

# Independent

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## 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.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar addresses to media persons during press conference, in Islamabad.

## 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 reserved seats should be given to the SIC, he said, adding that apparently Article 51 and 106 were rewritten, 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.



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

### 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 in-



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.

## 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."

## 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-Ashura 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-Harram.

## 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 Najeibullah Khan bagged second position with 10,622 votes, while Abid Khan of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) secured third position by securing 10,593 votes.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad 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.

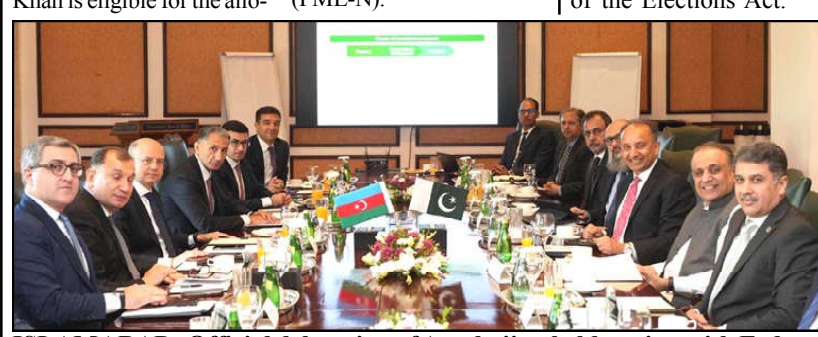
The committee comprises, as its members, Federal Ministers for Economic Affairs, Interior, Information and Broadcasting, and Secretaries of the Foreign Affairs, Cabinet, and Interior as well as Chairman CDA. The committee discussed the needs assessment and gave directions to the concerned authorities for making efficient arrangements, in line with SCO practice.

## 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 allo-

cation 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. With the majority seats of the PTI in the lower house of the legislature, the ruling coalition led by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).



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

## 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 compre-

hensive 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: 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.

## 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. He 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 bloked 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.



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

## 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.

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 abandon its NATO aspirations, and that Western sanctions be lifted.

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, and aiding generously in the reconstruction of its war-torn infrastructure.

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, otherwise there would be zero hope of securing Russian withdrawal from Ukrainian territories, particularly Crimea, which holds substantial strategic and historical significance for Russia.

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. This approach would honour the historical and cultural ties between the two nations, while maintaining Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

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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. It is remarkable how a variety of problems have been addressed to give participants a better understanding of what is going on.

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.

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. His philosophy was that every community has its own

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. For the 28-day tenor 17 bids amounting to Rs1,971.55 billion.

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

Independent Report 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. Aurangzeb emphasized the government commitment to achieve economic stability by increasing tax to Gross Domestic Product.

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 project 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.



# Secretary Planning inaugurates CMT for reliable census data

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives (PD&SI) Awaiz Manzur Sumra on Friday inaugurated the Census Master Trainers (CMT) Training Program to provide reliable, timely, and authentic data crucial for informed decision-making, boosting productivity and exports.

He said this while addressing the inaugural session of Training of Census Master Trainers 7th Agricultural census-2024 orga-

nized by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), said a news release.

The secretary recognized the Agricultural Census team for their pivotal role in the CMT training program, emphasizing the link between agricultural data and policymaking.

He encouraged the CMTs to fully engage in their training to ensure informed decision-making and stressed the need for uniform training delivery to supervisors and enumerators nationwide for effective implementation.

“This training of Census Master Trainers is not merely a preparatory step but a cornerstone in our efforts to gather accurate and timely agricultural data,” he remarked. “The success of the 7th Agricultural Census hinges on the competence and dedication of our trainers and enumerators. It is imperative that the knowledge imparted here today cascades down uniformly, ensuring consistency and reliability in data collection processes,” he added.

He reiterated the government’s commitment to using data for evidence-based policies, particularly in the agricultural sector, where accurate data is vital for planning and implementing development strategies. Dr. Naem uz Zafar, Chief Statistician Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) expressed gratitude to the secretary for his support and highlighted the collaborative efforts of PBS, stakeholders, and the government in advancing the 7th Agricultural Census.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani addressing as chief guest at the certificate awarding ceremony of 35th senior management course at National Institute of Management (NIM).



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan, Parliamentary Leader of PPP, in Senate Senator Sherry Rehman, Ambassador of France to Pakistan Nicolas Galey, Farooq Sattar and others stands in honor of national anthem of both countries during national day ceremony at residence of France Ambassador, in the Federal Capital.

## DG Wafaqi Mohtasib directs Federal Government entities to resolve people’s problems

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Director General, Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat, Muhammad Ashfaq Ahmad and Consultant PR & Media, Khalid Sial, held a Khuli Kutcheri in the Wafaqi Mohtasib Regional Office located at Muzaffarabad, Azad Kashmir under the directions of the Wafaqi Mohtasib, Mr Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi.

These officials listened to the public complaints against Federal Government Entities in Azad Kashmir area and passed on the spot instructions to their officials who were in attendance there.

The Khuli Kutcheri was attended by a very large number of complainants belonging to Muzaffarabad and adjoining areas, who had a lot many complaints against Government Departments like NADRA, Pakistan Posts, BISP, National Savings, NHA and State Life Insurance Corporation.

It was found that most of the complainants are not fully conversant with the procedure being followed the BISP in view of their lower literacy level.

## ICT admin imposes ban on entry some Ulema for fiery speeches

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a bid to maintain peace and security during Muharram, the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has issued a one-month ban on the entry of some Ulema known for their sectarian and fiery speeches.

According to a notification issued here, the district administration, following the District Intelligence Committee’s recommendation, has prohibited the entry of 17 Ulema into the city. This measure aims to prevent any potential unrest during the Muharram observance.

## NDMA’s rain alert cautions for medium level urban, flash flooding & landslides

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) on Friday anticipated that rainfall was expected in various parts of the country over the next 3 days.

The NEOC alert underscored, “If rainfall exceeds 50-100 mm, it may lead to urban/flash flooding in local nullahs and river tributaries.

Likely exposed urban areas include Gujranwala, Lahore, Sialkot and Rawalpindi whereas Galliyat, Kashmir, Kohistan, Mansehra, and Murree are prone to landslide and flash flooding.”

The NDMA has advised PDMA’s and Local Administration to closely monitor the situation and take appropriate measures to safeguard the population at risk.

The public is advised to take preparatory actions including maintaining household drainage systems to prevent water logging. Report any blocked drains or potential hazards to local authorities promptly. People are advised to take caution while travelling to landslide-prone areas. Communities at risk are also advised to follow instructions from local authorities. The public is urged to download NDMA’s ‘Pak NDMA Disaster Alert’ mobile app for timely disaster alerts, guidelines, and precautionary measures.

## Intl day of combating sand & dust storms observed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms was observed on Friday.

According to the United Nations, sand and dust storms have become more frequent and severe in recent years.

## KP Governor visits Chinese embassy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday visited the embassy of People’s Republic of China at Islamabad where he was warmly welcomed by the Chinese ambassador Jiang Zidong.

The Governor while praising the role of China in progress and development of Pakistan said that extension of CPEC route from DI Khan to Balochistan was of paramount importance, which would help achieve the desired objectives. The Governor said DI Khan was the first nearest station to the capital and the new international airport near it under CPEC would help bring far reaching positive results.

He underlined the need for establishment of a new economic zone near the CPEC route that would help enhance trade and business activities in the region.

The Governor said that 34 universities of KP are ready to present its services about teaching Chinese language and underlined the need for awarding special scholarships to students of KP especially of merged tribal districts.

The Governor said relations between the two countries are deep-rooted and time-tested and that nobody could create any crack in it. The Chinese ambassador said that the Pakistan Peoples’ Party and the ruling party of China have deep-rooted cordial relations. Great responsibilities rest on the shoulders of Faisal Karim Kundi after assuming the office of KP Governor following his nomination by PPP for this important constitutional slot.

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi meets Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E Jiang Zaidong at China Embassy.

## ICT admin cracks down against alms seekers; 12 arrested

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a coordinated effort led by the Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad, Assistant Commissioners and Magistrates have launched an operation targeting professional beggars across various areas of the Federal Capital.

According to the spokesman of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration, the operation resulted in the arrest of 12 professional beggars.

The arrests were made by Assistant Commissioners in different jurisdictions.

The Assistant Commissioner for the City area apprehended seven beggars near Jamia Masjid Rumi and Faisal Market.

In the Pothohar area, three beggars were arrested, while the Assistant Commissioner for the Rural area detained two beggars from P.S. Lohibher, Sihala, and nearby areas.

The arrested beggars were taken to the police station. Meanwhile, minors found begging were sent to the Edhi Center for care and rehabilitation.

## AIOU organises Open House 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Department of Computer Science, Allama Iqbal Open University on Friday organized the “Open House 2024,” where final year BS (Computer Science) students showcased their projects addressing societal needs.

A total of 77 students participated, presenting 27 projects. These included a gas leakage detection project, a rural emporium (e-commerce platform), a system for cleaning and protecting wheat from pests, a battery-powered modern wheat harvesting machine, a 3D printing tutor, and a PC driving tutor, among others.

The exhibition was inaugurated by the Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, Professor Dr. Hajra Ahmed. On this occasion, Dr. Hajra inspected all the projects, and the students gave presentations.

## WB Mission commends BISP success in achieving CRISP targets

ISLAMABAD (APP): The World Bank (WB)/Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Implementation Support Mission for the Crisis Resilient Social Protection (CRISP) project highlighted the successful achievement of all targets related to the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).

The mission, visited the BISP office on Friday, was led by Senior Social Protection Specialist Amjad Zafar Khan.

The mission included key participants such as Melis U. Guven (Lead Economist/Co-Task Team Leader) and Zaineb Majoka (Economist), among others.

During the wrap-up meeting with Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme, Senator Rubina Khalid and Secretary BISP Amer Ali Ahmad, the mission presented its findings for the period Jan-June 2024.

Amjad Zafar Khan highlighted the successful achievement of all targets related to various initiatives including innovations to the Social Registry, Biometric Payment Systems, Hybrid Social Protection Schemes, Health and Nutrition Improvement Programs, and School Enrollment Incentives.

He remarked that all targets were met satisfactorily and are on track.

Chairperson Rubina Khalid expressed gratitude to the World Bank mission for their support and assessment of BISP’s performance.

She stressed the importance of creating awareness about new initiatives among beneficiaries and extending outreach at the Union Council level for better communication and mobilization.

## More rain-thundershower likely at various parts of country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast more rain-thundershower associated with windstorm/gusty winds for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, North-East/Central Punjab, Pothohar region, Islamabad, Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and North-East Balochistan during the next 24 hours. Heavyfalls may also occur at isolated places in Kashmir, North-east/Central Punjab, Pothohar region, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and North-east Balochistan.

According to the synoptic situation, monsoon currents from Arabian Sea were penetrating upper/central parts of the country. A trough of westerly wave was affecting upper parts of the country. During the last 24 hours, rain-wind/thundershower with isolated heavyfalls occurred in Islamabad, Pothohar region, northeast/Central Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## IGP Islamabad briefs Red Zone commandos

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi conducted a special briefing for the Red Zone Commandos (RZC) at the Central Police Office Islamabad. DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza and other senior police officers were also present on this occasion.

During the briefing, IGP Islamabad reviewed the performance of the Red Zone Commandos. He issued directives to ensure the safety of important government buildings, offices, national and foreign citizens,

size the critical role of the Red Zone commandos in enhancing security for ambassadors, foreign delegations, embassies, and key public and private offices situated in the red zone, ensuring prompt resolution of any untoward incidents. He reiterated that protecting the lives and property of citizens remains the Islamabad Police’s top priority.

Previously, on special orders from IG Islamabad, a combat refresher course was conducted to enhance the efficiency and professional skills of Red Zone commandos.



IGP Islamabad briefed Red Zone commandos on their duties and the importance of maintaining security in the Red Zone.

## All set to observe ‘Kashmir Martyrs Day’ tomorrow with full solemnity, reverence

ISLAMABAD (APP): All is set to observe 94th ‘Kashmir Martyrs Day’ at both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and rest of the world on Saturday to pay tributes to the martyrs of Jammu & Kashmir especially those 22 valiant sons of the soil who rendered supreme sacrifices of their precious lives 94 years on July 13 in 1931 in front of Central Jail Srinagar raising mutiny against the despotic Dogra maharajah rule.

The historic day is considered to be the foundation stone of the Kashmiris struggle for liberation of the motherland from the clutches of the cruel Hindu Dogra regime.

The tragic day is the milestone in the history of Kashmiris struggle for freedom of the motherland from dogra and later on-going long Indian forced and unlawful occupation

for last 77 years. It was revolt against atrocities on July 13, 1931 when people rose against the autocratic Dogra rule and protested against the prosecution of sympathizer of Kashmir freedom struggle, Abdul Qadeer Khan Ghazi. The people of Jammu & Kashmir e people living at both sides of LoC and rest of the world observe the Kashmir Martyrs Day on July 13 every year with the renewal of the pledge to continue the grand mission of the Kashmiri martyrs through perpetuating the freedom struggle, with full vigor, for the achievement of the birth right of self determination and for the liberation of Illegally occupied Jammu & Kashmir from the tyrannical Indian rule. Special prayer meetings, symposiums will be the hallmark of the day across Azad Jammu & Kashmir as well as at various places in the strife-torn IIOJK.



ISLAMABAD: Governor of Punjab Sardar Salim Haider Khan meet Parliament House Khateeb Mulana Ahmed ur Rehman.

## Girls grab more top positions in SSC Part-II exam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Maintaining the previous trends, girls bagged majority of the top positions in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Part-II 1st Annual Examination 2024 as per the declaration of the result by the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) on Friday.

In the Science group, Zebadia Naseeb from Army Public School, EME College Campus, Rawalpindi secured first position with 1087 marks while Hijab Fatima from Global School System, Rawalpindi Cantt obtained second position with 1085 marks.

The third position as shared by Mossadiq Shabbaz of Army Public School, Golra Campus, Rawalpindi and Fatima Wajid from Fauji Foundation Model School, Morgah Campus, Rawalpindi with 1084 marks.

In Humanities

group, Aqsa Farooq from Future Foundation School, Rawalpindi Cantt secured first position, Onaiza Jalil from DHA Senior School for Girls, Lahore Cantt secured second position and Muhammad Anas from Institute of Islamic Sciences, Islamabad got third position with 1014 marks.

The result was announced during a ceremony held at a local college with Federal Secretary for Education and Professional Training, Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani as a chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion, the Federal Secretary emphasized on equipping students with the latest technology to compete in this digital world.

He said that the present government is taking concrete steps to elevate the standard of education in the public school, making these students as productive citizens.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Nasir Mahmood, chairman senate standing committee on housing and works presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament Lodges.