

# Independent

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**ERA BUGTI:** A delegation of tribal elites meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

## No one can claim to be Muslim without unconditional faith in Khatam-e-Nabuwat: SC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan in a decision on a criminal review petition No.2/2024 stated that no one can claim to be Muslim until he/she has unconditional faith in 'Khatam-e-Nabuwat' of Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him (PBUH).

It said that the court has clearly stated in the verdict that the both group, which called themselves Ahmadi, are non-Muslims in accordance with Sharia, Constitution and the law.

These groups have no right to spread their beliefs in Muslims at public or private forums. The court has clarified this point while accepting the appeal of the Punjab government, it said.

A press release issued by the top court said that the decision in the criminal

review petition was announced on July 24, and it was written in Urdu language so general public can easily understand it.

It said that the top court has sought guidance from authentic educational institutions and except this, other individuals were also given opportunity to submit written arguments during hearing.

The apex court also viewed the proceeding of Parliamentary Committee and took guidelines from on record statements of committee members including Mufti Mehmood,

Maulana Zafar Ahmed Ansari, Maulana Abdul Haq, Maulana Shah Ahmed Norani, Maulana Abdul Mustafa Azhari, Maulana Syed Muhammad Ali Rizvi, Maulana Saddam Al-Shaheed, Maulana Nematullah, Professor Ghafoor Ahmed and other

scholars. Except this, the writings of Syed Abul Ala Modoodi and others scholars are also viewed, which has been mentioned in the order.

The press release said that the decision has also been in line with the previous judgments of Supreme Court and Federal Shariat Court (FSC). Despite this, the people who didn't appear before the court after provision of repeated opportunities have started baseless allegations and presenting their opinion as more strong over the stance of worthy scholars, which is inappropriate act, it said.

It said that the Constitution gives the right of freedom of expression to the citizens but it cannot be used against immensity of Islam or for damaging the integrity of the country.

Serious threats of terrorism exist in BYC's jalsa in Gwadar:

## CM Bugti extends offer of talks to Dr. Mah Rang Baloch, asserts armed bands wouldn't be allowed to close roads

*She is like our daughters. If she wants to organize jalsa in Turbat or any other city, we would facilitate her, but she must not hold jalsa in Gwadar as she planned on July 28; We can't hand over Red zone to the armed band at all. We allocate Hockey chowk for protest where we would also serve them*

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has extended offer of talks to the leader of Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC), Dr. Mah Rang Baloch and said that she is like our daughters. If she wants to organize jalsa (public meeting) in Turbat or any other city, we would facilitate her, but she must not hold jalsa in Gwadar as she planned on July 28.

The Chief Minister feared that there are serious threats of terrorism in Gwadar jalsa as per the intelligence reports.

He said that we are ready to hold talks with everyone who wants to hold talks with us.

However, we would not allow anyone to close roads and deal with those adopting the course of violence with iron hands.

The Chief Minister was winding up the general debate on law and order situation in the session of Balochistan Assembly on Friday with Speaker, Abdul Khaliq Achakzai in the chair.

The Chief Minister said that the killers of President of Khuzdar Press Club, Maulana Siddique Mengal has been arrested while wholehearted action is being taken for arrest of Aslam Umrani.

He said that we are confronting two types of challenges regarding law and order in the province.

He said that one of the



challenge relates to the crimes of theft, dacoity and robbery, which is not too big issue.

He stressed that we need to depoliticize the police completely. Let, make

Minister told that there would be no interference in the police from now.

The IGP may post any police officer as DPO anywhere he wants, the Chief Minister asked him (IGP), however, he added, the House would hold accountability on your mistakes.

While on the other hand, the Chief Minister maintained that the "RAW" funded organized terrorism is being done.

He said that these terrorists have murdered 4,000 civilians in the province. He suggested to hold another debate against this organized terrorism.

He said that hatred is spread against the security forces on social media to weaken the country.

## Ambreen Jan appointed Federal Secretary Information & Broadcasting

ISLAMABAD (APP): The federal government on Friday appointed Ambreen Jan, a senior officer of the Information Group, Grade 21, as the Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting.

The Cabinet Secretariat's Establishment Division issued a notification confirming Ambreen Jan's appointment to the position of Secretary for Information and Broadcasting.

Prior to this appointment, Ambreen Jan served as the Executive Director General of the External Publicity Wing within the



Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Her appointment was made under Section 10 of the Civil Servants Act, 1973, the notification added.

General debate on law & order situation in BA session:

## Opposition MPAs concerned about law & order situation in various parts of Balochistan

*Ministers Sadiq Umrani, Ali Madad Jatak say steps being taken to establish peace in Balochistan; law & order situation improved than past*

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The members of provincial assembly belonging to the Opposition parties have expressed concern about the law and order situation in the province.

They expressed concern about the law and order situation while participating in the general debate held on the issue during session of assembly on Friday.

The Speaker, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq

Achakzai was in the chair.

While opening debate on the issue of law and order, the Leader of Opposition, Muhammad Younas Aziz Zehri alleged that the Police and CTD violate the chadar and chaar deewari. He said that the killers of our (Jamiat) leader could not be arrested in Khuzdar.

He said that we have always remain peaceful, and demand rights while remaining peaceful.



**QUETTA:** Members of Tehreek-e-Tahafuz Aain-e-Pakistan holding protest demonstration for recovery of missing persons and release of Imran Khan

**Leads protest rally & public meeting of Opposition alliance in Quetta:**

## Achakzai calls for forming national government for three months in country

### Independent Report

QUETTA: President Tehreek Tahafuz Ayeen-e-Pakistan (TTAP) and Chairman Pashtoonkhaw Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), Mehmood Khan Achakzai has stated that our movement is aimed at ensuring rule of people in the country.

He said that we want to make such Pakistan where there is supremacy of parliament and rule of people. We also want to make such Pakistan where there people are free and independent.

He said that we are against terrorism in the country, but would not let

anyone to occupy our resources in the name of any operation. He said that we want hold of the people on the resources of their land. There should be first right of the nationalities on their resources. Mehmood Khan Achakzai was addressing the grand protest public meeting organized by the opposition parties alliance at Bacha Khan Chowk here on Friday evening.

The leaders of different opposition parties including Balochistan National Party, Pashtoonkhaw Milli Awami Party, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf, Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslameen and others participated in the public meeting.

## PM, Tajik envoy discuss regional connectivity projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Tajikistan to Pakistan Sharifzoda Yusuf Toir Friday paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the PM House. The prime minister welcomed the ambassador and wished him a successful tenure in Pakistan.

While fondly recalling his recent visit to Dushanbe earlier this month, the prime minister said he was touched by the warm welcome extended to him and hailed the friendly and productive discussions with President Emomali Rahmon during the visit.

Expressing satisfaction at the MoUs/agreements signed between the two sides during his visit, PM Shehbaz Sharif urged that timely implementation and follow up would help to strengthen bilateral ties even further. He renewed his invitation to President Rahmon to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at

his earliest convenience, while adding that Pakistan was looking forward to Tajikistan's participation in the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting in Islamabad in October this year.

The Tajik Ambassador briefed the prime minister on a number of proposals aimed at enhancing bilateral cooperation in various fields including education, agriculture and defence as well as connectivity through land and air routes.

While noting the proposals, the prime minister tasked relevant ministries to get in touch with the Tajik Ambassador for further discussions. Regional connectivity projects including CASA-1000, also came under discussion. The Tajik Ambassador thanked the prime minister for receiving him, conveyed greetings of his President to him and expressed his country's desire to further enhance its relations with Pakistan.



**QUETTA:** Provincial Secretary Information Imran Khan being briefed by DGPR Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran about record room during his visit of Directorate of Public Relations Balochistan.

## JI announces sit-ins at three locations in Islamabad, Rawalpindi amid crackdown

### Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) has announced sit-ins at three locations in Islamabad and Rawalpindi following the arrest of its workers and road blockages at D-Chowk. JI workers removed containers at Faizabad and opened the route, allowing a convoy to enter Rawalpindi and set up at Liaquat Bagh.

JI's central spokesperson, Qaiser Sharif, stated that due to the arrests and barriers at D-Chowk, JI decided to hold sit-ins at three locations. "We will hold sit-ins at Murree Road in Rawalpindi, Zero Point, and Chungi No. 26," he said.

The sit-in at Murree Road will be led by Amirul Azeem, Deputy Amir Dr Osama Razi, along with provincial and district leadership. JI chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman will lead the sit-in at Zero Point, with Deputy Amir Liaquat Baloch, Mian Muhammad Aslam, and other provincial and Islamabad leaders joining.

These sit-ins will continue until their demands, including the shutdown of IPPs and relief from tax burdens on the salaried class, are met.

## President approves appointment of two ad hoc judges to SC

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has approved the appointment of retired Justices Sardar Tariq Masood and Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhel as ad hoc judges of the Supreme Court of Pakistan for a one year term.

Both judges have previously served on the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Their appointment is made under Article 182 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

## BA adopts resolution about giving status of Tehsil to Killi Karbala

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Balochistan Assembly adopted the resolution about declaring Killi Karbala of Pishin district as Tehsil, here in its session on Friday.

The session of Balochistan Assembly resumed after two-days' break with the Speaker, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai in the chair. The Member Provincial Assembly belonging to Jamiat Ulema-e-Islami (JUI), Syed Zafar Agha tabled the resolution about giving status of Tehsil to Killi Karbala.

Meanwhile, the resolution about regularization of employees of 1122 Rescue in the session.

The joint resolution was tabled by the MPA belonging to JUI, Mir Zabid Reki.

In his resolution, the MPA pointed out that the employees of 1122 have been serving on temporary basis for last five years.

It was also pointed out that the employees of Rescue service have been facing hardships as such they may be regularized.it was decided to table it again.



**QUETTA:** Provincial Ministers, Advisors and MPAs expressing their views during Balochistan Assembly session.

## Govt ready to negotiate with JI for country's development, prosperity: Attaullah Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar on Friday announced the government's readiness to negotiate with the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) on their demand in a bid to end their sit-in causing inconvenience to the general public.

"We are ready to talk for peace, security and development of the country which is the main agenda of our government," the minister said while addressing a news conference along with Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Amir Muqam.

The minister said JI Chief Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman was a seasoned and far-sighted leader whose guidance would be instrumental for the government to address the existing issues within the existing framework.

He said the government was ready to form a three-member committee which would comprise of him, Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Amir Muqam and PML-N Senior Leader Tariq Fazal.

Tarar called upon the JI leadership to sit and guide the government in resolving the issues instead of doing the "politics of agitation".

The JI was given permission only to stage their sit-in at Liaquat Bagh, Rawalpindi, he said, urging them to use only the dedicated place for the purpose.

There was no need to obstructing a public servant in discharge of his/her duty and creating hurdles for the people, he said, regretting one or the other group had made it a routine to swarm the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad that caused traffic issues for the people including patients and professionals.

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## Judicial constraints

There is little wrong with the proposal in principle, even if the timing raises some concerns. During a Wednesday session, the Senate Standing Committee on Law and Justice agreed on the need to increase the number of Supreme Court judges, citing the growing pendency of cases before the apex court.

The law minister suggested that the backlog has grown because judges ignore timelines as they are not accountable for their performance; the committee chair, however, held that the Supreme Court is simply receiving more cases because the number of high court judges has increased, which has sped up the resolution of cases at the lower level, leading to more appeals landing before the apex court. A legislative bill on the matter has been deferred till the committee members can see ‘empirical evidence’ to support their decision, but the committee agrees that the number of judges could be increased at any time through simple legislation.

While the number of cases piling up at the Supreme Court does support the suggestion for inducting more judges, it would have been better if the proposal had come from the judiciary itself. The fact that it is being prescribed by the legislature will be questioned, given the political context. In too many instances, the current government has attempted to bypass challenges to its rule with tailored legislation.

Accountability laws, election laws, laws governing the armed forces and intelligence services, laws affecting the functioning of the judiciary and even laws directly affecting fundamental rights have been tinkered with and changed in the past two years to align with the ruling class’s priorities, often without taking opposition opinions into account. At the same time, key government leaders have taken highly confrontational positions against the judiciary every time a decision has gone against them. The reaction to the recent reserved seats case is a case in point.

This creates doubts regarding the government’s intent. Observers will ask why the authorities are suddenly worried about how many judges there are in the Supreme Court. Does it have something to do with how the bench ruled in the reserved seats case? Some critics will see this as another attempt to pack the court, given how the appointment of ad hoc judges triggered a similar controversy. These are serious questions that the government will not be able to avoid.

Of course, the Judicial Commission of Pakistan will thoroughly vet all new entrants to the Supreme Court, but perhaps it would be best if new inductees are initially tasked with solely clearing the backlog, instead of being assigned to major cases. This would forestall most of the objections that could be raised. Lastly, the judiciary, too, must be invited to give its input on this proposal.

## An unsafe country

**Zubeida Mustafa**

How safe a place is Pakistan for young women? According to the human rights ministry, in the last three years, 63,000 cases of violence against women were reported here. This is a rough estimate as not every case of violence is brought to public notice. In fact, it is just the tip of the iceberg.

A fuller picture of the state of human security in Pakistan emerges from the Trafficking in Persons Report issued annually since 2001 by the US State Department. The 2024 report was released recently. From this document, one learns of the complexity and severity of the problems created by criminal trafficking in Pakistan.

Fundamentally, trafficking violates a victim’s constitutional rights to freedom and to live with dignity in a place of her/his choice. The trafficker’s basic motive is monetary gain. In today’s age of neo-liberalism, trafficking has emerged as a global crime involving a transnational mafia conducting a multibillion-dollar trade reminiscent of the slave trade of yore.

Unfortunately, Pakistan as a source, transit and destination country occupies a strategic position in this heinous business. Its inability — or is it unwillingness? — to check unscrupulous elements sustains the mafia that keeps this sordid trade going. It is a lucrative source of illegal earning for the psychopath. As for the mass majority, poverty, gender inequality and illiteracy are the factors that make them so vulnerable.

For unexplained reasons, not many voices have been raised against this crime against humanity. The numbers affected should jolt our conscience. According to a

modest estimate, nearly 20,000 persons (80 per cent of them women) are trafficked in Pakistan every year. TIP reports from 2017 to 2021 had showed figures rising from 12,000 to 32,000. In 2022, when a kidnapped girl was recovered in Lahore and taken to court, the police spoke of 40,500 girls having been abducted in Punjab alone. For me, even one woman trafficked is one too many.

It is difficult to understand why state and society accept with equanimity a social evil with profound implications for a country that claims to be an Islamic entity, and which impacts our economy, moral fibre and national image.

The latest TIP Report confirms this trend. It informs us that in the investigating period (2023), the government probed 18,461 cases of which 15,022 were of sex trafficking and 3,439 of forced labour. Of these, only 6,178 were prosecuted, with a measly 10 convictions. The 2023 report had revealed a similar pattern of high numbers being investigated, followed by a drop in the number of prosecutions and a scanty lot being convicted. The punishment meted out is not disclosed. It would not be surprising if no one is imprisoned and a fine of only a few hundred thousand is imposed.

How has the government reacted to this annual finger-pointing exercise by Washington? One response was to neutralise the pressure by setting up the National Commission on Human Rights in 2015, which has the mandate to address suo motu cases of human rights violations, create public awareness and conduct research on human rights matters. It also makes recommendations to the government on related

issues. Consequently, Pakistan has amended existing laws and adopted new ones, the most important being the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2018.

The same year, the NCHR published the report The Menace of Trafficking/Smuggling: Pakistan’s Response to the Problem. Well documented, it focuses on the problem in its local setting. The law and order machinery dealing with trafficking problems has also been restructured, with the FIA being assigned to see to the international aspects of trafficking.

The creation of the NCHR notwithstanding, the situation vis-à-vis trafficking in Pakistan continues to be horrendous. No one in official circles talks about it. Hence it is left to the TIPReport to expose the truth.

Year after year, TIP reports have reiterated that Pakistan does not meet the minimum standards in several key areas. Inadequacy, inefficiency and shoddiness in investigation is something we are all familiar with. I have experienced it whenever I have had to deal with the police. What leaves one aghast is the charge of the government being hand in glove with the criminals. TIP 2024 states: “For the fifth year, the government did not take adequate action against credible reports of official complicity in trafficking crimes, which also continued to create a culture of impunity and inhibited anti-trafficking efforts. In Sindh, local officials continued to perpetrate bonded labour with impunity in brick kilns and on farms.” In Pakistan, money can buy a criminal his acquittal and traffickers are multimillionaires. If they also enjoy the blessings of the powers that be then what do they have to worry about? -- Courtesy Dawn

## Mosquito attack

**Naseem Salahuddin**

A distressed colleague called me about what started out as an acute fever, but which progressed, within days, to pain in all the muscles. He was troubled with pain and swelling of almost all the joints of his hands, shoulders, wrists, knees, feet, and back, to the extent that he was unable to get out of bed because of severe, constant pain, “as though somebody had pummelled my body with sticks and stones”. He took analgesics and plenty of fluid and rested in bed, hoping that the awful symptoms would go away, but they continued, week after week. One month into the episode, he could barely sit in a chair or hobble to the bathroom.

This bizarre syndrome is caused by the Chikungunya virus (CHIKV), spread by the same mosquito species called Aedes aegypti, which transmits several other viruses. In 2016 in Pakistan, there was an outbreak of chikungunya when many patients presented with fever, rash, and pain in the muscles and joints; most people recovered quickly to their original state of health, while others suffered the pain for several weeks but ultimately recovered. Chikungunya has made a comeback, but since most viral infections appear alike, it is difficult to diagnose or make a prognosis. In the case of my colleague, the disease was exceptionally severe and protracted, requiring heavy doses of analgesics and even steroids to provide relief.

Dengue hit the news in 2005 when thousands of people of all ages presented with sudden fever and pain in the back and legs. When their blood was

tested, physicians were amazed to find platelets that dropped below average and then scaled back to pre-infection levels over a week or two. Very few progressed to bleeding or shock or required intensive care and platelet transfusions.

We now know four dengue viruses belonging to subgroups (serotypes) 1, 2, 3, and 4. Surprising information evolved: if one has had dengue 1 in the past and later gets dengue with a different serotype, the body’s immune system goes into overdrive, and the outcome can be severe. Over the years, more people are getting infected with other serotypes and suffer more complications, often requiring hospitalisation and blood or platelet transfusions.

In 2015, an unsettling problem was reported in Brazil: many women were delivering babies with small heads (microcephaly). Their blood tests revealed the presence of a virus called ‘Zika’. This was alarming and traced to the mosquito species responsible for carrying the dengue and chikungunya viruses. Zika also presents with fever, headache, body pain, a rash, and red eyes. Most people would not be diagnosed without lab tests since it is not clinically distinguishable, and most recover without complications. However, if a pregnant woman gets Zika, the newborn is likely to be born with a small head (microcephaly), brain defects, or other malformations, and the mother suffers complications of pregnancy.

In Pakistan, lab tests have identified a few patients with Zika; it is not known to what extent it is prevalent at this time, but given the ubiquity of the Aedes

mosquito, rapid air travel, and global warming, it would be no surprise if Zika, too, rears its head. Pakistan, with a high burden of mosquitoes, coupled with an exceptionally high birth rate, will be significantly affected by children born with congenital defects.

While chikungunya, dengue and Zika all present with similar symptoms, only blood tests reveal the true nature of the infection. Treatment for all three remains supportive with fluids, temperature control, and rest. If complications ensue, they should be managed by experienced physicians.

Clouds of mosquitoes buzz overhead, but only the bite of a female mosquito is responsible for these infections. The male lives only to procreate. The long-legged, black-and-white striped creature looks for its prey at sundown; its sharp lance pierces the skin to inject virus-laden secretions and sucks up blood. If the victim’s blood contains the virus, the mosquito reinjects it into the next victim. The deed accomplished, the female flies to find a clean haven of water, lay eggs that hatch over a week or more, and restart the cycle of life. The hardy eggs can survive dryness, humidity, and extremes of temperature.

As our population carries the burden of numerous other infectious diseases, these viruses add another bane to the health of our hapless citizens. Citizens must protect themselves against mosquitoes, but environmental cleanliness alone can save us from these and many other public health diseases. Once again, our misgovernance is responsible for the profusion of such nasty flying creatures. -- Courtesy Dawn

# Commerce News

## Commerce minister highlights significant contributions of ECO

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Friday underscored Pakistan’s commitment to the ECO, highlighting its significant contributions to the organization’s initiatives.

In a pivotal meeting held in Islamabad, ECO Secretary General Ambassador Khusrav Noziri met with Pakistani Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan to discuss regional trade dynamics and the future direction of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), said a press release

issued here.

During the meeting, Minister Jam Kamal Khan lauded Ambassador Noziri for his exceptional service to the ECO and expressed confidence that his successor, Ambassador Asad Majeed Khan, would continue to advance the organization’s activities.

Noziri provided an overview of ECO’s recent activities and emphasized the ongoing reforms aimed at enhancing the organization’s regional and global influence.

He expressed optimism that these reforms would continue under the new Secretary

General, strengthening the organization’s impact.

The discussion focused on strategies to boost intra-regional trade and enhance connectivity among member states.

Both sides reviewed the progress of ECO-Vision 2025, which was adopted during the 13<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit in Islamabad in 2017.

Minister Khan highlighted Pakistan’s visa-free policy for 126 countries as a model to enhance trade cooperation globally and suggested a similar ECO Visa policy to facilitate trade among member states.

### Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Six Ships, Maersk Cairo, ONE Modern, MSC Positano, Seaspan Ganges, Silver Valerie and Bolan carrying Container, Palm oil and Mogas, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminals and FOTCO oil Terminal respectively on Thursday.

Meanwhile another ship ‘Sea Luck-III’ scheduled to load/offload Condensed is also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim on same day.

A total of eleven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, Maersk Cairo, ONE Modern and Fisher left the port on today morning while two more ships, Seaspan Ganges and Bolan are expected to sail on today afternoon.

Cargo volume of 152,463 tonnes, comprising 95,995 tonnes imports cargo and 56,468 tonnes export cargo carried in 5,541 Containers (3,130 TEUs Imports & 2,411 TEUs Export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain launched PCI - POWERCHINA SEZ Policy Report.

### NA body told

## Land of PSM to be used for establishment of SEZs

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Standing Committee on Industries & Production on Friday was informed 19,000 acres of the land of Pakistan Still Mills (PSM) would be utilized for the establishment of Special Economic Zone (SEZs) for the industrial development in the country.

The committee met here under the chairmanship of Syed Hafeez ud Din, which was briefed by the Federal

Secretary Ministry of Industries about working and performance of the ministry and its attached departments, said a press release.

While briefing about the PSM, the Secretary said that in the meetings of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) decided to declare the PSM as scrap as it was nearly impossible to revive the PSM with existing infrastructure and out-dated technology however,

they further decided that the 19,000 acres land of PSM would be utilized for establishment of SEZs.

He further said that two SEZs of 500 and 700 acres of land was established respectively and on the request of Chief Minister, Sindh the 700 acres additional land was allocated to the provincial government for the re-establishment of state of art steel mill with modern technology and infrastructure.

## No proper assessment made in PPA’s with IPPs: President PBF

KARACHI (INP): President Pakistan Business Forum (PBF), Khawaja Mehboob ur Rehman has said that no proper consideration of the potential consequences was made in the power purchase agreements (PPAs) with Independent Electricity Producers (IEPs) creating economic problems for both the countrymen and industry.

Addressing the business community in South Punjab, the PBF President highlighted the

absence of unbiased consultant services and the necessary professional or technical knowledge to effectively handle the substantial number of IPPs. These contracts mandate the procurement of a set minimum quantity of power from the IPPs. If you look into Chinese IPP only, the payables touching almost \$2 billion dollars and the government is contemplating finalizing a schedule of payments to Chinese Independent Power Producers.

### Gold rates up by Rs.1,000 per tola to Rs.251,500

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of per tola of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.1,000 and was sold at Rs. 251,500 on Friday against its sale at Rs. 250,500 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs. 858 to Rs. 215,621 from Rs. 214,763 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold up to Rs. 197,652 from Rs.196,866, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

## Govt taking steps to facilitate business community: Tanveer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for industries and production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Friday said that the government is taking steps to facilitate the business community and common man.

The minister said while talking to a delegation of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) led by its President Atif Ikram Sheikh. He said that the government is setting up special economic zones for investment whereas he stressed that economic development could be

achieved only by increasing exports.

The government is trying to solve the problems faced by the industry, he added.

President FPCCI said that energy prices will have to be brought at par with regional countries. In order to get rid of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and increase domestic exports, we have to go towards industrialization. If the government provides relief in the electricity tariff, the business community can achieve the export target of 60 billion dollars, said Atif Ikram Sheikh.

## Mobilink Bank upgrades treasury operations with AutoSoft Dynamics

### Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan’s leading digital microfinance bank, Mobilink Bank, has brought on board AutoSoft Dynamics, a renowned global provider of core banking and financial application solutions, as a strategic partner to automate their treasury

financial services.

Adil Ali Abbasi, Chief Financial Officer Mobilink Bank, and Bilal Mahmood, M.D. Contour Software & CEO AutoSoft Dynamics formalized the partnership in Islamabad. The signing ceremony was attended by representatives from both organizations.



operations. Under this partnership, AutoSoft will facilitate Mobilink Bank’s seamless integration with the State Bank of Pakistan’s (SBP) PRISM solution through its Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system. This integration ensures secure and instantaneous fund transfers, aligning with the Bank’s commitment to providing premium

Sharing his thoughts at the signing ceremony, Faisal Mahmood, Chief Information Officer, Mobilink Bank, said, “We at Mobilink Bank are continuously working on improving our customer’s experience. Partnering with industry leaders like AutoSoft Dynamics allows us to utilize cutting-edge technology and create a more agile and efficient banking system.”



## Kundi lauds Zardari's contributions to democracy, political harmony

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi in a special message marking the birthday of President Asif Ali Zardari, on Friday lauded his contributions to democracy and political harmony in the country. Faisal Karim Kundi described Asif Ali Zardari as a towering figure in the realm of democratic governance and political reconciliation, noting his significant role after the martyrdom of Benazir

Bhutto. He emphasized that Asif Zardari remains a prominent and challenging figure for those opposed to democracy and Pakistan's stability. According to Governor Faisal Kundi, Zardari's life has been characterized by resilience in the face of difficulties and a steadfast commitment to the stability of democracy and Pakistan.

He praised Asif Ali Zardari for setting a high standard by transferring

powers to the provinces instead of concentrating them, showcasing his dedication to decentralization.

The Governor highlighted Zardari's unique role in promoting Pakistan's stability, fostering regional trade, and upholding the Constitution.

Governor Kundi's message underscores Zardari's influential and enduring impact on Pakistan's political landscape.

## Dr Kalyan Singh says: Collective efforts vital to strengthen Pakistan

LAHORE (APP): The first Pakistani Sikh PhD scholar Professor Dr Kalyan Singh Kalyan said on Friday that it was necessary for all Pakistanis to play their due role in the development and prosperity of the country.

While talking to APP here he said, "Pakistan is my pride and I am happy that I am a Pakistani Sikh."

He further said, "I am Pakistani by choice as in 1947, the majority of Sikh families migrated to India, but our ancestors stayed here." He said that Government College University is a historical and great educational institution, where famous people of the Sikh community studied,

including Prof. Sahib Singh, Mir Singh and others. Sardar Dr. Kalyan Singh said that he had developed a booklet which made the Punjabi Gurmukhi script easy for students to read and learn.

This manual was used in all educational institutions where Punjabi is taught, he added.

Sardar Kalyan Singh Kalyan is the first Sikh professor in Pakistan who is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Punjabi at Government College University Lahore. Sardar Dr Kalyan Singh is also an author and researcher of several books while his research on Punjabi script is part of the syllabus.

## Two died as a mud house collapsed

RAWALPINDI (APP): Two people have died as a mud house collapsed late last night on Thursday in the Misrial Road area. A family was sleeping when the mud roof of the house collapsed, resulting in two people buried under debris.

According to emergency service, Rescue 1122 teams recovered two bodies which were shifted to the hospital after necessary action. The deceased were identified as Sajid 27, and his 7 years old daughter Malaika.

The locals informed that the house was an old-fashioned construction in which mud was used. The single-story building's roof was too weak to hold any extra weight, they said.



LAHORE: Provincial Ministers Khawaja Salman Rafique and Khawaja Imran Nazir addressing the participants of 27th CEOs and MSs conference.

## Apex committee approved demands keeping in view aspirations of people: CM

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Friday said that all the demands presented by Bannu Aman Committee (BAC) have been approved by Provincial Apex Committee.

He was addressing a public gathering in district Bannu. He said that Apex Committee in its meeting thoroughly discussed each and every point of the peace committee and accepted all the demands as per aspirations of the people.

The Chief Minister thanked the people and their leaders for co-

operating with administration in handling the situation arising out of tragic incident in Bannu. He said that the children studying in seminaries are dear to us and steps would be taken for their well being.

CM said that we would not accept any armed group and directed police to take actions against armed people.

Provincial Minister Pakhtunyar, MNA Maulana Naseem Ali Shah, MPA Adnan Wazir and other elders also addressed the public gathering.

## Couple killed as bus hits a motorbike in Chichawatni

ISLAMABAD (APP): A speeding bus crushed a man and his wife to death when they were on their way to market by a motorbike at Kassoal by pass road in Chichawatni on Friday afternoon. According to details, Police sources informed that the bus was traveling when it lost control and hit a motorcycle coming from opposite side, in a result a couple on bike died on the spot, a private news channel reported. A police official said according to some passengers, the bus driver lost control on the vehicle which led to the incident. The police took the driver into custody and shifted bodies to hospital for further morgue for autopsy.

## Rana announces ambitious matric, Inter-tech courses program for 300 schools

ISLAMABAD (APP): "In a major boost to the education sector in Punjab, Provincial Minister for Education Rana Sikandar Hayat Friday unveiled a groundbreaking initiative, announcing the launch of an ambitious Matric, Inter-Tech project to revolutionize the learning experience for students in 300 public schools across the province which will enable them hands-on experience and skill-building in their chosen fields."

Talking to a Private news channel, he said the Matric, Inter-Tech project aims to address the long-standing issue of students

graduating with theoretical knowledge but lacking the practical skills demanded by employers.

To achieve this, the courses will be carefully crafted to integrate theoretical concepts with hands-on training, ensuring students are job-ready upon graduation, he mentioned. "Responding to a question, Provincial Minister for Education clarified that the government does not plan to build new school buildings for the Matric, Inter-Tech project, adding, instead, the existing infrastructure will be optimized by merging 600 to 700 school buildings, creating larger.



PESHAWAR: Members of Salaried Class Alliance are holding protest demonstration against high taxes on salaried class, at Peshawar press club.

## Karachi loses protected mangroves for housing schemes, development projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Amidst Karachi's growing concrete jungle, mangrove forests which protect the city's coastline against cyclones, strong winds, coastal flooding or other climate change induced disasters, face serious threat of destruction.

A recent report by WWF-Pakistan has identified several locations along the Karachi coast where significant tracts of mangroves have been cleared for housing schemes and commercial and industrial projects. The report also highlighted areas where mangrove landscapes were still under threat of mas-

sive deforestation.

It proposed that to stop mangrove destruction along the coastline of Karachi, it is essential to implement strict enforcement of laws and encourage reforestation and natural regeneration programmes. It warned that if preventive measures are not taken in time, existing mangrove areas could potentially be removed or destroyed in the near future.

Using Earth Observation Satellites, Remote Sensing and GIS tools, geospatial experts at the Richard Garstang Conservation Lab at WWF-Pakistan recorded data on man-

grove cover in Karachi over the last two decades. They found that land reclamation and cutting of mangroves for housing schemes and development projects have resulted in the rapid decline of mangrove cover in Karachi.

Based on this report, WWF-Pakistan emphasized the need to prevent the further destruction of mangroves along Karachi's coastline through better planning, effective implementation strategies, and coordinated actions by relevant organizations and departments.

The Sindh Forest Department (SFD) has

been making significant progress in the conservation and management of the mangrove forests in the province. The department planted mangroves on 55,555 hectares along the Sindh coastline, mainly in the Indus Delta, through their ambitious projects between 2020 and 2024.

They also initiated various mangrove reforestation and management programmes in collaboration with WWF-Pakistan and the International Union for Conservation of Nature Pakistan (IUCN). As a result of these efforts, Pakistan's mangrove forest cover has increased

from 1,338.16 km2 in 2016 to 1,573.57 km2 in 2020 [REDD+; Subnational GHG Inventory 2022].

Despite these efforts by the department and mangrove plantation drives by conservation organizations, Pakistan Navy and local communities dwelling in the coastal belt, mangroves are facing significant threats in Karachi. According to the SFD, approximately 200 hectares of mangrove forests along Karachi's coastline were lost between 2010 and 2022. This concerning trend is predominantly driven by land grabbing, residential schemes and development projects.



LAHORE: A delegation of National Women Journalists Forum meeting with Punjab Minister for Transport Bilal Akbar Khan.

## International News

## Trump discusses US wiping Iran 'off the face of the Earth'

WASHINGTON: Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump on Thursday invoked the annihilation of US adversary Iran in a social media post reminiscent of his most incendiary outbursts while in the White House.

"If they do 'assassinate' President Trump, which is always a possibility, I hope that America obliterates Iran, wipes it off the face of the Earth — If that does not happen, American Leaders will be considered 'gutless cowards!' he wrote on his social media platform, Truth Social.

Trump made the remarks alongside a brief video of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu bringing up alleged Iranian plots against Trump in his address to the US Congress on Wednesday.

US media reported last week that the US Secret Service had increased security for Trump weeks ago after authorities learned of an Iranian plot to kill him, although it was not linked to the recent attempt on his life in which a 20-year-old American fired shots during a campaign rally.

CNN reported that US authorities received intelligence from a "human source" on a plan by Tehran targeting the former president, causing protection to be boosted for Trump. Other US outlets also reported the plot.

But it was not connected to the campaign shooting in Butler, Pennsylvania, in which gunman Thomas Matthew Crooks opened fire, lightly wounding Trump and killing a rally attendee, they said.

Relations between Washington and Iran have long been strained and reached a breaking point as Tehran sought revenge for the 2020 killing of Revolutionary Guard commander Qasem Soleimani, ordered by Trump when he was president.

The US National Security Council said it had been "tracking Iranian threats against former Trump administration officials for years."

## France's high-speed railway hit by 'sabotage' during Olympics

PARIS: France's high-speed rail network was hit by "malicious acts" including arson attacks that have disrupted the transport system, train operator SNCF said on Friday, hours before the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics.

A source close to the investigation told AFP that the attacks were coordinated acts of "sabotage". "This is a massive attack on a large scale to paralyse the TGV network," SNCF told AFP, adding that many routes will have to be cancelled.

"SNCF was the victim of several simultaneous malicious acts overnight," the national train operator said, adding that the attacks affected its Atlantic, northern and eastern lines.

"Arson attacks were started to damage our facili-

ties," it said, adding that traffic on the affected lines was "heavily disrupted" and the situation would last through the weekend as repairs are conducted.

Trains were being diverted to different tracks "but we will have to cancel a large number of them", the statement said. The southeastern line was not affected as "a malicious act was foiled".

SNCF urged passengers to postpone their trips and stay away from train stations.

French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal said that security forces are hunting the suspects behind the arson attacks that hobbled the country's high-speed rail network.

"Our intelligence services and law enforcement are mobilised to find and punish the perpetrators of these criminal acts."

## Suspended UK policeman 'assaulted fellow cop's brother'

LONDON: The British Pakistani man who was kicked in the head and stamped on by a police officer at Manchester Airport, has a cyst on his brain, according to the man's lawyer.

Lawyer Akhmed Yakob made this statement outside Rochdale Police Station, following the widespread circulation of footage of the incident from Manchester Airport on social media.

Mr Yakob identified the man as Fahir, who was found to have a cyst on his brain after a CT scan was conducted post-incident. Mr Yakob, who is also representing Fahir's brother Amaad and their elderly mother, stated that Fahir's condition deteriorated overnight.



Former US President and 2024 Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally at the Bojangles Coliseum in Charlotte, North Carolina.

## Humanity suffering from heat epidemic: UN chief

MONITORING DESK UNITED NATIONS: Humanity is suffering from an "extreme heat epidemic," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned on Thursday, calling for action to limit the impacts of heat waves intensified by climate change.

"Billions of people are facing an extreme heat epidemic — wilting under increasingly deadly heat waves, with temperatures topping 50 degrees Celsius around the world," he said. "That's 122 degrees Fahrenheit. And half-way to boiling."

According to the European Copernicus network, July 21, 22 and 23 were the three hottest days ever recorded worldwide, with July 22 holding the absolute record of 17.16°C. Guterres repeated his call for humanity to fight its "addiction" to fossil fuels.

"Today, our focus is on the impact of extreme heat. But let's not forget that there are many other devastating symptoms of the climate crisis: ever-more fierce hurricanes, Floods. Droughts. Wildfires. Rising sea levels. And the list goes on," he said.

## UN calls for probe into crackdown in Bangladesh

MONITORING DESK GENEVA: The UN rights chief called on Thursday on Bangladesh to urgently disclose the details of last week's crackdown on protests amid accounts of "horrific violence", calling for "an impartial, independent and transparent investigation".

"We understand that many people were subjected to violent attacks by groups reportedly affiliated with the Government, and no effort was made to protect them,"

Volker Turk said in a statement. Last week's violence killed at least 193 people including several police officers, according to the source count of victims reported by police and hospitals, in one of the biggest upheavals of Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's 15-year tenure. The unrest was sparked by protests against a public jobs quota scheme that critics say gives preference to allies of Hasina's ruling party.

## US, Brazil to work together on climate partnership, says Yellen

MONITORING DESK RIO DE JANEIRO: The US and Brazilian governments announced a climate partnership agenda on Friday, seeking to deepen ties on an issue they seen as key but treated as secondary by opposition in both countries.

Speaking on the sidelines of a G20 finance leaders meeting in Rio de Janeiro, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said that "advancing work on climate and on nature."

## Fireworks factory blasts set off alert in Sofia

SOFIA (INP): Fire triggered a series of explosions at a fireworks factory that set off a major alert in the Sofia region on Thursday.

An interior ministry official told BNT public television that two people had been injured in the explosions at Elin Pelin on the outskirts of the Bulgarian capital.

Interior Minister Kalin Stoyanov said two or three more workers were reported to have been in the pyrotechnics depots at the time of the blasts.

## Netanyahu, Biden meet for tense ceasefire talks

MONITORING DESK WASHINGTON: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thursday he was ready to work with Joe Biden for the rest of his presidency, as the two leaders met for the first time at the White House for talks on a Gaza ceasefire.

"I want to thank you for the 50 years of public service and 50 years of support for the state of Israel," Netanyahu said after they shook hands in the historic setting of the Oval Office.

"And I look forward to discussing with you today and working with you in the months ahead," Biden stunned the world on Sunday when he announced that he was bowing out of the US presidential election, with Vice President Kamala Harris now set to be the Democratic Party's candidate.

Relations between Biden and Netanyahu are

tense over Israel's conduct in their campaign.

They have met just three times during his presidency, once in September last year in New York, and then when Biden travelled to Israel after the attacks and hugged Netanyahu on the airport tarmac at Tel Aviv.

The meetings came after Netanyahu vowed "total victory" against Hamas in a fiery speech Wednesday to the US Congress. The White House was surrounded by metal barriers and a heavy police presence, after rowdy protests broke out near the Capitol following Netanyahu's speech. Harris on Thursday condemned the "despicable" and "unpatriotic" burning of an American flag by protesters, after attempts by Donald Trump's Republicans to paint Democrats as pro-Hamas.

## US vice president says she 'will not be silent' in face of Gaza suffering

MONITORING DESK WASHINGTON: US Vice President Kamala Harris said on Thursday that she expressed concern about the situation in the Gaza Strip to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during their meeting at the White House.

"I made clear my serious concern about the dire humanitarian situation there, with over 2 million people facing high levels of food insecurity and half a million people facing catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity," Harris told reporters after the closed-door meeting with Netanyahu.

The meeting came a day after Netanyahu addressed a joint session of the US Congress, where he claimed that the conflict in Gaza has "one of the lowest ratios of combatants to non-combatant casualties in the history of urban war-

fare". Harris said that what has happened in Gaza over the past nine months was "devastating".

"The images of dead children and desperate, hungry people fleeing for safety, sometimes displaced for the second, third, or fourth time.

"We cannot look away in the face of these tragedies. We cannot allow ourselves to become numb to the suffering. And I will not be silent," she added.

Earlier, Netanyahu met with US President Joe Biden, who ended his presidential re-election campaign on Sunday and endorsed Harris to replace him as the Democratic presidential candidate.

With her remarks, Harris reflected a major shift in Gaza policy, while urging Netanyahu to reach a ceasefire in the besieged enclave.





Dr Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, Head of the Dawoodi Bohra community, called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Bilawal House, Karachi.

## AI Policy to be presented before Cabinet for approval next month: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday said the final draft of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy would be presented to the Federal Cabinet for approval in August.

Addressing a meeting of the Special Task Force on Artificial Intelligence, he directed the quarters concerned to complete the consultation process with all stakeholders as soon as possible, according to a news release. He highlighted the importance of AI in the modern era, saying "Artificial intelligence is not the future but the present reality in the world," and highlighted it as an essential tool for advancement in multiple fields.

The minister recalled that it was the Pakistan

Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government that established the National Center for Artificial Intelligence in 2017 and the National Task Force on Artificial Intelligence in 2023. "We have created National Centers for Excellence in Advanced Technologies under Vision 2025 and linked each centre to engineering labs in eight to ten universities," he added.

Had these centres not been established on time, Ahsan Iqbal said the country would have been left far behind in this field.

He noted that in the past, inconsistencies in various policies had hindered development activities and the uplift of the national economy. Under a conspiracy, he said, the nation's self-confidence had been eroded, with some elements causing serious damage to

its image abroad, contrary to the true depiction of an intelligent and hardworking nation.

Whenever Pakistan's economic progress began to gain momentum, he said, some elements appeared to obstruct it. Now, he added, with the initiation of the second phase of the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor (CPEC), the "characters of riot and anarchy" were active once again.

During Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to China, the minister said the brotherly country pledged to provide IT training to 200,000 Pakistani youth, equipping them with the skills needed to meet modern challenges.

He said the world was developing rapidly in various aspects of artificial intelligence, and Pakistan has to catch its pace.

## Bugti visits Sohbatpur, condoles death of aunt of Mir Saleem Khosa

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti visited Sohbatpur area on Friday morning.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by the Provincial Ministers Mir Shoaib Nausherwani, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Mir Muhammad Asim Kurd and Parliamentary Secretary, Muhammad Khan Lehri.

During the visit, the Chief Minister and Provincial Ministers visited the Khosa House and condoled with the Provincial Minister, Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa the death of his aunt.

He also offered fatiha for the departed soul. He prayed that may Allah Almighty rest her in peace.

## Nawab Jangez Marri takes oath as MPA in BA

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)-elect Member Provincial Assembly and the chieftain of Marri tribe, Nawab Jangez Marri took oath of the Assembly's membership in the session of Provincial Assembly here on Friday afternoon.

The Speaker Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai administered oath to Nawab Jangez Marri.

It may be mentioned here that Nawab Jangez Marri has been elected as MPA from Kohlu after re-election / polling in different constituencies last month.

aims to create a supportive environment for our female healthcare professionals and improve healthcare services for women across the province". Dr. Rababa Khan Bildi assured that concrete steps would be taken to resolve the problems faced by women doctors, nurses and medical technicians of the province on behalf of the Women's Development Department.

"The health and well-being of our women are paramount. Female doctors, nurses and medical technicians are the backbone of our medical system, and it is crucial that we address their concerns promptly," said Dr. Buledi. She also emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts to enhance the healthcare system in Balochistan.

"This collaboration

## Sardar Ayaz Sadiq says Proactive, inclusive parliament, pivotal for strengthening democracy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Friday said that constitutional and parliamentary supremacy was key to lead country on the path of development and prosperity.

He also said that bridging the gap between parliament and masses would render parliament stronger and more effective.

"Educated and well-aware youth is a catalyst for ensuring prosperity and economic stability" he expressed these views while addressing the Orientation Programme of Interns serving in National Assembly Secretariat at Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS).

Emphasizing the significance of proactive and effective parliament, he deliberated upon initiatives

undertaken during his previous tenure as Speaker National Assembly.

He said that there was no strategy document of National Assembly and All Parties Committee was formulated to prepare a Strategic Plan. As a result, 1st Strategic Plan 2014-2018 for the sustained development and growth of the National Assembly was introduced, he added.

He said it was a holistic programme, which envisioned the development of technical skills like legislative drafting and creation of a well-resourced and efficient parliamentary services corps.

In order to ensure quality legislative process a

Legislative Drafting Council was established to assist Private Members in drafting effective Bills on

various subjects of socio-economic and political significance for the masses, he added.

The Speaker highlighted the contours of "Parliamentary Studies Program" as a top 25 universities of Pakistan signed a declaration to commence parliamentary studies degrees and as of now 17 of them implemented the declaration by offering it.

In addition, diplomas and short courses had also been introduced.

In order to engage the educated youth of Pakistan, around 100 young fresh graduates had been recruited in the Parliament House through Young Parliamentary Associates program to serve in different departments, providing the much-needed research services, he said.



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf addressing the Commissioning Ceremony of Pakistan Navy Ship HUNAIN at Constanta Port, Romania.

## Pakistan Navy Commissions 3rd offshore patrol vessel PNS HUNAIN in Romania

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Navy has commissioned its Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV), PNS HUNAIN at Constanta Port, Romania, where Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Chief of the Defence Staff of Romania General Gheorghita Vlad and Chief of Romanian Navy Vice Admiral Mihai Panait also attended as guests of honour, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

While addressing the ceremony, Chief of the Naval Staff emphasized on the significance of the project and highlighted the additional set of capabilities added to PN sphere of operations with the induction

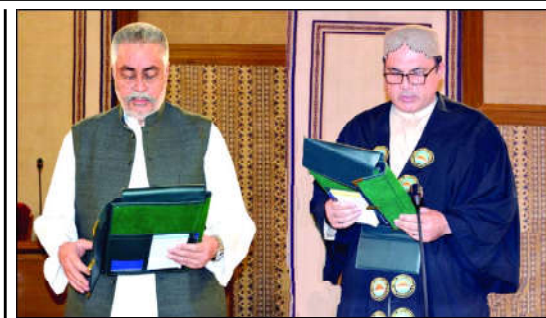
of PNS HUNAIN. He expressed his confidence that induction of these multi-purpose and highly adaptive platforms; equipped with state-of-the-art weapons/ sensors suite, will further enhance PN forward presence and perpetual operational readiness vis-a-vis deployment on Regional Maritime Security Patrols (RMSP) in the Indian Ocean Region.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf commended the exceptional professionalism and dedication of DAMEN Shipyard and expressed confidence in the prospects of future cooperation in delivering cutting-edge technologies to Pakistan Navy.

## Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin calls on President

KARACHI (APP): Head of Dawoodi Bohra community Syedna Mufaddal Saududdin called on President Asif Ali Zardari here at Bilawal House on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, President Asif Ali Zardari said that the Bohra community was playing a significant role in the socio-economic development of Pakistan. The President said that the Bohra community was actively participating in the economy and business sectors of Pakistan. President Zardari said the services of Bohra community in education, health and other sectors are commendable. The President also appreciated the services of Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin for Pakistan in the field of social services.



QUETTA: Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai administering oath to newly elected MPAs Nawab Chaghe Marri

## ADB approves \$400mln flood recovery loan for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Friday approved a \$400 million concessional loan to support the reconstruction of houses and community infrastructure in Pakistan's Sindh province damaged by the devastating floods in 2022.

The Sindh Emergency Housing Reconstruction Project will rehabilitate flood-damaged houses and community infrastructure and support livelihood recovery, with a focus on strengthening communities' resilience against climate change-induced natural hazards, according to an ADB press release received here.

This project is a key part of ADB's multifaceted response to Pakistan's flood crisis and forms part of the bank's commitment to provide \$1.5 billion in

total assistance from 2023 to 2025 to accelerate the country's flood recovery.

"This project will help rebuild homes and communities, and restore livelihood and basic services in Sindh, the province most affected by the devastating 2022 floods," said ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Yevgeny Zhukov.

"It is part of ADB's extensive support to help Pakistan recover from the disaster which affected 33 million people and damaged houses and infrastructure across the nation," Zhukov added.

Sindh province sustained about 83% of the total housing damage inflicted by the 2022 floods, with around 2.1 million houses either fully destroyed or damaged.



QUETTA: DG Health Services Dr. Amin Mandokhail meeting with Advisor to Chief Minister Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi

## CM Balochistan seeks report about shortage of canal water in Naseerabad Division

**Mir Sarfraz Bugti assures to resolve issues being faced by zamindars due to shortage of canal water & otherwise**

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has sought the report of shortage of canal water in Naseerabad Division.

Seeking report from the Commissioner Naseerabad Division, the Chief Minister directed to take prompt measures for resolving the issue of shortage of canal water in the division after reviewing situation.

The Chief Minister was in a meeting with the delegation of zamindars belonging to Naseerabad and Sohbatpur during his visit to Sohbatpur on Friday morning.

The Provincial Ministers Mir Muhammad Sadiq

Umrani, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani, Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa, Mir Muhammad Asim Kurd and Parliamentary Secretary, Muhammad Khan Lehri were also present in the meeting. During the course of meeting, the zamindars apprised the Chief Minister about the shortage of canal water and other issues being faced by them in their areas.

The Provincial Minister, Mir Sadiq Umrani also informed the Chief Minister about the issue of water being faced by zamindars of the area.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister assured that all out efforts to be made to resolve the issues of zamindars.

## NDMA to enhance disaster management, launches disaster alert app

ISLAMABAD (APP): Team Lead Manager at National Disaster Management Authority Zahra Hassan Friday disclosed that NDMA has launched the Pak Disaster Alert App, a ground breaking mobile application designed to enhance community engagement, ensure timely risk mitigation and taking a significant step towards enhancing Pakistan's disaster management capabilities by initiating the adoption of best global practices.

Talking to PTV news channel, she said that this move aims to strengthen the country's resilience against natural and man-made disasters, adding, NDMA has established partnerships with global experts and organizations to leverage their expertise and experience in disaster management.

She added that NDMA is developing SOPs based on international best practices to ensure swift

and effective response to disasters, adding, NDMA is upgrading its early warning systems to incorporate global advancements, enabling timely alerts and evacuations. NDMA also publishing books in various national and regional languages to aware public, she said, adding, NDMA is promoting disaster risk reduction strategies, aligning with global frameworks, to minimize the impact of disasters. Meanwhile Deputy Manager Infrastructure Wing NDMA Mariam Qudsia added that the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of Pakistan has been working towards enhancing its disaster management capabilities and infrastructure development in remote areas. NDMA has launched a material hub for 6 districts of Pakistan to control disaster, which aims to provide a centralized location for storing and distributing disaster-related materials.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan (JI) Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman addressing during Jamaat-e-Islami demonstration against the country's rising inflation, at Islamabad Expressway in the Federal Capital.

## Bad blood between rival Bugti groups leaves five dead in Karachi's Defence

KARACHI (INP): Five people were killed and two others injured when two rival groups of Balochistan's Bugti clan resorted to indiscriminate firing at each other in Defence area of Karachi late Thursday night. According to police, a personal feud between Fahad Bugti group and Ali Haider Bugti triggered the firefight in Khayaban-e-Nishat in Defence area.

Both groups linked to the family of late Balochistan governor Nawab Akbar Bugti. Three deceased belonged to one group and the other two belonged to second group. All the dead and the wounded were cousins. Two nephews of Nawab Akbar Bugti were also among the dead.

The deceased were identified as Mir Mehsam

Bugti, Mir Isa Bugti, Ali Bugti, Fahad Bugti and Naeebullah while the injured were named as Mir Ali Haider Bugti and Qaim Ali who were under treatment at a hospital.

After the blood clash, the police arrested 12 people belonged to both the groups and started interrogating, the sources in police said. Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar took notice of the incident and sought a report from the additional inspector general of police. The minister said nobody was above the law and possible steps would be taken for the establishment of the writ of the law.

The dead and injured were taken to Jinnah Hospital where supporters of both the groups remained present throughout the night.



HUB: Activists of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) are holding protest rally for acceptance of their demands, in Hub.

## Dr. Rubaba Buledi says 22% population of Balochistan access to basic health facilities

QUETTA (APP): Advisor to Chief Minister Balochistan for Women Development Dr. Rababa Khan Buledi on Friday said that only 22 percent of the total population of the province has access to basic health facilities, comprehensive measures would be taken to ensure best health care facilities to the masses.

Director General Balochistan Health Services Dr. Amin Mandokhail met with Adviser Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi.

During the meeting, the discussion focused on the current state of healthcare services and the challenges faced by female healthcare professionals in the province.

Dr. Amin Mandokhail provided a comprehensive overview of the healthcare



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Sadiq Umrani, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Parliamentary Secretary Haji Wali Muhammad Noorzai and MPAs Asghar Ali Tareen and Mir Ghulam Dastagir Badini talking with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti after conclusion of Assembly session

## Shaza announces initiation of legal battle against those involved in making deepfake video of Azma

ISLAMABAD (APP): State Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, announced on Friday the initiation of a legal battle against those involved in making a deepfake video of Provincial Information Minister Azma Bukhari.

Addressing a press conference alongside the Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate

Change, Romina Khurshid Alam, Shaista Pervaiz Malik, and other Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) women leaders, she said that the original video and related information had been obtained.

She expressed gratitude to social media platforms for removing the video and assured that the government would pursue the case with the (FIA) effectively and forcefully.

## Summer vacations extended for 15 days in summer zone of Balochistan

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The Education Department, Government of Balochistan has extended long summer vacations for 15 days in the educational institutions fall in the summer zone of province.

According to an official notification issued here the other day, the summer vacations have been extended in the educational institutions till August 15, 2024.

It may be mentioned here that all the educational institutions were scheduled to reopen on August 1 after

end of the summer vacations.

However, the summer vacations were extended due to the heat wave in summer zone of the province.

It may also be mentioned here that the summer vacations had been started in educational institutions of the summer zone from mid of May this year.

The educational institutions located in the winter zone of Balochistan are already closed in connection with the short summer vacations.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Information Imran Khan being briefed during his visit of Directorate of Public Relations Balochistan. DGPR Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran is also present