QUETTA: A delegation of lawyer fraternity led by Advocate Asal Khan meeting with Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail**

## No justification to retain his office by CEC after SC decision: Hafiz Naeem

ISLAMABAD (Online): JI Amir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman while welcoming Supreme Court (SC) decision on the petition of Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) regarding reserved seats has said Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) should now resign and go home.

"This matter should not end here but a Judicial Commission (JC) be constituted and the seats of national and provincial assemblies be returned to those who are entitled to them."

He further said the duality of those parties were exposed due to this decision which were occupying these seats illegally against the democratic opinion and were playing on both sides of wicket.

CEC should resign forthwith because there is no justification for retaining the office by him now after SC decision, he demanded.

## LHC orders immediate release of PTI activist Sanam

LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court has directed the immediate release of PTI activist Sanam Javed, who was detained in connection with the Gujranwala case.

A two-member bench, led by Justice Asjad Javed Gharal, issued a 14-page written ruling on Javed's petition. The court criticized the repeated arrest of Javed as a misuse of the legal system, stating that the continuous detention despite previous releases appeared to be an attempt to undermine the judiciary.

The judgment noted that detention orders were issued by the Deputy Commissioners of Lahore and Gujranwala while Javed was already in custody.



**QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Livestock & Dairy Development Bakht Muhammad Kakar inspecting computer room in Animal Sciences Institute**

## SSGC increases efforts to bring down incidences of Gas Theft, removes 2,890 illegal connections

QUETTA (APP): Sui Southern Gas Company's Security Services and Counter Gas Theft Operations (SS&CGTO) and Customer Relations Department (CRD) teams continue its drive against gas theft, removing illegal connections.

A statement issued by SSGC said on Friday that the teams carried out multiple raids, after working upon survey reports in which they identified the areas where gas theft was being committed and immediately took actions against those involved in this heinous crime. Overall 2,890 illegal gas connections were removed.

A large scale operation as carried out at Al-Emaraat City, Hub, where 2,500 residents were found involved in gas theft. This major operation uncovered the fact that the residents of this city had tampered with the 8" steel high pressure industrial main gas pipeline which was laid in

front of the society.

The raid was jointly carried out by teams of CRD, Distribution and Zonal Manager Balochistan to apprehend the culprits involved in this case. The holes used for tapping into the gas system were sealed by the team and the area is being kept under strict observation and subsequent claims are being raised.

In Karachi, CRD team carried out raids in Federal B. Area, where they removed 142 illegal connections. The residents had extended gas via rubber pipes and were supplying to these households. 07 illegal connections were removed by the team in Ramswami Gardens. Subsequent claims are being raised.

In Quetta, 99 disconnections were made in Cantt and City Zone combined, where the residents had used overhead and underground clamps for accessing gas, illegally through the Company's main supply line. Additionally, another 111 disconnections were made in lower and upper Balochistan for which claims are being raised.

In Larkana 22 illegal connections were disconnected, while in Nawabshah, 5 illegal connections were removed that were involved in gas theft. All rubber pipes, clamps, and materials used for gas theft were taken in custody and FIRs are being lodged against those involved in this crime against which claims are also being raised.

In Hyderabad, 4 disconnections were made in Qasimabad region after receiving a complaint regarding gas theft in SSGC's Khuli Kachehri session held in Hyderabad region.

Gas theft is a serious crime against the community as it hinders the supply to the customers and it can be quite harmful for the residents as even a smallest mistake can lead to damaging results.

## Fazal partially accepts SC decision on reserved seats, extends goodwill to PTI

ISLAMABAD (INP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has stated that his party partially accepts the Supreme Court's decision to allocate reserved seats to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Speaking to the media, Fazlur Rehman commented on the decision to grant reserved seats to the PTI, noting that constitutional and legal experts are the ones who can provide a definitive opinion on the Supreme Court's decision regarding the distribution of reserved seats by the Election Commission.

"Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam partially accepts the Supreme Court's decision and expresses goodwill towards PTI."

"We hope that this decision will help in fostering a positive environment for negotiations to address concern and will be beneficial in improving mutual relations between both the parties," he held.

"We hope that this decision will help in fostering a positive environment for negotiations to address concern and will be beneficial in improving mutual relations between both the parties," he held.

## DC Khuzdar chairs meeting about transfer agricultural tube wells on solar energy

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Khuzdar Muhammad Arif Khan Zarkoon on Friday chaired a meeting regarding the transfer of agricultural tube wells to solar energy.

The meeting was attended by Executive Engineer Operation QESCO Khuzdar Abdul Qayyum Bangulzai, Jhalawan Zamindar Action Committee official Abdul Wahab Ghulmani Eid Muhammad Advocate Abdul Hameed Advocate, Assistant Commissioners and other government officials.

In the meeting, consultations were held on the process of transferring tube wells on solar energy, a program introduced by the federal government and Chief Minister Balochistan.

The meeting was in-

formed that this program was being started by the government to bring more stability in the energy saving agriculture sector and to increase the production of agricultural commodities and provide relief to the farmers.

A comprehensive road-map and strategy are being developed to accelerate the process of converting landowners' tube wells to solar power.

The government and local landowners will continue to work together to make this energy saving program a success, said in the meeting.

The meeting also discussed the importance of tackling electricity theft and the need for alternative energy sources to meet energy needs.

## Massive landslide disrupts commutes in Fort Munro

DG KHAN (APP): Torrential rainfall at Rakhi Gaj located the tribal area of Fort Munro in Koh-e-Suleman caused huge damage across the area, official source informed. The big landslide was witnessed at about 10 km area of Rakhi Gaj, the tribal part of Koh-e-Suleman. The landslide resulted in breakage of huge cliff of mountains that fell off on inter provincial highway, Quetta Road.

The landslide occurred due to the cracking of the mountain, leading to substantial debris falling onto the highway.

According to officials, the highway closure resulted in long vehicle queues on both sides.

Commuters and travellers are experiencing significant disruptions and delays due to the blockage.

The spread of huge boulders at place to place almost came to halt the two-way traffic from Blochiston to Punjab and Fort Munro.



**QUETTA: Activates of Jamat-e-Islami hold protest against price hike.**