

# Independent

Member APNS &amp; CPNE

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www.dailyindependent.com.pk Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vol XXV No. 327, Muharram 13, 1446 AH Saturday July 20, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs.15



LORALAI: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a meeting regarding departmental performance and progress on development projects

## Visits Loralai

## CM expresses anger over poor performance of administration

Sarfaraz Bugti expresses displeasure over the poor performance of the administration and issued show-cause notices to four deputy commissioners; suspends the XEN of the Communications and Works Department due to poor performance, also issued orders to suspend absent doctors and teachers

## Independent Report

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan expressed displeasure over the poor performance of the administration during his visit to Loralai and issued show-cause notices to four deputy commissioners. He also ordered the suspension of absent doctors and teachers.

The Chief Minister has also expressed his anger over the poor performance of Teaching Hospital Loralai and other hospitals of Loralai division.

The Chief Minister was chairing high level meeting on the departmental performance of different departments as well as progress of different ongoing development projects in Loralai Division, at Loralai on Friday morning.

The Parliamentary Secretary Mir Barkat Rind, Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan, besides other concerned high ups were present.

During a meeting with all administrative officers,

the Deputy Commissioners of Loralai, Barkhan, and Musa Khel did not have the data of teachers, doctors, and other employees in their areas. The Chief Minister asked the officers about the number of absent employees, which health and education institutions were open or closed in their districts, and what the administration's performance was like. None of the four deputy commissioners could give a satisfactory answer.

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## PM offers Pakistan's support to Oman in dealing with terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday strongly condemned the dastardly terrorist attack on Imam Bargah Ali bin Abu Talib in Wadi Kabir district of Muscat that took place on July 16 and offered Pakistan's support to Oman in elimination of terrorism in all of its forms.

The prime minister, talking to Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman Fahad Sulaiman Khalaf Al Kharusi, who paid a courtesy call on him, appreciated Oman's swift response and cooperation with the Pakistan mission in the repatriation of the dead bodies and treatment of the injured.

The attack on Imam Bargah had resulted in the death of six people, including four Pakistani nationals, and over thirty injured, nearly all of whom were Pakistanis.

The prime minister said Pakistan had itself been the victim of terrorism for the past several decades.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Shehbaz conveyed his good wishes for Sultan Haitham bin Tariq while fondly recalling his telephone conversations with the Sultan on Eid ul Adha as well as Eid ul Fitr earlier in the year.

The prime minister reiterated his invitation to the Sultan of Oman to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience.

On the bilateral front, the prime minister stressed that Pakistan and Oman enjoyed close, brotherly ties with a shared history, faith, and culture. He expressed Pakistan's desire to further strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries, particularly in trade, investment, energy, and defense.

## PML-N, PPP agree to file review petition against PTI reserved seats verdict

## Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) agreed on Friday to file a review petition against the Supreme Court's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) reserved seats verdict.

According to a private tv channel, a meeting was held between the ruling coalition to discuss administrative matters in Punjab, the current political situation, and the government's proposal to ban PTI.

It was decided that further consultations would be held regarding the ban on PTI, and a review petition would be filed against the Supreme Court's verdict.

The PML-N delegation included National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, and Rana Sanaulah.

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## Policeman martyred, two injured in Taktbhahi checkpoint attack

PESHAWAR (APP): A policeman was killed and two others were seriously injured in an attack by miscreants on a police checkpoint in Takt Bhai in Mardan district between Thursday and Friday night.

According to police, the miscreants attacked the police checkpoint at Malakand Raod and fled away.

The dead body of a policeman and two injured policemen were shifted to the hospital while the local police started search operations against the terrorists in the area.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor condemned the attack and expressed sympathy with the victim's families.

## Session of BA summoned on July 23

## Independent Report

QUETTA: The session of Balochistan Assembly is scheduled to be held at 03:00 PM on July 23 here.

According to an official notification issued here by the Provincial Assembly on Friday, the Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has summoned the session of assembly.

As per the schedule, the assembly session would remain continued till August 1.

## SC bench to hear cases in Quetta from July 22

## Independent Report

QUETTA: A two-member bench of the Supreme Court of Pakistan will hear cases related to Supreme Court orders and judgments at the Balochistan High Court and Balochistan Service Tribunal in Quetta from July 22 to 26.

Mr. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail and Mr. Justice Malik Shehzad Ahmed Khan will comprise the bench.

## Israeli presence in occupied Palestinian territory is illegal and must end: ICJ

## Monitoring Desk

THE HAGUE: The United Nations' highest court said on Friday that Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories and settlements there are illegal and should be withdrawn as soon as possible, in its strongest findings to date on the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

The advisory opinion by judges at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), known as the World Court, was not binding but carries weight under international law and may weaken support for Israel.

"Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and the regime associated with them, have been established and are being maintained in violation of international law," President Nawaf Salam said, reading the findings of a 15-judge panel. He said Israel's obligations include paying restitution for harm and "the evacuation of all settlers from existing settlements".

In a swift reaction, Israel's foreign ministry rejected the opinion as "fundamentally wrong" and one-sided, and repeated its stance that a political settlement in the region

can only be reached by negotiations.

"The Jewish nation cannot be an occupier in its own land," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said in a statement.

The opinion also angered West Bank settlers as well as politicians such as Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, whose nationalist religious party is close to the settler movement and who himself lives in a West Bank settlement.

"The answer to The Hague - Sovereignty now" he said in a post on the social media platform X, in an apparent appeal to formally annex the West Bank.

Israel Gantz, head of the Binyamin Regional Council, one of the largest settler councils, said the ICJ opinion was "contrary to the Bible, morality and international law". The ICJ opinion also found that the U.N. Security Council, the General Assembly and all states have an obligation not to recognise the occupation as legal nor "render aid or assistance" toward maintaining Israel's presence in the occupied territories.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman H.E. Fahad Sulaiman Khalaf Al Kharusi called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## Governor stresses need to prepare comprehensive strategy for socio-economic protection of women

## Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stressed the need to prepare comprehensive strategy for socio-economic protection of the womenfolk besides learning them different skills as it is necessary to keep them abreast with the modern world.

The Governor said that seeing the increasing political and economic role of women, one can believe that the present century is the century of women.

He said that 21st century has witnessed remarkable advancement in acquiring the women's rights and powers. He said that the women are posted at key posts at the national and international levels.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor said that the women of Balochistan are very talented and sociable and they are second to none as compared to women of other provinces.

But, they couldn't come forward due to lack of necessary facilities and proper opportunities.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

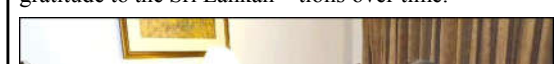
## Pakistani prisoners in Sri Lanka to return home within 7 days: Naqvi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Sri Lankan High Commissioner Admiral (Retd) Ravindra Chandra Srivijay Gunaratne on Friday met Minister of Interior and Narcotics Control, Mohsin Naqvi and discussed issues of mutual interest including the release of Pakistani nationals imprisoned in Sri Lanka.

Both sides agreed to expedite the necessary steps for the release of Pakistani nationals imprisoned in Sri Lanka jails within 7 days. Sri Lanka's High Commissioner, Admiral (Retd) Ravindra Chandra Srivijay Gunaratne assured all possible support in this regard.

In addition to the prisoner repatriation, the meeting also discussed anti-narcotics and border security issues. Naqvi emphasized the need to further develop mutual relations and promote cooperation in counter-narcotics and border security.

Sri Lanka's High Commissioner reiterated the importance of Sri Lanka's relations with Pakistan, highlighting the strengthening of ties between the two nations over time.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Sri Lankan High Commissioner Admiral (R) Ravindra Chandrasiri Wijegunaratne.



ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaulah alongside Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, Islamabad Capital City administration and representatives of Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan addressing a joint news conference.

## TLP ends sit-in after successful dialogues with government

ISLAMABAD (Online): Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) announced to end Faizabad sit-in after successful dialogues with the federal government on Friday.

Addressing a press conference, Adviser to PM on Political Affairs Rana Sanaulah said that the federal government affirmed its commitment to support the people of Palestine against Israeli atrocities.

Faizabad sit-in ended, an agreement was reached between Tehreek-e-Labbaik

Pakistan and the government. According to the agreement, Pakistan will boycott Israeli products, declare the Israeli prime minister as a terrorist and continue to provide ample aid to the oppressed Palestinians in Gaza.

Adviser to the Prime Minister, Rana Sanaulah and Federal Minister of Information Attaullah Tarar signed while Shura member Dr. Muhammad Shafiq Amini and Allama Ghulam Abbas signed on behalf of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan.

## SHO CTD escapes life bid in Pishin

QUETTA (APP): Station House Officer (SHO) of the Counter terrorism Department escaped a life bid when a remote control bomb went off in Pishin district of Balochistan on Friday.

The blast left six persons, including three officials of the CTD injured, police said.

They said that unknown men had placed explosives along the roadside that exploded, leaving three CTD men and three passerby injured.

The injured were rushed to Civil Hospital Pishin for medical aid. SHO CTD Chaudhry Asghar remained unhurt.

## Zhob-Dhana Sar highway restored for all types of traffic

QUETTA (INP): In Balochistan, Zhob-Dhana Sar highway (N-50) has been restored for all types of traffic.

A portion of the highway was affected by heavy rains the other day. According to the spokesperson of NHA, necessary safety measures are being taken in view of the risk of landslide on the highway.

## ECP to implement SC's order in reserved seats case: spokesperson

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday decided to implement the Supreme Court's order in the reserved seats case.

"The Election Commission has decided to implement the decision of the Supreme Court", the ECP spokesperson said in a statement issued here.

The ECP held a meeting to discuss and implement the SC's decision, he said and added that instructions were issued to the legal team of the ECP that if there is any obstacle in the implementation of the Supreme Court's decision,

they should immediately identify it so that the Apex Court can be referred for further guidance.

In response to criticism by a political party, the ECP while condemning and rejecting the act said that the demand for resignation was ridiculous and the Commission would continue to work in accordance with the law and the constitution without any pressure, the statement said.

The spokesperson further said that the ECP did

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QUETTA: View of site after bomb blast on police vehicle, at Band Khushdil Khan road in Pishin area of Balochistan.

## Visits University of Loralai &amp; BRC:

## Provision of higher education to youth included in priorities of Provincial Govt: Chief Minister

## Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that provision of higher education to youth is included in priorities of the provincial government.

The Chief Minister said that several special programmes have been started by the provincial government for providing technical education to youth.

He said that it is unavoidable to get higher education for formation of the healthy society.

The Chief Minister was speaking on occasion of the visit to University of Loralai on Friday.

During the visit, the Chief Minister inaugurated

newly established computer lab in the University of Loralai.

He also inspected the library and different other sections of the University.

The academic and other staff of the University also had meeting with the Chief Minister.

The Vice Chancellor of University of Loralai briefed the Chief Minister about overall it's functioning.

Meanwhile, he visited the Balochistan Residential College Loralai the same day.

The Member Provincial Assembly, Muhammad Khan Toor Utmankhail, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan and other high ups were present.



LORALAI: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti giving away medals to students during his visit to Balochistan Residential College Loralai

### PM Shehbaz summons CCI meeting on Monday

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has summoned a meeting of the Council of Common Interests (CCI) on Monday (July 22) to ponder over key energy projects and issues relating to the power sector. The meeting will be attended by the four chief ministers and the federal ministers, in which CIs will put up issues relating to their provinces in the meeting. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister will raise the issue of dues the Centre owes to his provinces and other incentives.

### CTD arrests Osama bin Laden's security coordinator

LAHORE (APP): The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) arrested on Friday a key figure of proscribed terrorist outfit al-Qaeda, Dr Aminul Haq Muhammad, one of the closest aides of the late al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden. In a statement, the CTD spokesperson said the al-Qaeda leader was arrested from Gujranwala in an Intelligence-Based Operation (IBO), adding that Aminul Haq's name was included in the United Nation's updated list of designated terrorists.



LAHORE: Members of Sawt-ul-Gaza Forum are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, at Lahore press club.

### ECP to implement...

Continued from page 1

not misinterpret any decision and declared intra party election of Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) invalid. The PTI challenged the ECP decision at various fora but its decision was upheld. "Since PTI's intra-party elections were not valid. In the logical consequence of which, the symbol of the 'bat' was withdrawn under Section 215 of the Elections Act. Therefore, blaming the election commission is very inappropriate," the statement further said. The spokesperson said that 39 lawmakers who were declared as PTI MNAs by the court had indicated their affiliation with the party in their nomination papers, adding that it was necessary to submit the party ticket and a declaration to the returning officer (RO) to be a candidate of any party, but the aforementioned candidates had not done so and it was not possible for the ROs to declare them as PTI candidates.

"The 41 candidates who have been declared independent have neither mentioned PTI in their nomination papers nor disclosed the affiliation of the party nor submitted any party ticket. Therefore, the ROs allowed them to participate in the election in an independent capacity," the statement added. The ECP said, "After winning the election, these MNAs voluntarily joined the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) within three days under the law.

### SC not to hear PML-N review plea in reserved seats case for now

ISLAMABAD (INP): A three-judge committee of the Supreme Court, formed under the SC Practice and Procedure Act 2023, has decided by majority vote not to schedule the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) review petition against the court's decision in the reserved seats case immediately, reported a private TV channel quoting sources. The sources indicated that the committee, consisting of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, senior puisne judge Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, and Justice Munib Akhtar, has deferred the proposal to fix the PML-N's petition against the July 12 short order in the reserved seats case.

### CM expresses anger over poor...

Continued from page 1

The Chief Minister expressed displeasure and issued show-cause notices to the four deputy commissioners. He also directed the Secretary of Health to stay in Loralai division for a week and resolve the health issues. During the meeting, the Chief Minister suspended the XEN of the Communications and Works Department due to poor performance and also issued orders to suspend absent doctors and teachers. The Commissioner Loralai, Balach Aziz Khan briefed the meeting about the related matters. He informed about the state of affairs of the health, education, water supply and law and order situation besides the pace of work continued on different development projects in the division. Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister expressed his anger over the poor performance of the teaching hospital Loralai. He was also displeased

### KP demands electricity at Rs 15 per unit

PESHAWAR (INP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Assembly on Friday passed a resolution, asking the federal government to fix the price of electricity in the province at Rs 15 per unit. The resolution was moved by Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC) Fazal Elahi, stating that that electricity is being sold to the public at Rs 70-80 per unit, despite the fact that it costs only Rs 2 to produce. The resolution demanded that the federal government provide electricity to the province at a price of Rs 10 to Rs 15 per unit. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly through a resolution also demanded the centre to end electricity load-shedding in the province. Coincidentally, the power supply was suspended in the assembly hall during the debate on the resolution.

### Glimpses of CM Balochistan's visit of Loralai



#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Waheed Hussain with regards to movable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Masoom Bano citizen number 54400413186 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Nargis (Daughter)2.Waheed Hussain (Son)3.Zahid Hussain (Son)4.Khalid Hussain (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.

INCHARGE SFU NADRA MEGA QUETTA-SFU

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Shah Jahan with regards to movable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Kareem citizen number 54400545627 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Shah Jahan (Brother) 2.Muhammad Rafiq (Son) 3.Nigar Bibi (Sister)4.Gochar Khatoon (Sister)5.Bibi Zohra (Sister)6.Zarina Bibi (Sister) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.

INCHARGE SFU NADRA MEGA QUETTA-SFU

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Biya Bibi with regards to movable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Abdul Samad citizen number 544005419613 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Aliya Bibi (Daughter) 2.Muhammad Hassan (Son) 3.Muhammad Islam (Son) 4.Muhammad Asif (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.

INCHARGE SFU NADRA MEGA QUETTA-SFU

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Owas Khan Tareen with regards to movable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Ashraf citizen number 544006427665 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Samia Ashraf Tareen (Daughter)2.Nafeesa Ashraf (Daughter)3.Abrar Tareen (Son) 4.Owas Khan Tareen (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.

INCHARGE SFU NADRA MEGA QUETTA-SFU

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Ghulam Sarwar with regards to movable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Bagh Bibi citizen number 544003624668 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Bibi Arifa (Daughter)2.Aasma (Daughter)3.Gul Seema (Daughter)4.Ghulam Sarwar (Son)5.Muhammad Anwar (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.

INCHARGE SFU NADRA MEGA QUETTA-SFU

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Ghulam Sarwar with regards to movable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Bagh Bibi citizen number 544003624668 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Bibi Arifa (Daughter)2.Aasma (Daughter)3.Gul Seema (Daughter)4.Ghulam Sarwar (Son)5.Muhammad Anwar (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.

INCHARGE SFU NADRA MEGA QUETTA-SFU

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#### NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

The Chairman Municipal Committee Saranan invites sealed percentage Tender based. Government of Balochistan amended Upto date from interested contractor/firm for the works mentioned below. Tender Fee is Rs.1000/=Earnest Money 2% of Estimated Cost in Shape of Call Deposit.

Sr#	Name of Work	TSE No.
1	Providing And Supplying Of Solar Panel (170 Watt) For Ward No.1,2,3 & 4 Of Municipal Committee Saranan	242507502863
2	Providing And Supplying Of Solar Panel (170 Watt) For Ward No.6,7,8,9 & 10 Of Municipal Committee Saranan	242507502883
3	Providing And Supplying Of Solar Panel (170 Watt) For Ward No.11,12,14,18 Women Member Bibi Tamama & Bibi Fatima Of Municipal Committee Saranan	242507502923

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Eligibility Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 05 August, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 05 August, 2024 till 12:00 PM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 01:00 PM Address: Main Chaman Road Municipal Office Saranan Phone no: 3337866216 Email: aalishan31@gmail.com

#### CHIEF OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE SARANAN

AB No.70/19-07-2024

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

The Office of the Assistant Director Local Govt. Killa Abdullah invites Sealed percentage tender on composite schedule of rate 2023 Government of Balochistan (amended up to date) from interested contractors/firms for the following works under fund PSDP for the year 2024-25 Govt. of Balochistan.

S.No	Name of Scheme	Amount
1	CONST. OF DRAINS AT KILLI SHAH WALI HABIBZAI GULISTAN KILLA ABDULLAH (PSDP.3681.Z2023.2987) TSE-242507503243	10.00 M

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn-over of at least as per schemes estimated cost in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 2,000 PKR with green Challan in NBP Chaman Branch A/C 0005004051384257. Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2024 during office hours on working days. Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2024 till 11:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 AM Address: Office of the Assistant Director Local Govt. Killa Abdullah. Phone no: 0308385084 Email: noorullah0308@gmail.com

#### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LOCAL GOVT. KILLA ABDULLAH

PRQ No.309/19-07-2024

#### TENDER NOTICE

TSE-242507503223 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Chief Officer District Council Khuzdar invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF HOME SOLAR UNITS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN DISTRICT KHUZDAR	32,712,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 22,898,400 PKR Amount in 2 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 2,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 07 August, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 07 August, 2024 till 12:00 PM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 01:00 PM Address: Khuzdar Phone no: 0848920088 Fax no: 848920088 Email: nil@gmail.com

#### CHIEF OFFICER DISTRICT COUNCIL KHUZDAR

AB No.65/19-07-2024

#### درخواستیں مطلوب ہیں

تعمیراتی کام	رقم	بیڈ نمبر	تعداد
پانی کے مٹانے والی مشین	18 لاکھ	B-09	1
پانی کے مٹانے والی مشین	2 لاکھ	B-06	2
پانی کے مٹانے والی مشین	3 لاکھ	B-06	3
پانی کے مٹانے والی مشین	6 لاکھ	B-04	4
پانی کے مٹانے والی مشین	1 لاکھ	B-04	5
پانی کے مٹانے والی مشین	1 لاکھ	B-02	6
پانی کے مٹانے والی مشین	2 لاکھ	B-01	7
پانی کے مٹانے والی مشین	4 لاکھ	B-01	8
پانی کے مٹانے والی مشین	2 لاکھ	B-01	9
پانی کے مٹانے والی مشین	6 لاکھ	B-01	10
پانی کے مٹانے والی مشین	1 لاکھ	B-01	11
پانی کے مٹانے والی مشین	1 لاکھ	B-01	12
پانی کے مٹانے والی مشین	1 لاکھ	B-01	13
پانی کے مٹانے والی مشین	30 لاکھ	B-01	14

نوٹ: (1) درخواست کنندگان کو اپنی شناختی کارڈ اپنی آڈیو ویڈیو کے ساتھ اپنا پورٹ فولیو اور پانچ سالوں کے اندر کے مالی حوالے پیش کرنا ہوں گے۔ (2) امیدوار کی عمر 18 سال سے زیادہ ہونی چاہئے۔ (3) درخواست کنندگان کو اپنی پانچ سالوں کے اندر کے مالی حوالے پیش کرنا ہوں گے۔ (4) درخواست کنندگان کو اپنی شناختی کارڈ اپنی آڈیو ویڈیو کے ساتھ اپنا پورٹ فولیو اور پانچ سالوں کے اندر کے مالی حوالے پیش کرنا ہوں گے۔ (5) درخواست کنندگان کو اپنی شناختی کارڈ اپنی آڈیو ویڈیو کے ساتھ اپنا پورٹ فولیو اور پانچ سالوں کے اندر کے مالی حوالے پیش کرنا ہوں گے۔ (6) درخواست کنندگان کو اپنی شناختی کارڈ اپنی آڈیو ویڈیو کے ساتھ اپنا پورٹ فولیو اور پانچ سالوں کے اندر کے مالی حوالے پیش کرنا ہوں گے۔ (7) درخواست کنندگان کو اپنی شناختی کارڈ اپنی آڈیو ویڈیو کے ساتھ اپنا پورٹ فولیو اور پانچ سالوں کے اندر کے مالی حوالے پیش کرنا ہوں گے۔ (8) درخواست کنندگان کو اپنی شناختی کارڈ اپنی آڈیو ویڈیو کے ساتھ اپنا پورٹ فولیو اور پانچ سالوں کے اندر کے مالی حوالے پیش کرنا ہوں گے۔ (9) درخواست کنندگان کو اپنی شناختی کارڈ اپنی آڈیو ویڈیو کے ساتھ اپنا پورٹ فولیو اور پانچ سالوں کے اندر کے مالی حوالے پیش کرنا ہوں گے۔ (10) درخواست کنندگان کو اپنی شناختی کارڈ اپنی آڈیو ویڈیو کے ساتھ اپنا پورٹ فولیو اور پانچ سالوں کے اندر کے مالی حوالے پیش کرنا ہوں گے۔

#### CHIEF OFFICER DISTRICT COUNCIL KHUZDAR

AB No 79/19-07-2024

PRQ No.310/19-07-2024

## Senator Irfan says SC decision violates Constitution and law

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz senior leader Senator Irfan Siddiqui said apex court's decision allocating reserved seats to PTI is a blatant violation of the Constitution and the law.

"The decision has trampled constitution" he said during a discussion on a tv show.

The PML-N parliamentary leader in the Senate said that after creating a crisis, ambiguity, and confusion in the country, two judges of the court have gone on recreational tours.

This was done so that until their recreational tour is complete, the country, economy, parliament, and election commission remain in limbo, he said.

Senator Siddiqui said that Khawaja Asif spoke about a constitutional meltdown based on his political experience analysis, not as news.

When courts or institutions exceed their predetermined boundaries, the country plunges into crises, he said.

He said that the recent decision of the Supreme Court has no place in the

Constitution and the law, and it should be called a constitutional meltdown.

Taking about electoral reforms, he said the parliamentary committee was formed in 2015, which included PTI. After 118 meetings and PTI's consent, the Election Act 2017 was passed by the Parliament according to which an independent member has to join a party of their choice within three days of taking the oath of the assembly.

After the recent elections, PTI-backed independent members, after submitting affidavits of their choice, joined the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), he said.

"Constitutionally and legally, this exercise (of joining party) was over. But the Supreme Court ruled against the law and the constitution allowing these members to join the PTI," he said.

Whether the Constitution permits a member who has become part of one party to join another party at this juncture? he questioned.

Senator Siddiqui said that the concept of 'total

justice' exceeds the limits of the written Constitution. The concept of total justice is Panchayati (traditional council).

He said that the courts are bound by the Constitution and the law and there is no need for interpretation if the clause of the Constitution is clear.

"Any addition or alteration is like rewriting the Constitution. If the Constitution and the law gave members three days, where did 15 days come from in the Supreme Court's decision?" he said.

In response to a question, he said that without a detailed judgment, a review hearing cannot take place.

Regarding the question of banning PTI, he said that Information Minister Attaullah Tarar is a responsible person and spokesperson and spoke about a decision.

Regardless of whether to ban a party or not, it is necessary to look at Article 17 of the Constitution. A committee of intellectuals should be formed to see what conditions this clause of the Constitution sets for a party, he said.



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Atif Bajwa, President & CEO of Bank Alfalah, and Mr. Yahya Khan, Group Head of Digital Banking, met with Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), at BISP headquarters.

## Kazakhstan SCO chairmanship prompted Shanghai spirit: Speakers

ISLAMABAD (APP): The speakers at a seminar on Friday said the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit hosted by Kazakhstan prompted the Shanghai spirit of multilateralism.

Center for SCO Studies- Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, The Riphah Institute of Public Policy (RIPP), in collaboration with the Embassy of Kazakhstan, hosted a roundtable on "Post Astana Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit 2024: Achievements and Way

Forward." The roundtable provided an in-depth analysis of the outcomes of the SCO Summit 2024 hosted by Kazakhstan in Astana and discussed the future trajectory of the organization under the new chairmanship of the People's Republic of China. The speakers shared valuable insights into the achievements and strategic direction of the SCO.

President, Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, Dr. Farhat Asif highlighted the significance of the event and shared about various initiatives by IPDS

on SCO. Dr. Farhat Asif also shared that Pakistan, as the Chair of the Council of Heads of Government will host the meeting in Islamabad in October. The next chairmanship of SCO is now with the People's Republic of China for 2024-25. While speaking on the occasion, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Yezhan Kistafinmetuculously shared the outcomes of the Astana Summit, the vision, and mission of the President of Kazakhstan during the whole year of Chairmanship of Kazakhstan in SCO.

## Romina lauds UK support for Pakistan's Climate action

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Romina, Khurshid Alam lauded the UK's support for Pakistan's Climate action as the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination and government of United Kingdom have agreed to enhance collaboration to address climate change and environmental issues in Pakistan.

The agreement was reached during a meeting between Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam, and a UK Embassy delegation met her led by Development Director, Jo Moire, on Friday, a news release said.

She said this collaboration marks a significant step forward in the fight against climate change, and both countries are committed to working together to address this global challenge.

Khurshid Alam stressed the importance of bridging civil society, academia, and corporate sectors in both nations to tackle the pressing issues of climate change and environmental degradation. She highlighted the urgent need for tangible actions to mitigate global warming impacts, preemptively address flood risks, and support vulnerable farming communities.

The Coordinator noted that shifting weather patterns have significantly impacted agricultural productivity threatening food security and livelihoods with the country facing billions of dollars in economic losses from climate-related disasters in the past.

The UK delegation presented a report to the Coordinator aimed at bolstering Pakistan's climate resilience, and both sides agreed to work together to implement sustainable agricultural practices and mitigate future impacts.



Development Director, British High Commission, Jo Moire calling on Coordinator to PM on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam in Islamabad

## Muqam reaffirms unwavering support on 'Kashmir Accession to Pak Day'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs, Engineer Amir Muqam, on Friday reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support to Kashmiris on all international platforms. The minister in his message on 'Kashmir Accession to Pakistan Day' highlighted the significance of the day.

He recalled that on July 19, 1947, the brave people of Kashmir passed a resolution in Srinagar for accession to Pakistan.

He emphasized the enduring dedication of Kashmiris to this cause, noting the immense sacrifices they have made over the past seven decades in their quest for self-determination. "The commitment of Kashmiris to Pakistan is eternal," said Engineer Muqam. He asserted that no Indian tactics could undermine this profound bond, as evidenced by the continued burial of martyrs in the green crescent flag, symbolizing their unwavering love for Pakistan.

Minister Muqam noted the resilient spirit of Kashmiri youth, who, like their forefathers, remain determined to achieve self-determination and complete accession to Pakistan.

## Sanaullah announces humanitarian aid for Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs, Rana Sanaullah on Friday announced that over 1,000 tons of food and relief supplies will be sent to Palestine before July 31.

Addressing a press conference along with Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar and Tehreek-e-Labbaik (TLP) leaders, Sanaullah expressed solidarity with the Muslim community in Palestine.

Sanaullah also commended TLP for their support and spirit of solidarity with Palestinian Muslims, acknowledging TLP leader Hafiz Saad Rizvi demands for aid and condemnation of Israel's actions.

He reiterated the government's commitment for helping Palestinians, with TLP's support. The Prime Minister has already condemned Israel's actions at the Shanghai conference, and the government will continue to raise its voice for Palestine on each and every platform, he said.

## Fifth Cohort for Women Entrepreneurs trains 100 Women Entrepreneurs

ISLAMABAD (Online): The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad today held a graduation celebration for 100 women in the fifth cohort of the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE). Since 2020, the AWE has mentored over 330 Pakistani women to establish and scale up their businesses.

Ambassador Blome also highlighted the broader societal benefits of supporting women entrepreneurs, stating, "The United States firmly believes that expanding opportunities for women entrepreneurs leads to more stable societies. When women entrepreneurs succeed,

vancing Pakistan's inclusive economic transformation—and women play a vital and growing role in that process," said

Ambassador Blome. "AWE remains a relevant and important tool in promoting women's economic empowerment."

Ambassador Blome also highlighted the broader societal benefits of supporting women entrepreneurs, stating, "The United States firmly believes that expanding opportunities for women entrepreneurs leads to more stable societies. When women entrepreneurs succeed,



ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, chaired important meeting regarding the security of the federal capital and new recruitment in Islamabad Police.

## IG Islamabad reviews security measures & recruitment process

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, chaired an important meeting regarding the security of the federal capital and new recruitment in Islamabad Police, a public relations officer said.

The meetings were attended by DIG Security Muhammad Jawad Tariq, AIG Establishment Abdul Haque Umrani, AIG Special Branch Yasir Afridi, SSP

CTD Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, and the Law Officer.

During the meeting, IGP Islamabad reviewed the overall security situation in the federal capital. He issued orders to police officers to ensure the law and order situation in the federal capital, as well as to ensure effective security arrangements for the upcoming processions and gatherings related to Muharram.

IG Islamabad also reviewed the ongoing recruit-

ment process in the Islamabad Police. He emphasized the importance of monitoring and ensuring transparency in the recruitment process, and said that educated young individuals driven by the spirit of service should be included in the police force.

Moreover, important decisions were made regarding the management and administration of all recruitment centers, and senior police officers were assigned key responsibilities.

## BISP beneficiaries to get skill training

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid Friday emphasized equipping the beneficiaries with latest vocational and technical skills to make them self-sufficient.

She was speaking during a meeting between President and CEO of Bank Alfalah, Atif Bajwa and Group Head of Digital Banking, Yahya Khan, held here.

The meeting focused on enhancing transparency in payment disbursement

and promoting dignity for women beneficiaries.

During the discussions, Senator Rubina Khalid urged the bank representatives to treat BISP beneficiaries as valued clients and to implement measures to eliminate deductions from stipend amounts.

The discussion also covered technical and skill training for BISP beneficiaries.

Atif Bajwa agreed to initiate pilot skill training projects for BISP beneficiaries.



ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery being used during extension work of Club Road during development work in Federal Capital.

## 10,177 accused arrested; cash, valuables worth Rs 1.40 bn recovered during six months

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the Islamabad Police carried out an extensive crackdown against criminal elements in the federal capital during the last six months to maintain peace and tranquility, a public relations officer said.

He said that, in this regard the Islamabad police arrested a total of 10,177 accused involved in different criminal activities, and recovered cash and valuables worth over Rs 1.40 billion from their possession. Moreover, 881 accused from 365 gangs involved in robbery activities were also arrested and valuables worth over Rs 410.35

million were recovered from their possession.

During the ongoing "Nasha ab Nahi" movement in the federal capital, a total of 1187 drug dealers were arrested, and 273 kilograms of hashish, 355 kilograms of heroin, 25 kilograms of ice, 7659 liters of liquor, and 239 intoxicating pills were recovered from their possession.

Additionally, 2380 accused involved in tempering activities, property crimes such as theft, robbery, burglary, vehicle and motorcycle theft were arrested. Police teams also recovered cash including vehicles and motorcycles, from their possession.

The Islamabad Police also carried out extensive operations against those possessing illegal weapons.

## AIOU announces admission schedule for Fall 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has announced the admission schedule for the merit-based programs for the Fall 2024 semester, and details are available on their website at [www.aiou.edu.pk](http://www.aiou.edu.pk).

According to the AIOU, the applications for BS, BSc, MBA, MS, MPhil, and PhD programs can be submitted online until August 20.

It is noteworthy that admissions to BS, BSc, and MBA programs will be purely on a merit basis, while for MS, MPhil, and PhD programs, passing the entry test is mandatory. The entry tests for these programs will be held at the university from August 22 to 24.

The Director Admissions, Syed Zia-ul-Hassnain, stated that under the guidance of Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, special attention will be given to ensure transparency in conducting the entry tests and compiling the merit lists.

## IRSA releases 323,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 323,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 299,600 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1518.70 feet and was 120.70 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 157,500 cusecs and 190,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1196.45 feet, which was 148.45 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet.

## U.S Embassy's AWE program trains 100 women entrepreneurs in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The U.S Embassy in Islamabad on Friday held a graduation celebration for 100 women in the fifth cohort of the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE). Since 2020, the AWE has mentored over 330 Pakistani women to establish and scale up their businesses.

Ambassador Donald Blome delivered inspiring remarks at the ceremony, congratulating the graduates and highlighting the importance of entrepreneurship in fostering economic growth and stability, says the press release.

"The United States is strongly committed to advancing Pakistan's inclusive economic transformation—

and women play a vital and growing role in that process," said

Ambassador Blome. "AWE remains a relevant and important tool in promoting women's economic empowerment."

Ambassador Blome also highlighted the broader societal benefits of supporting women entrepreneurs, stating,

"The United States firmly believes that expanding opportunities for women entrepreneurs leads to more stable societies. When women entrepreneurs succeed, they're more likely to invest back into their families and communities—into education, nutrition, well-being, and children's health."



ISLAMABAD: A vendor showcases children's garments at a makeshift stall amidst the debris of last week's devastating blaze at the H-9 weekly bazaar, which destroyed 2,743 stalls and 625 shops, causing millions in damages in Federal Capital.

## NA body on maritime affairs calls KDLB reps to resolve KPT protestors' issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly Standing Committee on Maritime Affairs on Friday invited the representatives of Karachi Dock Labour Board (KDLB) on July 23rd to resolve the issues pertaining to the sit-in in front of Karachi Port Trust (KPT) Headquarters.

The committee was briefed by the Secretary, the Ministry of Maritime Affairs regarding the organizational structure and working of the ministry and its attached departments in an introductory meeting held in the Parliament House, under the Chairmanship of Member National Assembly (MNA) Abdul Qadir Patel.

Secretary, Ministry of Maritime Affairs Dr. Iram Anjum Khan gave a detailed presentation on the organi-

zational structure and administrative matters of the Ministry. The Chairman, Port Qasim Authority (PQA), Director, Gwadar Port and Executive Director, of Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) also briefed the Committee regarding the working and performance of their departments.

The Chairman, of Karachi Port Trust (KPT) Syed Syedain Raza Zaidibriefed the Committee that the Port is administered by the Board of Trustees has 11 members headed by the Chairman KPT.

The Committee invited the representatives of the Karachi Dock Labour Board (KDLB) to resolve the issues regarding the sit-in in front of Karachi Port Trust (KPT) Headquarters.

## Court issues notices against discharge of Sanam in FIA case

ISLAMABAD (Online): The District and Session Court Islamabad has issued notices to the parties for July 23 on the appeal against the decision to discharge Sanam Javed from the FIA case and has sought their response on Friday.

An appeal against the decision to discharge Sanam Javed from the FIA case was heard in the District and Session Court Islamabad. District and Sessions Judge Afzal Majoka heard the FIA appeal.

FIA Prosecutor Sheikh Amir appeared before the court. The FIA prosecutor said that the duty judge does not have the power to discharge the case. He further informed the court that no record of this case was presented in the Islamabad High Court neither FIA was called in Islamabad High Court.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Palwasha Mohammad Zai Khan, chairperson senate standing committee on information technology and telecommunication presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament Lodges.

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**  
Saturday July 20, 2024

**Misplaced priorities**

Trouble is brewing in KP, where terrorist outfits are growing ever more emboldened in their attacks. This week, two outrageous assaults on a cantonment and a rural health centre in Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan, respectively, claimed the lives of 15 Pakistanis, including 10 soldiers, in the latest escalation by TTP-backed militants, who are believed to be operating from safe havens in Afghanistan.

Though Islamabad has issued a 'strong demarche' to Afghan representatives, demanding "immediate, robust and effective action" over the attack on the Bannu cantonment, it has been clear for a while that the de facto government in Kabul is failing to rein in the TTP, which is now the "largest terror group" operating on its soil, according to a recent UN report. It is imperative, therefore, for the Pakistani state to act against these terrorists and their facilitators. However, its plans have so far been frustrated by the state's poor strategising.

About two weeks ago, the government had floated a proposal for an all-parties conference to discuss Operation Azm-i-Istehkam, which had been welcomed by the opposition parties, including the PTI. However, after the early enthusiasm, there has been no development on this front, and it is feared that the initiative may be delayed indefinitely due to the breakout of fresh hostilities between the PTI and the current regime.

This is dangerous from a national security perspective, as plans for combating a major existential threat have inadvertently become subservient to the seemingly never-ending political tussle. The state must keep in mind that it is not just the PTI, but several mainstream parties that have serious concerns about the proposed operation, and it is vital to get them on board before the state launches kinetic operations. Not doing so risks provoking the citizens residing in these areas, which may create unnecessary complications.

Consider, for example, that the first reaction from Bannu residents to the assault was to issue a statement that, among other things, made it clear they would not evacuate the area in case of a military operation. Locals said they would rather stand up and fight the terrorists themselves than abandon their homes for another antiterrorism drive. They recognise the problem, but they have no interest in the solution being proposed by the state. This is mainly a political failure, arising from the government's inability to manufacture broad-based consensus around the need for a military operation.

There is an urgent need for this failure to be rectified. Too many lives are being lost to an enemy that is growing in strength the longer the infighting continues in the corridors of power. The government must call its APC at the earliest and invite all stakeholders to take part. This matter cannot be delayed further.

**Faisal Bari**

Last semester, an acquaintance taught, as adjunct faculty, a course at a very well-known and probably the best public sector university in the country. The 'per hour' payment that he was given a contract for was quite low. More surprisingly, he mentioned that he was not paid anything during the entire semester; the accounts office told him that he would be paid after the end of the semester (more than three months), when he had submitted all the grades and other paperwork.

When he went to the office after he had submitted the grades, he was told by one of the clerks that he would certainly get the full payment. However, the clerk could not tell him when the payment would be made. The clerk mentioned that adjuncts from the previous semester had not been paid yet, and was of the opinion that it could be a few months or even longer before payment was made.

This took place at a top university in the country. Clearly, being adjunct

faculty is not a good career option: even if payment had been made on time — the gentleman was teaching a number of courses — he would have had trouble maintaining a decent standard of living. With payments being delayed and universities passing on their own working capital unevenness in this manner, it becomes even more difficult to be adjunct or visiting faculty. The gentleman in question has serious doubts about sticking to academia; it would not be a surprise if he switched careers. It will be a loss for academia, as he is very passionate about teaching and research, but it is doubtful if he has the patience to stick around till he becomes permanent faculty.

Public sector universities are going through a very tough time. Many, even the more established, older ones, are struggling financially. Some are having difficulty making salary and pension payments. Some are close to default or are dependent on one-time transfers from the government.

The governments,

federal and provincial, have not been increasing university funding even to keep up with inflation. This has been going on for a number of years, although everyone, from politicians to bureaucrats, is keen to launch more universities across the country. So, funding has not gone up, despite unprecedented inflation for multiple years now, the increase in the number of universities, and the restrictions on raising tuition fee faced by public sector universities. Is it a surprise that higher education in Pakistan is in trouble?

There is a post going the rounds on social media that Pakistan has one of the lowest-ranked higher education sectors. India and China are way ahead, of course. True or not (the post seems to be based on a news item that is a few years old), going by how frequently the post is being shared, it is not unbelievable for most of us that Pakistan might indeed have one of the lowest-ranked higher education systems. And why would this be unbelievable?

At a recent confer-

ence on higher education in Islamabad, Dr Tariq Banuri, former chairperson of the Higher Education Commission, said it has been mentioned that Pakistan has 260-odd universities now. In fact, we only have 10 to 15 universities in the country if even that. The rest are called universities but are, at best, teaching colleges. Most are not even that. He also mentioned that while he was HEC chairperson, the Commission had conducted interviews/ tests of several new PhD graduates to try and figure out issues with the placement of those with this degree in Pakistani universities. They were surprised by how poorly prepared as scholars most of them were. A telling fact, mentioned by Dr Banuri, was that a lot of the PhD graduates could not mention even a single book they had read in the months before they had come for their interview!

It is just a fact that given our faculty resources, we have too many universities in the country and far too many departments and programmes in each uni-

versity, especially at the Master's and doctoral levels. If an independent body were to do fair and honest audits of universities and university programmes across Pakistan, I am sure one strong recommendation would be to close down a lot of programmes, especially at the Master's and doctoral level. The HEC had set strong incentives for universities to expand, and for new programmes, especially at the graduate and doctoral level, to be set up. We are reaping the fruits of our own policy transgressions.

The way forward is really a deep audit and reset. Yes, there is a need for more resources for higher education, for improving quality, and ensuring some equity in access for those who cannot afford to pay for higher education, but these resources should not be for funding further expansion, or even for funding poor quality Master's and doctoral programmes. There should be a very thorough audit of existing Master's and doctoral programmes and non-viable poor-quality programmes, of which we

have far too many, should be shut down. This will be painful but it will be less painful to shut them down than to allow them to continue to destroy the future of young people by giving them a poor education.

Instead of Master's and doctoral programmes, most universities should be encouraged/ incentivised to improve the quality of teaching in their undergraduate programmes. High-quality undergraduate education at scale is what is needed in Pakistan. Top universities, whether they are 10 or 15, as Dr Banuri said, or a few more, should be encouraged to focus on research and doctoral programmes, but the number of research-focused universities cannot be much larger. The above implies a very foundational restructuring of higher education in Pakistan where the focus is on having a large number of good-quality teaching universities, mostly for undergraduate education, and a few high-quality, research-focused universities. This seems to be the only sensible way forward. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Anticipatory actions****Ali Tauqeer Sheikh**

If the merciless monsoon rains and floods in India are any indicator, Pakistan can anticipate heavy rains and flooding in several parts of the country. Hardly have we recouped from heatwaves, landslides and glacial disasters that we face more dark clouds on the horizon. How can we plan anticipatory actions to protect ourselves, and our communities and their assets, not forgetting our schools, hospitals, and other public infrastructure?

Planning for humanitarian provisions such as water, food, medicine, and shelter is crucial, but this is essentially post-disaster action. In climate change parlance, anticipatory actions have begun to assume a new meaning, which requires a chain of preparatory measures well ahead of the anticipated disaster. This is to reduce human suffering and the cost to the economy and ecosystems.

Anticipatory allocations refer to prearranged funds and actions to mitigate the impact of predictable risks before they fully unfold. It is based on five

pillars: i) linking weather forecasts to trigger mechanisms that release prearranged financing, ii) prearranged specific actions that can alter the trajectory of the crisis, iii) prearranged funds made available to immediately initiate time-critical activities, iv) reviewing laws and policies for institutionalisation and co-ordination mechanisms, and v) developing documentation on learning and evidence from each instance.

In the present state of climate governance, the last may sound overly academic. But its urgency cannot be contested. Had we drawn any lessons from the 2010 floods, according to Gen Nadeem Ahmed, who was then heading the NDMA and coordinating the government's flood response, the cost of the 2022 floods would have been halved. Since we have seen no formal lesson-learning after the 2022 floods, which inflicted losses to the tune of \$15 billion, one can only assume that, except for some critically important humanitarian preparations by the disaster manage-

ment authorities, most of our actions will take place post-disaster. Are we prepared to design anticipatory actions proactively for specific shocks and locations?

Since managing local disasters is, for the most part, a provincial subject under our Constitution, the provincial governments are best placed to undertake their own anticipatory actions tailored to suit local realities. Triggered by early warning systems, anticipatory interventions can protect livelihoods and food security before shocks such as droughts, floods, or heatwaves occur. Embedding anticipatory actions into national disaster risk management frameworks, social protection programmes and government budgets can help institutionalise and sustain national and international financing.

Several UN agencies, including OCHA, WFP, FAO, and others, are implementing anticipatory approaches by developing toolkits and other material. Anticipatory actions are being tested predominantly for natural hazards, reportedly in 60

countries, in partnership with local stakeholders. The key sectors that are benefiting include disaster risk reduction, agriculture, food security, and social protection systems. These sectors are vital for building resilience to climate shocks. Expanding to other predictable crises is the next step to tailor the response to specific crisis scenarios. However, challenges remain in fully integrating anticipatory approaches into provincial and national accounting systems and frameworks.

Anticipatory investments are made specifically to prepare for the impact of future shocks, even if the exact timing and magnitude of those future events are uncertain. This is in contrast to the reactive investments that we have habitually made after each disaster.

Social protection systems are presently undergoing fundamental changes. Governments are integrating forecast-based triggers and prearranged financing. Anticipatory actions can be integrated into existing social protection systems in two main ways: i) by leveraging elements of the social pro-

tection architecture. This involves using existing systems and delivery mechanisms for cash transfers, in-kind support, or early warning messaging to vulnerable populations ahead of a predicted shock; ii) by integrating the core components into social protection systems. This includes embedding forecast triggers, pre-defined actions, and prearranged financing for social protection programmes to scale-up their response to impending crises.

Pakistan has not, so far, explicitly tested anticipatory allocations through the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), but there are efforts underway to see if the present cash transfers can become an adaptive social protection programme. If successful, this could be the first large-scale transition towards anticipatory allocations.

While BISP focuses on providing unconditional cash transfers to alleviate poverty, it lacks built-in components to actively manage climate-related risks and disasters. This gap results in limited outreach and readiness during climatic disasters. BISP is

not designed with anticipatory disaster risk management mechanisms, but since there are no other institutions, it is best equipped to provide some indirect resilience against sudden shocks. The unconditional cash transfers support households in managing basic needs and investing in human capital that can help them cope with the impact of climate-related shocks. When anticipatory actions are layered with social protection, they can help address the climate risks affecting them. Social protection systems can provide a foundation for delivering anticipatory actions, while integrating anticipatory components can make social protection more adaptive to climate shocks. Going forward, it can help the district disaster management authorities or local government institutions, where they exist, in i) disseminating early warning messages, ii) evacuating people, livestock, and assets, iii) reinforcing housing, schools, and other infrastructure, iv) providing first aid, food and drinking water at evacuation sites, and v) supporting unconditional cash assistance.

**Milk banks****Nikhat Sattar**

From the 1950s onwards, it became common practice to feed formula milk to babies, even newborns. Many women considered breastfeeding to be outdated or unnecessary, or they were ill and unable to feed their babies in the natural way. Later, research showed that human milk was best for its nutritive value as well as bonding between mother and baby.

The WHO recommends that breastfeeding be carried out at least for the first six months, and then, preferably, for another 18 months; ie, for a total of two years. This is the exact period stipulated in the Quran for breastfeeding (2:233).

Therein lies a problem. Some mothers die soon after childbirth or they are so ill that they have no or very little milk. Some children are also born preterm or are very fragile and unable to accept formula milk. On the other hand, some babies are still-born or die early, leaving the mother not only distressed but unable to use the milk she is producing. The Quran proposes a solution based upon a carefully designed agreement between the two families concerned. The woman who can offer her milk feeds the child for at least two years and is compensated by money or equivalent for her invaluable services. This results in a bond between the child and this mother that is almost the same as a mother and her biological child. More importantly, the children of this foster mother become foster siblings to the child, and marriage between the two is forbidden.

To manage the problem of lack of human milk for babies who need it, human milk banks have been around since 1909, and the experience has been very

useful. Hu-m-an milk banking involves a detailed, intensive process that includes rigorous screening. All milk must be properly collected, stored, pasteurised and cultured in accordance with clearly defined guidelines.

Milk banks are operating in 35 countries, but the only Muslim country with extensive usage is Iran. Singapore started using them in 2017, and Malaysia is planning for 2025. In Malaysia, "after a series of consultations with the Islamic authorities, milk kinship is no longer an issue". In Pakistan, a milk bank was inaugurated at the Sindh Institute of Child Health after obtaining a fatwa from a Darul Uloom, but this facility was closed within a week when the fatwa was revised.

Why are milk banks not common in Muslim countries? The reason is that Muslims believe that if a child drinks the milk of a woman who is not its biological mother, a "milk relationship" would be established, creating a potential marriage problem. Ulema also object to this practice on grounds that this would become a commercial practice, and women would offer their milk in order to earn money.

In this controversy, a major point has been missed. This has been highlighted by the scholar Javed Ghamidi, who suggests that the 'milk kinship' between feeding mother and baby is established only when the woman has decided that she will feed this child and takes it to her breast. The entire process is extremely sensitive and involves considerable emotion and planning. The baby, as it grows up, remains attached to the foster mother and its foster siblings as if they were its blood relations. This is a carefully established ar-

angement. None of these elements are present in the operation of a milk bank. The late Egyptian scholar Yusuf al-Qaradawi also saw no religious problem in establishing or using these banks and issued a decree to the effect in 1983.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is of the same view, saying that milk kinship is formed only if the baby is breastfed.

On the issue of women making this an earning practice or the process becoming commercialised, Ghamidi says that there is nothing wrong with making payments to the women who are providing milk. In Islam, even after divorce, the ex-husband is supposed to make payment to the ex-wife if it is decided that she will breastfeed the baby. Any process can be exploited through unethical means. Milk banks need careful guidelines, SOPs and trained and sensitive staff as well as individuals with counselling experience.

Kuwait operates a modified version of the bank. Milk would be obtained from one woman for a single baby, thus making it easier to avoid possibility of marriage between 'milk siblings'. The donor and the recipient baby's biological mother or father also meet. Indonesia is also planning to establish similar milk banks. In all countries with sizeable Muslim populations, religious scholars of all sects were consulted in the early stages and only then were milk banks set up. Pakistan would do well to study models from Iran and other countries and consult stakeholders as well as non-traditional scholars. In this, as well as in other issues, the three basic Islamic principles of public interest, necessity and doing no harm must be applied. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Strategic games****Aasim Sajjad Akhtar**

It is August 2021. Pakistani spymasters, pro-establishment ideologues and then prime minister Imran Khan unanimously celebrate the re-conquest of Afghanistan by the Taliban. The age-old pursuit of a 'friendly government' in Kabul has been achieved.

Fast forward three years. The shadowy entity which goes by the name of the TTP is again present in Pakhtun tribal districts like Waziristan. The same TTP and its affiliates plan and perpetrate attacks in settled districts like Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan, in the former case directly targeting the army cantonment.

Many innocents perish, as Islamabad issues reprimands against the 'friendly government' in Kabul. The security establishment warns it will respond with indiscriminate military operations to crush 'terrorism', without explaining why innumerable operations in the past didn't cut off what appears to be a never-ending supply of 'terrorists'.

The train of events is both predictable and tragic. Long before the last American troops left Afghanistan, progressive voices in Pakistan — both Pakhtun and others — had warned against hailing the change of guard as some kind of anti-imperialist triumph. Many also foresaw that Islamabad's backing of the so-called Afghan Taliban 2.0 regime would inevitably translate into rejuvenated religious militancy in the Pakhtun border districts.

If the people of KP and Balochistan are again paying the price of the establishment's delusions of grandeur, they, along with millions of ordinary Afghans, are also set up to

be guinea pigs in a fresh wave of geopolitical sparring involving many regional and global actors.

Recall that, under the terms of the so-called Doha peace deal inked in February 2020, the US willingly handed Afghanistan back to the Taliban. Domestic political imperatives meant that the Pentagon could no longer justify extending what was already the longest war in US history. So, Washington decided to pursue its interests in Afghanistan and the wider region through other, familiar, means.

Even without troops on the ground, the US will resist China's growing influence over the Taliban government, evidenced by Beijing's offer to include Afghanistan in the billion-dollar Belt & Road Initiative. Then there are the Gulf kingdoms, Saudi Arabia in the lead, seeking to extend their expanding economic and geopolitical footprint in the region building on their historical ties with the Taliban. Finally, there is Afghanistan's immediate neighbour to the west, Iran, whose oil resources and enmity with both Washington and the Taliban also make it a party to the latest iteration of the Great Game.

The Great Game is, of course, the epithet for the strategic rivalry that played out from the 19th century onwards between the then British and Russian empires for control over Afghanistan, Persia and the wider central Asia region. A variety of hot and cold wars between the so-called Great Powers extended into the 20th century, intensifying after World War II, when the US empire sought to contain communist USSR and China.

Turkey and Pakistan were cultivated as garrison states on the front line of this war against communism, as was Iran, until the

Shah was deposed in the late 1970s. But the biggest and most brutal confrontation played out in Afghanistan from 1977 onwards under the guise of the anti-Soviet 'jihad' against the left-wing PDPA government. Funded by Saudi Arabia and the US, and prosecuted by Pakistan, the legacy of this disastrous policy is now playing out for the umpteenth time.

Orientalist narrati-v-ees in the West and racism in mainland Pak-istan caricature Pakhtuns on both sides of the Durand Line as religious fanatics wedded to prehistoric, un-civilised mores. This provides the justification to brand them 'terrorists' to be wiped out. Even though militancy in Baloch areas is largely secular in nature, a similar totalising narrative is deployed to dehumanise the Baloch people too. Little has changed in Pakistani and imperialist statecraft since the carrot and stick days of the British Raj.

Pro-establishment types will never tell us why there is no peace despite the 'friendly government' in Kabul. On the other hand are those who still think that the US invasion of Afghanistan was a godsend and refuse to acknowledge both the historical crimes of US imperialism and its continuing complicity in the cold wars of today. And then there are the voices who think China is to be supported at all costs because it ostensibly opposes US hegemony, regardless of what that means for the Pakhtun, Baloch and other masses across the region. The least we can do is speak up for the nameless masses paying a bloody price for the strategic games waged by unaccountable states. This is the bare minimum requirement for liberation from imperialism, shadowy spymasters and the Taliban. -- Courtesy Dawn

## IT courses program being launched for thousands of youngsters: Governor Sindh

HYDERABAD (APP): Sindh Governor Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori on Friday announced an initiative to strengthen the country's economy by providing IT courses to young people of Hyderabad. He said that the country was currently indebted to the IMF, and strengthening the economy was very crucial. He maintained that after launching the program in Karachi, it has now been extended to Hyderabad, with future plans to introduce it in Sukkur, Mirpurkhas, Larkana and Shaheed Benazirabad.

He expressed these views while talking to the media at Niaz Stadium Hyderabad on the occasion of the entry test organized to conduct IT courses for the youth under the Governor Sindh IT Initiative Program. This initiative aims to equip young people with skills in artificial intelligence and other IT fields. The entry test will last for three days and see around 50,000 students participate.

Governor Tessori described the impact of these courses, which will enable young people to get online employment and contribute to the country's economic stability. He mentioned that the IT sector's growth was essential, noting that Pakistan's IT exports were currently low compared to neighboring countries. He added that the cost of IT



HYDERABAD: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori addresses participants at the Grand Entry Test for the Governor Sindh IT Initiative Program 2024, held at Niaz Stadium in the city.

## KP Governor assure to resolve problems of Wazir tribesmen

PESHAWAR (APP): A representative delegation of the Wazir tribe belonging to Bannu Domain called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Faisal Karim Kundi and informed him about their problems.

Provincial President of Pakistan People's Party, Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha and Provincial Secretary Coordination, Farzand Ali Wazir were also present on the occasion.

The delegation briefed the governor about the overall situation of their area and the problems being confronted by people.

Talking to the delegation, the KP governor said that deteriorating law and order conditions have negatively impacted business activities in the area. Expressing concern over the situation, he assured that promises made to tribal people would be fulfilled and efforts would be made to bring tribesmen into the national mainstream of development.

He said that voice would be raised at available forums for the facilitation of tribal people and to provide them opportunities for growth and development. He also urged locals and the young generation to support the efforts of security forces in maintaining peace in the area.

## Governor Punjab recognizes businessmen as backbone of economy

RAWALPINDI (APP): Governor Punjab, Sardar Salim Haider has said that businessmen are the backbone of the country's economy.

Traders always played an important role in economic prosperity in the country, he said adding that the government is doing everything possible to solve the problems of traders.

He expressed these views during a meeting with the delegation of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), which called on him here on Friday, led by President Chamber Saqib Rafique.

The delegation informed the governor regarding the problems of the business community. The governor said that business circles have always played a role in the development of the country.

"We are making every possible effort to solve the problems of the businessmen", he said.

Later, a delegation of lawyers also met the governor. Speaking to the lawyers, the governor said that the role of lawyers is very important for the rule of law and supremacy. Lawyers have always made sacrifices for the stability of the democratic system, the rule of law and the constitution.



LAHORE: A delegation of Lawyers from Rawalpindi meeting with Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan.

## Punjab sets up flood relief camps amid threat of flooding

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister and Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Disaster Management Khawaja Salman Rafique announced on Friday that the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) had established flood relief camps in anticipation of potential flooding.

The announcement was made during his visit to the PDMA Head Office here. He highlighted the risk of flooding due to recent rains in the Koh-e-Sulaiman mountains, which could lead to rising water levels in rivers and mountain streams. He assured the public that the situation is being closely monitored around the clock in the Epidemic and District Control Rooms, and that prompt measures will be taken to protect lives. He also urged the public to take necessary precautions during the rainy season.

During his visit, he reviewed various schemes aimed at preventing river erosion. He also toured the PDMA control room to assess the rain situation across the province. DG PDMA, Irfan Ali Kathia, provided a comprehensive briefing on the current weather conditions and the safety measures in place.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over the meeting of Irrigation Department at Chief Minister House.

## KP Govt sanctions 25pc, 20pc adhoc relief allowance to employees

PESHAWAR (APP): The provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa sanctioned an Adhoc Relief Allowance 2024 at the rate of 25 percent of the basic pay as on June 30, 2024 to the employees from BS-17 to BS-22 and 20 percent to the employees in BS-03 to BS-16 falling under the civil servants of the provincial government including contingent of paid staff and contract employees employed against civil posts in Basic Pay Scales on standard terms and conditions of contract appointment, said a notification issued by the Finance Department here on Friday.

The Adhoc Relief Allowance with effect from 1.07.2024 will be subject to income and admissible during leave and entire period of LPR except extra-ordinary leave and will not be treated as part of emoluments for the purpose of calculation of pension/gratuity and recovery of House Rent.

Similarly, it will also be not admissible to the employees on their repatriation from posting/deputation abroad at the rate and amount which would have been admissible to them had they not been posted abroad. The term 'Basic Pay' for the purpose of Adhoc Relief Allowance 2024 will also include the amount of the personal pay granted on account of annual increment (s) beyond the maximum of the existing pay scales. The Adhoc Relief Allowance-2024 shall be accommodated from within the budgetary allocation for the Year 2024-25 by the respective Departments/organizations and no supplementary grants would be given on this account to all the government employees of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with effect from 1st July, 2024.

## KP CM condemns attack on police checkpoint

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, has condemned the recent attack on a police checkpoint in Takhtbhai, Mardan, which resulted in the martyrdom of a police constable.

He expressed deep sorrow over the incident and extended heartfelt condolences to the family of the martyred officer.

He emphasized that the police have made countless sacrifices to protect the lives and property of the people.

He said that such cowardly attacks would not deter the police's resolve and vowed continued government support in their efforts to maintain law and order.

He prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured police officials and assured that the provincial government would support the family of the martyred officer.

The Chief Minister has demanded a detailed report on the incident from police authorities.

He prayed for the elevation of the martyr's rank and for patience and strength for his loved ones during this difficult time.

## Opp. walks out of KP Assembly against Speaker decision

PESHAWAR (APP): The members of the Opposition in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Friday staged a walk out after the Speaker Babar Salim did not allow them to speak during passage of resolutions presented by the Law Minister Aftab Ahmad.

The Speaker observed that first the Minister should present resolutions in the assembly and later the Opposition members would be allowed to speak on a point of order. Later, the Opposition members returned to the House on the request of provincial ministers.

## Killers of Christian man arrested: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora said on Friday that a Christian man was killed by his neighbour, with the help of his accomplices, who had been arrested now.

Addressing a press conference, along with DIG Organised Crime Unit (OCU) Imran Kishwar, he said the Raccourse Police Station had registered the case. A team comprising SP Furqan Bilal, DSP Tauqeer Anjum, and Inspector Atif Imran later arrested the accused within a week.

The minister said that on the directions of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, he had visited the home of the affected family and assured the accused would be arrested soon. He also conveyed that the CM had assured the family of complete protection. DIG Imran Kishwar told the media that the anti-kidnapping cell had arrested the main suspects including Sajjad-ul-Hassan alias Malik Shani, Muhammad Azam, Muhammad Sultan, and Muhammad Mubashir. He said the accused had shot dead Christian man Marshall. Following the incident, the Christian community staged a protest demonstration.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora and DIG OCU Imran Kishwar addressing a Press conference.

## Health Minister meets MSF officials, discusses ongoing projects

PESHAWAR (APP): Minister of Health, Syed Qasim Ali Shah met with officials from Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) at his office to discuss ongoing projects of international humanitarian organization.

The meeting was attended by Director EPI Dr. Arif, Director MCH Dr. Khizr Hayat, DHO Khyber Dr. Zafar Ali Khan, Focal Person Health Department Dr. Mohammad Nabi Jan Afridi, and other relevant officials.

During the meeting, MSF officials briefed the Minister of Health on their ongoing projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including the establishment of two clinics for the treatment of leishmaniasis at City Hospital Peshawar and Budh Bher Hospital.

They also informed the minister about their work in Khalifa Gul Nawaz Hospital and Tirah Valley in Khyber District.

The MSF officials also discussed their plans to establish a leishmaniasis treatment center at the Dargai Hospital in Khyber district.

They informed the minister that a five-year project has been designed, which will be technically and financially supported by MSF. The project will also include the establishment of a pediatric health care center and a blood bank.

The Minister of Health directed the officials to initiate the project as soon as possible and complete the necessary paperwork to ensure the provision of facilities at the hospital.

He also instructed DHO Khyber Dr. Zafar Ali Khan to facilitate MSF in implementing the project and to establish strong links with the Health Department.

## LG, Mineral amendment Bills 2024 presented in KP Assembly

PESHAWAR (APP): The local government and mines and mineral (amendment) Bills 2024 were presented in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly here Friday.

These bills were presented by Law Minister Aftab Alam and Local Government Minister Arshad Ayub. Speaker KP Assembly Babar Salim allowed the Ministers to present the Bills.

## PDWP approves 2 development schemes

LAHORE (APP): The seventh meeting of Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) financial year 2024-25 was held under the chairmanship of P&D Board Chairman Barister Nabeel Ahmad Awan, which approved two development schemes of Mines and Minerals and Urban Development sectors with an estimated cost of Rs 514.853 million.

The approved schemes include: Potential Evaluation of Placer Gold Deposits in the Indus River at District Attock at the cost of Rs 48.200 million and Storm Water Drainage System from Haji Camp to River Ravi via Laxmi Chowk, McLeod Road, Nabha Road, Chauburji and Sham Nagar, Lahore at the cost of Rs 466.653 million.

Secretary P&D Board Dr Asif Tufail, Secretary Environment Mr Raja Jehangir Anwar, Chief Economist Dr Nasir Iqbal Malik.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan meets with affected individuals from the Dasu Hydro Power Project at the CM Secretariat.

## LHC seeks response from govt regarding increase in prices of petroleum products

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has sought response from the federal government on the petition against the recent increase in petrol and diesel prices. Justice Shahid Kareem of Lahore High Court heard the request of Judicial Activism Panel.

Advocate Azhar Siddique presented the arguments on behalf of the petitioner. The petitioner's lawyer took the position that electricity and petrol are totally out from the reach of the people.

The increase in petrol prices has further increased inflation, the government increases the prices of petroleum products without any reason.

During the hearing, the Assistant Advocate General said that the prices of petroleum products have been increased according to the global market.

## Woman killed, three family members injured in accident

KHANEWAL (APP): A woman was killed while three other family members injured as their motorcycle collided with a tree near Thatha Sadiqabad road.

According to details, a citizen named Muhammad Irfan was going to home Chak No 136/10-R from Tibba Sultan Pur along with family members riding on a motorcycle. Suddenly, the motorcycle went uncontrolled and collided with a tree. As a result, his wife 30-year-old Beenish died on the spot while Irfan, his daughter Eman and minor boy Anus sustained injuries. The injured were shifted to Tehsil headquarters hospital Jehania for medical aid.

## Jinnah House attack: ATC extends interim bail of Omar Ayub, others till Aug 6

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Friday extended the interim bail of opposition leader Omar Ayub, Zain Qureshi, Azam Khan Swati, and other Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders in the Jinnah House attack case until August 6.

The court gave the police a final chance to complete the investigation and ordered the accused to join the investigation.

ATC Judge Khalid Arshad heard the interim bail applications of the PTI leaders in the Jinnah House attack case. Opposition leader Omar Ayub, Zain Qureshi, Uzma Khan (sister of the PTI founder), Azam Khan Swati, Farhat Abbas, Karamat Ali Khokhar, and Nadeem Abbas Bara, along with other leaders, appeared in court on the expiry of their interim bail and marked attendance.

## Sindh Home Minister, IGP attend funeral prayers of martyred policeman

KARACHI (APP): The funeral prayers of Constable Yousuf, who was martyred in the firing of unknown suspects in the limits of Samanabad Police Station, was offered at Police Headquarters Garden, South.

Sindh Home Minister Zia Ul Hasan Lanjar along with IGP Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon, Additional IGP - Karachi Javed Akhtar Odho, Zonal DIGPs, District SSPs, Pakistan Rangers Sindh officers, relatives of the martyred constable, friends and local people attended the funeral prayer on Friday.

The Sindh Home Minister expressed his condolences and sympathy with the relatives of the martyred constable and said that the Sindh government and the Sindh Police Department were with them in these moments of extreme grief.

Paying tribute to the services of the martyred constable of the Sindh Police, the minister said that the sacrifices of the police martyrs for the security of life and property of the people and the establishment of peace were priceless and unforgettable.

On the occasion, the Home Minister issued special orders to the senior officers to provide the prevailing benefits to the heirs of the martyr.



PESHAWAR: Former Provincial Minister Muzaffar Sayed meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor House.

## KP Assembly discusses Bannu incident, law and order situation

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly convened on Friday to discuss the firing incident on a peaceful procession in Bannu and the deteriorating law and order situation in the province.

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) MPA Adnan Khan, speaking on a point of order, highlighted that the people of Bannu, who were peacefully demanding peace, were fired upon, resulting in 20 injuries. He urged the government to take action against the perpetrators and ensure the safety of the people.

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) parliamentary leader Lutfur Rehman highlighted security concerns, stressing that the country was facing a critical situation and demanding governmental action against terrorism to protect the citizens.

Other members of the provincial assembly also called for steps to restore peace in the province.

Provincial Minister Dr. Amjad Khan reassured the assembly that the government was taking the law and order situation seriously. He announced that an inquiry into the Bannu firing incident had been ordered and a committee would be formed to investigate the incident and ensure public safety.

Speaker KP Assembly Babar Salim Swati emphasized the need for a collaborative approach to address the issue, suggesting the formation of a committee comprising on the government and the Opposition members, security officials and administrative officials to find out a solution. The assembly session was adjourned till Monday next week.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Transport Bilal Akbar Khan chairs meeting regarding Marri Rail Link Project.

## Huawei's Training Program set to elevate Pakistan's IT exports: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that Pakistan's Information Technology exports will rise with Huawei's annual professional training to 300,000 Pakistani students.

Talking to a four-member delegation led by Ethan Sun, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Huawei Pakistan, the prime minister stressed that collaboration with Huawei was essential for providing advanced IT training in various fields, especially for young people.

The prime minister emphasized that the government values its sustain-

able partnership with Huawei in Pakistan's digital economy. The government will prioritize including both women and the youth of Balochistan in this training program.

The prime minister stated that promoting the digital economy requires building a strong foundation of talented professionals within the country.

The prime minister stated that the recent visit to Huawei's headquarters in China was highly beneficial. The prime minister emphasized that digitizing government institutions was crucial for implementing a modern, automated,

and efficient governance system.

The delegation briefed the prime minister regarding the progress of ongoing projects under the cooperation agreement between Pakistan and Huawei for the Digital Pakistan Program.

The prime minister was informed that a new Massive Open Online Courses system for IT training has been developed and will be launched with the support of provincial governments.

The delegation suggested backing the development of a national data center in line with Pakistan's

national cloud strategy.

This initiative will improve cloud services and lead to considerable cost reductions. Huawei was interested in collaborating with the Pakistani government to transform Islamabad into a smart city. As part of the Islamabad Smart City project, various services such as traffic management, health care, education, and parking will be accessible through a digital platform.

Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Prime Minister's Coordinator Rana Ishaan Afzal, and other senior officials were also present in the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: CEO of Huawei Pakistan Mr. Ethan Sun along with a delegation called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association, called on the Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research.

## Jazz secures landmark credit facility to enhance 4G network, promote digital inclusion nationwide

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator has successfully secured the largest private sector syndicated credit facility, totaling up to Rs 75 billion.

The banking consortium was led by The Bank of Punjab (BoP), and this 10-year financing arrangement will significantly support Jazz's ongoing 4G network expansion and technological upgrades while supporting its new ServiceCo model, said a news release.

The signing ceremony was attended by VEON Group CEO, Aamir Ibrahim, CEO of Jazz, and the Presidents of participating banks along with their representatives.

The consortium includes prominent financial

institutions acting as mandated lead advisors and arrangers, namely Habib Bank Limited, Bank Alfalah Limited, Meezan Bank Limited, MCB Bank Limited, Allied Bank Limited, The Bank of Punjab, Askari Bank Limited, Habib Metropolitan Bank, Soneri Bank Limited, Bank Islami Pakistan Limited and MCB Islamic Bank Limited.

Jazz, a major investor in Pakistan with over 30 years of history and investments exceeding USD 10.6 billion, leads the industry with a 45% revenue market share and serves over 71.4 million subscribers, including 49 million 4G users.

The company recently announced a major shift from a traditional mobile operator to a ServiceCo

structure, creating Strategic Business Units (SBUs) focused on digital financial services, software & analytics, data centers & cloud, and entertainment & digital platforms.

Aamir Ibrahim, CEO of Jazz, remarked, "By investing in cutting-edge digital infrastructure, we are committed to bridging the digital divide and promoting financial inclusion across the nation. This transaction reflects the financial community's trust in Jazz's solid market reputation and our leadership on the digital front. It is a crucial step toward ensuring that all Pakistanis, regardless of location, gender, or socioeconomic status, can harness the transformative power of the internet."

## Govt to introduce track and trace policy in local cotton, ginning

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Industry and Production, National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain on Friday said that the government has decided to introduce track and trace system in local cotton and ginning industry aimed at avoiding tax evasion. Talking to a delegation of the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association, who called on minister, he said that the cotton industry has a pivotal role in the rural economy and the potential to provide employment opportunities for a large portion of the skilled and semi-skilled workforce in

the country.

The meeting discussed matters relating to additional taxation measures on seed cotton and cotton seed cake in the current budget, said a press release. The minister said that a track and trace system will be implemented on locally produced cotton bales in order to avoid tax evasion to protect local farming communities as well as the industrial sector of the country. Rana Tanvir Hussain said that the Cotton Control Act will be implemented in real terms in collaboration with the provincial governments.

## US Ambassador calls on Minister for Privatisation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan, Donald Blome Friday called on Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan.

Both the sides discussed matters relating to mutual interest, especially promoting trade and business between both the countries, said a press release. The meeting held detailed discussions on various issues including further

strengthening Pakistan-US relations, especially, investment opportunities in Pakistan also came under discussion in which business community from United States of America also interested. Speaking on the occasion, Abdul Aleem Khan expressed his determination to promote Pakistan-US business relations and said that there are many opportunities in the challenges faced by the Pakistani economy for which various measures.

## Govt taking initiatives for economic revival: Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said on Friday that the incumbent government intended to take up short, medium and long-term initiatives to ensure economic revival of Pakistan.

The minister was chairing the first steering committee of the FCDO-funded Revenue Mobilisation, Investment and Trade (REMIT) programme, according to press release issued by finance ministry.

British High Commissioner, Jane Marriot co-chaired the meeting while among others it was at-

tended by Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Dr. Jehanzeb Khan and senior government officials.

The finance minister emphasized that the government's focus on inclusive economic growth could be complemented by the support of development partners with a focus on performance and implementation.

Reviewing the work done by the programme in the areas of revenue mobilisation, investment climate, macroeconomic governance and trade, with cross-cutting themes of gender and climate change, the minister appreciated the

overall progress to date.

He also emphasized the need for government stakeholders to be more proactive in taking up implementation.

The minister appreciated the technical assistance provided, stressed on consolidation of interventions and on speeding up on government implementation for impact. Jane Marriot, thanked the minister for his interest in the programme interventions and commitment to reform that will take Pakistan forward.

She assured of FCDO's full support to the government on high priority areas, the statement added.



FAISALABAD: A Farmer utilizing modern agricultural machinery for planting rice seedlings in their fields on outskirts area in the city.

## Senator Anusha says: Senate body for export-led growth of Pakistan as envisioned by PM

KARACHI (APP): Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Commerce Senator Anusha Rahman on Friday said that the Senate Committee on Commerce wanted export-led growth of Pakistan as envisioned by the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

She said this while talking to media after chairing a meeting at the Intellectual Property Organization (IPO) House here.

Earlier, she along with the members of the Senate Standing Committee on Commerce, Senator Sarmad Ali, Senator Talal Chaudhry and Senator Bilal Khan held a meeting with the IPO officials.

Chairman IPO, Farukh Amil, Registrar Copyright, Nasarullah, the IPO officials and other notables were also present on the occasion. Senator Anusha Rahman said that the IPO handled the issues related to the operations of the organizations, companies and merchandise vital for export-led growth. She said that the challenges being faced by the IPO need to be resolved.

She said that the objective of this Committee was that the IPO should perform to its optimal capacity under the ambit of its relevant laws.

## Pakistani jeweler eyes bigger role in China-ASEAN trade

BEIJING (APP): In a move to bolster the global footprint of Pakistani jewelry, Pakistani jeweler Aqeel Chaudhry attended the CIE in Guangxi event held in Nanning, the provincial capital of Guangxi, China this month, highlighting his commitment to the Chinese market and exploring new horizons for business expansion within the ASEAN region.

The event, which attracted 110 international companies and investment promotion agencies in attendance, including 73 Fortune 500 companies and industry leaders, served as a platform for fostering international business collaborations and unlocking new market opportunities.

local media reported.

Chaudhry's presence underscored his keen interest in Guangxi's strategic position as a gateway to ASEAN countries, thereby expanding the reach of Pakistani jewelry.

Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region has emerged as a vital link, fostering closer trade ties and communication between China and ASEAN, the jeweler noted.

For us, Guangxi represents not just a gateway but a bridge, enabling seamless B2B and B2C market access. This event presents unparalleled opportunities for us to expand our horizons and deepen our connections within the region.

## Rupee sheds 05 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Friday depreciated by 05 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.12 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.17.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 279.25 and Rs 280.75 respectively.

The price of Euro came down by Rs 2.12 to close at Rs 302.82 against the last day's closing of Rs 304.94, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen declined by 02 paise and closed at Rs1.76, whereas a decrease of Rs1.88 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs359.68 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs361.56.

The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal decreased by 01 paise each to close at Rs75.72 and Rs74.15 respectively.



KARACHI: Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Commerce Senator Anusha Rahman chairing the meeting of the IPO officials during a visit to the IPO House Karachi. Committee members Sarmad Ali, Bilal Ahmed Khan, Muhammad Talal Badar also present on the occasion.

## MoU to establish Pak first auto insurance repository inked

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), nine insurance companies have signed an MoU with the Central Depository Company of Pakistan (CDC) for the establishment of Pakistan's first centralized auto insurance repository under regulatory guidance.

The CDC will provide the technological support for the creation of an automated repository, said a press release issued here Friday.

The Chairman SECP

Akif Saeed, Commissioner Insurance Aamir Khan, Chairman CDC Farrukh H. Sabzwari, CEO CDC Badiuddin Akber, Chairperson of the Board of Directors (BoD) of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) Shamsad Akhter and representatives of the insurance industry witnessed the ceremony was held at CDC House.

The digital auto insurance repository will facilitate data-centric decision-making and fundamentally change the way auto insurance is underwritten in the country.

## Jam visits ministry's wings focuses on improving performance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Friday visited various wings of the Ministry of Commerce in Kohsar Block, to assess office utilization and enhance the working environment.

During the visit, the minister reviewed departmental operations, emphasizing the importance of a conducive work environment for productivity and efficiency, said a press release. He issued directives for optimizing office spaces, including modern amenities, and clean workspaces. "The working environment plays a significant role in the overall performance of the ministry," stated Jam kamal, highlighting the need for comfortable and efficient workspaces to boost employee productivity and service quality.

## Photovoltaic company Tongwei announces launch of its products in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Chinese photovoltaic company Tongwei having a global presence announced the introduction of its innovative solar energy products in Pakistan. An event "Tongwei: Shine On Lahore" marking the debut of Tongwei's TNC-G12/G12R series modules in Pakistan, showcasing Tongwei's cutting-edge PV technology and product advantages, said a news release received here on Friday. The company showcased its TNC-G12/G12R series modules, which feature advantages including high efficiency, low-temperature coefficient and minimal degradation.

Based on strict control over incoming material quality, the modules adopt

Tongwei's self-developed cells, ushering the industry into an era of high-power performance with enhanced quality and efficiency.

Tongwei's TNC-G12/G12R series modules, which will provide more diverse options for the technology-hungry local market, use silicon-based materials supplied by Tongwei's integrated industrial chain and select high-quality auxiliary materials globally, ensuring high efficiency from the source.

The TNC-G12/G12R not only brings dual benefits of efficiency and returns, but its unique low-voltage design allows the TNC-G12R to have more modules in series compared to the TNC-M10 within the same 1500V system.

## Country's economy putted on road to progress; Danyal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Barrister Danyal Chaudhry on Friday said that Pakistan is facing the worst crisis of its history whereas the government is steering the economy towards progress. In a press conference here at the National Press Club, the PML-N lawmaker acknowledged the sacrifices made by the armed forces, especially in defending the nation against terrorism, and reminded everyone of the May 9 incidents, which he described as a conspiracy to destabilize Pakistan.

On the occasion, Barrister Chaudhry commended the law enforce-

ment agencies for ensuring foolproof Muharram security. He emphasized that Pakistan was achieving economic stability and the government had vowed to prevent anti-state elements from disrupting this progress. Reflecting on the government's tenure, Danyal Chaudhry said that they inherited a dire economic turmoil. Despite some elements spreading concerns about the International Monetary Fund (IMF) negotiations, the government had successfully concluded the agreement talks. He highlighted that Moody's has given a positive rating to Pakistan's economy, and the stock exchange was making record trading.

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Five ships, Cosco Kunlunshan, Fisher, Lucky Chem, Naeba Galaxy and Milaha Qatar scheduled to load/offload Iron Ore, Rice, Palm oil, Chemicals and LNG, berthed at Multi-Purpose Terminal, Grain Terminal, Liquid Terminal, Engro Terminal and Elengy Terminal respectively on Thursday.

Meanwhile three more ships, Bolan, Hafnia Seine and Ullswater with Mogas, Gas oil and LPG are also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim on during last 24 hours.

Eight ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them Petroleum Product 'Fair Star' left the port on today morning while another 'Naeba Galaxy' is expected to sail on today afternoon.

## CDNS set target of Rs 170 billion for Islamic Finance in FY 2024-25

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has set a target of Rs 170 billion investment in Islamic finance for the Current Fiscal Year, which will lead to growth in the Islamic economy in the country.

"The National Savings had issued the Islamic bonds for the promotion of the Islamic finance system, which will help the development of the Islamic economy in the country," the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Friday.

Replying to a question, he said the CDNS had achieved the target of Rs 75 billion during the last fiscal year (2023-24) from the

Islamic bonds, and that was why it aimed to introduce new dimensions in the Islamic finance sector. "Islamic finance now has a significant role in the global financial sector. A large part of the economy of many major countries currently includes Islamic finance," he added. The official said that work was being done on institutional reforms in the CDNS. Given the current market trend in the country, an ambitious target had been set to improve the savings culture further, he added. Replying to another question, he said that the CDNS has set an annual target of Rs 1650 billion for the current Fiscal Year.



DUBAI: A group of business leaders and professionals from Sindh called on Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi to appraise him of what they are doing in the UAE to promote economic activity, friendship and cultural heritage of Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates.



ISLAMABAD: A middle-aged laborer carries crates of mangoes to load them onto a delivery truck at the Islamabad Fruit and Vegetables Market.

## Relentless Israeli attacks claim 54 lives in Gaza

### Monitoring Desk

GAZA STRIP: The Gaza health ministry said on Thursday that 54 people have been killed in 24 hours as Israel kept up its heavy bombardment of recent days.

All health facilities in southern Gaza have been pushed to their "breaking point" by the influx of casualties, the International Committee of the Red Cross said.

Television images showed mourners at Al Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the central town of Deir el-Balah, where several white-shrouded corpses lay on the ground. One man cradled the covered body of a child.

Also on Thursday, the Israeli parliament voted to oppose a Palestinian state as an "existential threat". The vote, which drew swift criticism from the Palestinian leadership and the international community, is largely symbolic but laid down a marker ahead of a planned address by Netanyahu to the US Con-

gress next Wednesday.

The veteran hawk has shown little interest in efforts by the US administration to broker a truce and prisoner release deal for Gaza, insisting that "absolute victory" over Hamas is within reach and vowing to ramp up the military pressure.

The White House acknowledged on Thursday that it had no firm date for any talks between Netanyahu and President Joe Biden, saying only that it had "every expectation" the two men would meet, dependent on the president's recovery from Covid.

The resolution passed by Israeli lawmakers in the early hours said a Palestinian state on land occupied by the Israeli army would "perpetuate the Israel-Palestinian conflict and destabilise the region". The resolution passed by 68 votes to nine in the 120-member parliament.

The Palestinian Authority accused Israel's hard-right ruling coalition of

"plunging the region into an abyss".

Neighbouring Jordan said the vote "constitutes a serious violation of international law and a challenge to the international community".

France expressed "consternation", noting that the text was "in contradiction" with multiple UN Security Council resolutions.

The establishment of a Palestinian state on lands occupied by Israel in the Six-Day War of 1967 has been the cornerstone of the international community's efforts to resolve the conflict for decades. UN chief Antonio Guterres was "very disappointed" by the Israeli parliament's move. "You can't vote away the two-state solution," his spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

Guterres has repeatedly called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, saying Wednesday that "the humanitarian situation is a moral stain on us all".



Republican presidential nominee and former U.S. President Donald Trump is joined on stage by wife Melania and other relatives after he finished giving his acceptance speech on Day 4 of the Republican National Convention (RNC), at the Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, U.S.

## 'Isolated' Biden faces calls to drop re-election bid

### Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Joe Biden still has mild Covid symptoms but is continuing to work, his White House doctor said on Thursday, a day after the US president tested positive for the disease shortly after conceding he would consider dropping his re-election bid if doctors diagnosed him with a serious medical condition.

"The president is still experiencing mild upper respiratory symptoms associated with his recent Covid-19 infection," doctor Kevin O'Connor said in a letter. "He does not have a fever and his vital signs re-

main normal".

The 81-year-old Democ-rat gave reporters the thumbs up and said "I feel good" as he cut short a trip to Las Vegas and flew to his beach home in Delaware to go into isolation, which will take him off the campaign trail for days.

The infection comes at a critical moment for Biden's campaign, with the president seeking to show he is up to the job after a disastrous debate performance against rival Donald Trump sparked concerns about his health and calls from some Democrats for him to step aside.

## Ex-CIA analyst charged with spying for South Korea

### Monitoring Desk

NEW YORK: A grand jury has indicted a former US Central Intelligence Agency analyst on charges of acting as a spy for the South Korean government in exchange for luxury goods, bags and fancy meals, the BBC reported on Thursday.

Sue Mi Terry, who previously worked as a senior official for the White House National Security Council, faces two counts of failing to register as a foreign agent and conspiracy to violate the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

## Arson suspected as fire kills seven in France

### Monitoring Desk

NICE: Police were hunting three arson suspects on Thursday after an apartment building fire killed seven people in the southern French city of Nice, Prime Minister Gabriel Attal said.

The dead include three children — 5, 7 and 10 years old — and a 17-year-old who tried to escape by jumping from a window, they added. The apartment is located in the low-income neighbourhood of Les Moulins, known for being a drug-dealing hub, in the west of the city.



Palestinians remove debris at a UN-run school sheltering displaced people, following an Israeli strike in Gaza City.

## US funds to Afghanistan may have fallen to militants: report

### Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Two State Department bureaus could not prove compliance with internal policies for vetting aid groups in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan that received \$293 million in funds, raising a risk that extremists may have profited, a US watchdog said.

"It is critical that State knows who is actually benefiting from this assistance in order to prevent the aid from being diverted to the Taliban or other sanctioned parties," said the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) report on Wednesday.

The Taliban, the report said, has tried to obtain US aid funds "through several means, including the establishment of humanitarian organisations," un-

derscoring the need for the department to "fully and consistently assess the risks posed by its implementing partners."

The State Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment. SIGAR said three of five State Department bureaus were found in compliance with department regulations requiring vetting of aid fund recipients.

But the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labour, and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs could not provide enough documentation to prove their adherence.

"State could not demonstrate compliance with its partner vetting requirements on awards that disbursed at least \$293 million in Afghanistan."

## Russia and Ukraine conduct third prisoner exchange in recent months

### Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Russia and Ukraine exchanged 95 prisoners of war each on Wednesday in the latest such swap after the United Arab Emirates acted as an intermediary, Russia's Defence ministry and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

Russia's Defence Ministry, in a statement on the Telegram messaging app, said the returning Russian soldiers would be flown to Moscow for medical examinations and physical and psychological rehabilitation.

It said the freed troops had faced "mortal danger" in Ukrainian captivity.

## Belarus to introduce 90 day visa-free regime for 35 European countries

### Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Belarus, traditionally a close ally of Russia, said on Wednesday it would introduce a 90-day visa-free regime for citizens of 35 European countries in a sign Minsk may be keen to ease tensions with the West.

Under the new policy, citizens of the 35 listed nations — which include Germany, Britain and France — will be able to enter Belarus without a visa and stay for up to 90 days per year.

Currently, travellers from those countries can only remain in Belarus for 30 days and must fly in via Minsk airport.

The new policy takes effect on Friday, the National Border Service said in a statement.

## Thailand says cyanide killed 6 foreigners in hotel, including perpetrator

### Monitoring Desk

BANGKOK: Cyanide poisoning caused the deaths of six foreigners whose bodies were found in a room in a plush Bangkok hotel, Thai authorities said on Wednesday, with the suspected killer among the dead.

Traces of the rapid-acting, deadly chemical were found during autopsies of the bodies and on drinking glasses and a teapot in the room at the luxury Grand Hyatt Erawan hotel where the dead were discovered late

on Tuesday, according to police and a hospital.

Interviews with relatives of the three women and three men who died revealed there had been a dispute over debt related to an investment, according to police, who said they were investigating how the cyanide was obtained.

The six were all of Vietnamese ethnicity, two of those US nationals. Police said the US Federal Bureau of Investigation had assisted with the investigation.



People walk past burnt vehicles after students set them on fire amid the ongoing anti-quota protests in Dhaka.

## DR Congo conflict fuels forest loss

### Monitoring Desk

KIBATI: Under the denuded slopes of Mount Nyiragongo volcano in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, traders in Kibati town bartered over sacks of charcoal, a product of deforestation that an ongoing conflict has pushed to unprecedented levels, the United Nations says.

Motorbikes piled with freshly sawn planks zipped down the main road in Kibati, a community that has remained under Congolese army control even as a two-year insurgency by the

M23 militia advanced in conflict-torn North Kivu province, displacing more than 1.7 million people.

"In the camp, we're dying of hunger. We've decided to make charcoal so we can feed our children," said displaced vendor Jacques Muzayi at Kibati.

The insecurity has worsened the pressure on the region's once densely forested hillsides and its protected Virunga National Park, home to many of the world's last mountain gorillas.

## Massive tech outage affects air traffic, communications worldwide

### Monitoring Desk

BRISBANE: Companies worldwide experienced interruptions amidst an outage of Microsoft's cloud computing suites on Friday, with flights being grounded, news outlets unable to broadcast information, and operations in brokerage houses being hindered. Outages have been reported mainly in Australia, the US, the UK, and India, among other countries, affecting institutions ranging from banks, media houses, and stock markets to government branches and airports.

According to Downdetector, a real-time internet outage monitoring website, breakdowns for Microsoft services, including the cloud computing

program Azure and office software Microsoft 365, were reported globally within the last 24 hours. In the US, 1,751 outages were reported.

Microsoft said that its outage started at about 6pm Eastern Time (3am Pakistan Standard Time) on Thursday, with a subset of its customers experiencing issues with multiple Azure services in the Central US region.

Separately, Microsoft announced it was investigating an issue impacting various Microsoft 365 apps and services. "We're continuing to progress on our mitigation efforts for the affected Microsoft 365 apps and services," Microsoft said on its website.

## Trump-style ear bandages catch on

### Monitoring Desk

MILWAUKEE: At the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee this week, a fashion trend with a difference has emerged: fake ear bandages, donned by attendees as a symbolic gesture of support for Donald Trump.

Trump has appeared at the convention wearing a large bandage where a would-be assassin's bullet grazed his right ear at a rally on Saturday.

"We're helping President Trump set a new fashion statement," said Arizona delegate Susan Ellsworth. "We're standing in solidarity with him for his wound."

## As Spain swelters, volunteers serve cold soup to homeless

### Monitoring Desk

CORDOBA: Red Cross volunteers handed out gazpacho soup, water and soft drinks to homeless people in the southern city of Cordoba as Spain braced for the peak of its first heatwave of the summer.

"A plate of food, our gazpacho, our milk — that's a lot to be thankful for," Jose Miguel Sanchez said, praising the helpers serving him and his partner on a street in the city centre on Thursday night.

The 59-year-old told Reuters a woman had let them stay in her home for a few days to keep out of the sun.

## Taiwan must rely on itself for defence, foreign minister responds to Trump

### Monitoring Desk

TAIPEI: Taiwan must rely on itself for defence and is likely to keep increasing spending and modernising its military given the threat it faces from China, Foreign Minister Lin Chia-lung said on Friday, responding to criticism from Donald Trump.

US former President Trump, the Republican candidate in a rematch with President Joe Biden, said in an interview published this week that "Taiwan should pay us for defence", adding that the island had taken American semiconductor business. The United States is the most important international backer and arms supplier of Taiwan, which China claims as its own. Despite the lack of formal diplomatic ties, Washington is bound by law to provide the means for the island's defence.

But Taiwan has no for-

mal defence pact with the United States, as Asian neighbours Japan and South Korea do, since Washington terminated a previous treaty with Taipei in 1979 when it switched diplomatic recognition to Beijing.

Biden angered China in 2022 by saying US forces would defend Taiwan in the event of a Chinese invasion, a deviation from a long-held US position of "strategic ambiguity".

Asked about Trump's comments, Lin told foreign reporters in Taipei that "we pay great attention to" them, and Taiwan-US relations are built on the bipartisan support Taiwan enjoys in the United States.

"I think everyone has a consensus on the main point, which is the China threat," said Lin, who took up his post on May 20 as part of the cabinet of newly elected President Lai Ching-te.

## North Korea plans to launch major tourism site next year though it still blocks foreign tourists

### Monitoring Desk

SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visited a major tourism site being constructed on the country's eastern coast and discussed steps to open the zone by next year, state media reported Thursday, though the country still blocks visits by most foreign tourists.

The Wonsan-Kalma zone is one of Kim's most talked-about tourism projects. For years, North Korea has been building luxury hotels and recreational facilities there to create a key attraction for international visitors. But the project reportedly suffered setbacks due to shortages of construction materials as a result of toughened U.N. sanctions and COVID-19 restrictions.

Kim toured the Wonsan-Kalma zone with top deputies on Tuesday and discussed preparations for its opening by May 2025 as decided by a ruling

party meeting in January, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

"A coastal wonderland to be known to the world as the best tourist resort of (North Korea) would be successfully built," Kim was quoted as saying by KCNA. It cited Kim as saying construction has entered its final stages.

North Korea has been slowly easing its harsh pandemic-era curbs and entry restrictions as part of its efforts to revive its economy. But it still hasn't reopened its borders to foreign tourists, except for a relatively small number of Russians who visited earlier this year as ties boomed between the two countries.

A return of Chinese travelers would likely provide a much bigger source of revenue as they represented about 90% of international tourists visiting North Korea before the pandemic.

## Bangladesh TV news off air, communications widely disrupted as student protests spike

### Monitoring Desk

DHAKA: Television news channels in Bangladesh were off the air and telecommunications were widely disrupted on Friday amid violent student protests against quotas for government jobs in which nearly two dozen people have been killed this week. There was no immediate word from the government.

French news agency AFP reported that the death toll in Thursday's violence had risen to 32. Reuters had reported that 13 people were killed, adding to six dead earlier in the week, and could not immediately verify the higher number. There was fresh violence in some parts of the country on Friday and police were using tear gas to disperse protesters, a Reuters photographer said.

India's Economic Times newspaper reported that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government "was forced" to call in the army late on Thursday to help "maintain order". Reuters could not independently verify the information.

Although the protests were sparked by student anger against the controversial quota system, some analysts have said that tough economic conditions, including high inflation, rising unemployment, and depleting foreign reserves, were pouring fuel on the fire.

The protests have also opened old and sensitive political faultlines between those who fought for Bangladesh's independence in 1971, including Hasina's Awami League. Authorities had cut some mobile services on Thursday to try to quell the unrest but the disruption spread across the country.

## Ukraine smashes temperature records amid power outages

### Monitoring Desk

KYIV: Several cities across Ukraine were recording historic scorching temperatures, officials said on Wednesday, at a time when major urban hubs are suffering long periods without electricity after Russian attacks on power plants.

In the capital Kyiv, Ukrainians have been seeking respite from oppressive heat by swimming in the Dnipro river that cuts through the city, where some districts have been without power for hours at a time due to electricity rationing.

"This is the hottest summer of my life," said 22-year-old Dmytro, who complained he had no electricity for about 20 hours a day. Another resident, 18-year-old Diana, told AFP the temperature in her workplace was unbearable. "Air conditioners don't run at work when there is no power. This is how we are living," she said. A state meteorological station covering the Kyiv region said Wednesday that air temperatures one day earlier reached 36 degrees Celsius, beating by 0.2C a previous

record for the same date set in 1931.

The Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Center said historic records were set in Vinnytsia, Chernivtsi and Mykolaiv — cities in the centre and south of Ukraine. The records come as the energy ministry has stepped up imports of electricity from European countries and imposed strict rationing due to Russian attacks that have halved Ukraine's electricity generation capacity, compared to one year ago.

The ministry said Wednesday that with temperatures at their "maximum", there would be rolling power outages across the country.

Electricity consumption is "also expected to reach a record level which significantly exceeds the capacity of Ukrainian power plants", the ministry explained in a statement.

Last month, Kyiv urged officials to turn off air conditioners in government buildings and called on regional authorities to limit street lighting to ease pressure on the grid.



A judicial police officer and forensics police inspect the entrance of a residential building where a fire broke out overnight in Nice.

## Kashmir's Accession to Pakistan Day" observed with fabulous zest, renewed pledge

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): The people of Kashmir living in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu Kashmir (IIOJK), and around the world observed "Kashmir's Accession to Pakistan Day" on Friday. They renewed their resolve to continue the struggle for freedom from Indian unlawful occupation and to realize the idea of Kashmir's accession to Pakistan. This spirit is based on the historic resolution passed in Srinagar on this day in 1947.

On July 19, 1947, the Kashmiris adopted a historic resolution in a special meeting of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference at the residence of veteran Kashmiri leader and later founding President of Azad Jammu Kashmir government, Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan in Srinagar, demanding accession of entire Jammu and Kashmir state to Pakistan in accordance with the aspirations of the people of the Muslim-majority Himalayan State.

The people of Kash-

mir observe this historic day every year with a renewal of the pledge to continue the struggle, with full vigour, for the achievement of their birthright to self-determination and translate the idea of accession of the entire Jammu Kashmir state to Pakistan under the spirit of the historic resolution passed this day in 1947 into reality. In AJK, it was a public holiday to facilitate the masses from all sections of the civil society to participate in the ceremonies held to mark the historic day.

The representative leaders of people of all spheres of life from various parts of the concerned districts reiterated complete solidarity with the people of Pakistan with a renewed pledge to materialize the dream of accession to the entire Jammu Kashmir state to Pakistan into reality in the light of the historic resolution.

The day dawned with special prayers in the mosques for the liberation of all occupied Muslim lands including Indian-held Jammu Kashmir and Palestine, the success of the

Kashmir freedom struggle and for the rest of the departed souls who laid down their lives for the cause of liberation of the motherland from the Indian illegal rule.

Special meetings including seminars and symposiums were held in all ten districts and tehsil headquarters of AJK including in the state's metropolis - Muzaffarabad to commemorate the historic day with the renewal of the pledge to continue the struggle to attain their birthright to self-determination and accomplish the dream of the accession of entire Jammu Kashmir state to Pakistan under the spirit of the historic resolution passed. In Mirpur a grand rally was staged to observe the day, led by ADC (G) Yasir Mahmood.

SSP Kamran Ali, Mall Officer Syed Kaleem Abbas, Principal Mirpur-AJK MBBS Medical College, Faisal Bashir, AC Islamgarh sub Division Yasir Gardezi, President Markazi Anjuman e Tajraan Sohal, Shujah Mujahid, Writer's Forum Chief, Garooq Jirail.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb is chairing the meeting on the Establishment of Programme Steering Committee (PSC) for the UK-Funded REMIT Programme.

## NA Speaker urges youth to play role in nation-building

ISLAMABAD (INP): Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Friday urged youth to play their role in nation-building rather than indulging in propaganda and political polarization. "Acquainting Youth with parliamentary procedures and norms is pivotal for the growth of democracy in Pakistan", he expressed these views during his keynote address to the orientation session of the Young Citizen Internship Program 2024.

He also said that youth need to be acquainted with the committee system of Parliament as the standing committee plays an effective role in legislation.

The speaker also informed the participants, "Pakistan Parliament is the first regional Parliament

which transformed itself into the first-ever Green Parliament of the World through solarization".

Member National Assembly (MNA) Dr. Nikhat Shakeel Khan, one of the pioneers of the Youth Internship Program initiated by the National Assembly, expressed her appreciation for the orientation session with her virtual presence and highlighted the importance of connecting the youth with the Parliament, imparting basic principles of democracy to youth, equipping youth with parliamentary etiquettes, processes and most importantly, directing the youth towards nation-building. Director Advocacy, Campaign, Communications and Media - Save the Children, Raza Hussain Qazi warmly greeted.

## Rubaba flays terrorists attacks in Pishin & Buleda

Independent Report  
QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister for Women Development, Dr. Rubaba Buledi has strongly condemned the terrorists attack in Pishin and Buleda.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Friday, the Advisor to Chief Minister said that the martyrs and injured persons are pride of the country.

She said that the recent wave of terrorism is an attempt to destabilize the country.

However, the government and Pakistani nation is determined to foil the nefarious designs of terrorists, she added.



MUZAFFARABAD: Members of Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir signatures on a banner on the occasion of Youm-e-Ilhaq-e-Pakistan, in the city.

## PTI submits affiliation affidavits of 38 MNAs to Election Commission

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has submitted affiliation forms for 38 independent members to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

Affidavits of allegiance from three independent members have yet to be submitted.

The affidavits of the PTI's elected representatives, Sahibzada Mehmood Sultan, Mobeen Arif, and Riaz Fatyana are currently abroad, but the affiliation forms for Sultan and Arif have been received by the party.

The sources said additional documents are also attached to the affiliation forms submitted to the

will be submitted to the ECP today.

It is also reported that Sahibzada Mehmood Sultan, Mobeen Arif, and Riaz Fatyana are currently abroad, but the affiliation forms for Sultan and Arif have been received by the party.

The sources said additional documents are also attached to the affiliation forms submitted to the

## Maryam urges SC judges to let Pakistan progress

LAHORE, (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Friday urged the Supreme Court (SC) judges to let Pakistan progress following the apex court's verdict on Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC) appeals, declaring Imran Khan-founded PTI eligible for seats reserved for women and minorities.

"The one who is being brought back is the nation's criminal," the Punjab chief minister said while apparently referring to PTI founder Imran Khan - who is currently incarcerated

ated in May 9 riots cases. Maryam Nawaz alleged that when the country starts to stabilize, some individuals become uncomfortable and make decisions that hinder progress.

She questioned the Supreme Court's judgement, asking if it was not a cause of instability, then what was? She also criticised the PTI-led government, saying that despite being in power for four years, they had caused unprecedented destruction.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Abu Dhabi Ports Pakistan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## Abu Dhabi Ports Pakistan to invest \$250m in Karachi Port in 10 years: PM told

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Executive Officer of Abu Dhabi Ports Pakistan Khuram Aziz Khan on Friday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and informed that the company would invest \$250 million in Karachi Port during the next 10 years.

The company CEO, who was accompanied by a delegation, also told that a fully equipped multipurpose terminal, being constructed through a \$130 million investment, would be completed within two years.

The delegation members briefed the prime minister about the company's

investment in the improvement of the container terminal facility at Karachi Port featuring X control, automated gates, 200-meter expansion in berth, crane rail track and development of infrastructure.

It was told that after the development of new infrastructure, cargo ships of up to 120,000 tons capacity would be able to anchor at the port to boost economic activity.

Prime Minister Shehbaz called for using modern technology and machinery to improve cargo and container handling at the port besides reducing the clearance time to a minimum.

He said that the objective of the agreement with Abu Dhabi Ports was to ensure transparency, enhance capacity and improve port operations. He also assured that the government would extend maximum support in executing the agreement to achieve maximum benefits.

The prime minister directed the railway authorities to provide freight bogies and other necessary rolling stock to operationalise the project, and improve the transportation of cargo from the terminal.

## AJK PM says: Pakistan center of Kashmiris' hopes

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while terming Pakistan as the center of Kashmiris' hopes, has said that the historical day of July 19 had special significance in the history of freedom struggle of Kashmir. "It was on this day in 1947 when Kashmiri leadership decided to align their destiny with Pakistan", he said in his message issued on the occasion of Kashmir's accession day to Pakistan being observed today (Friday).

The prime minister said that observance of day on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) was a reflection of Kashmiris' unconditional love and faith with the state of Pakistan.

"Those who laid down their lives in pursuit of this ideology are our real heroes" for Pakistan ran in the blood of every Kashmiri.

Anwar ul Haq said that Kashmiris had rendered matchless sacrifices to materialize the dream that was envisioned by their ancestors much before the creation of Pakistan.

He expressed the optimism that the day was not far off when the Kashmiris' struggle and sacrifices would bear fruits.

Terming Kashmiris' unconditional love for Pakistan as the biggest eyesore to India.

## Open Court to be held in supervision of DC Quetta on July 24

Independent Report  
QUETTA: An open court session will be held on July 24, 2024, at 11 am in the Metropolitan Corporation Quetta Lawn, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Lieutenant (Retd) Saad bin Asad. All district department officers will be present to hear public grievances and issue on-the-spot orders for their immediate resolution. The public is invited to attend the open court session and present their complaints and issues in person. This is an opportunity for citizens to directly interact with government officials.

## Gilani for exploring new avenues of cooperation between Pakistan-Algeria

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani Friday underscored the need to further diversify Pakistan-Algeria relations and explore new avenues of cooperation to further add impetus to bilateral relations.

"Pakistan enjoys excellent relations with Algeria which are rooted in history, religion and similarity of views on various regional and international issues" he expressed these views during a meeting with Algerian Ambassador Brahim Romani.

He also acknowledged and appreciated Algeria's support to Pakistan in the United Nations and at other international fora, in particular, the support for Pakistan's various candidatures.

He called for broadening the political and economic ties. "There is a great need for closer trade and economic relations as the current level of trade is far

below its true potential", the chairman stated.

He highlighted the significance of frequent exchange of business delegations to boost trade and explore opportunities for joint ventures and investment.

He said that Pakistan has one of the best quality rice in the world and Algeria may consider importing rice from Pakistan.

He underlined that there is huge potential for mutual collaboration in IT, pharmaceutical and other sectors.

Collaboration between Pakistan and Algeria in the IT sector particularly freelancing can be beneficial for both countries as there are thousands of companies in Pakistan providing freelancing services, he maintained.

He highlighted the need for parliamentary linkages and institutional cooperation to learn from each other's experiences.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani in a meeting with Algerian ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Brahim Romani at Parliament House.

## PPP office bearers, workers led by Sarbuland Jomezai call on CM in Loralai

QUETTA: The office bearers of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Loralai Division called on the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti in Loralai on Friday. The Provincial Secretary Information, Sardar Sarbuland Khan Jomezai led the PPP delegation.

Speaking to the delegation, the Chief Minister said that the party and its related matters would be strengthened at the district and divisional level.

He mentioned that it is directive of the chairman PPP, Bilawal Bhutto

Zardari to strengthen the party at the divisional, district, Tehsil and union councils further. He said that the Pakistan Peoples Party believe public service as it's manifesto and aim.

He said that public welfare is our mission.

The Chief Minister vowed that the implementation of the manifesto of public service would be ensured with support of the office bearers and workers.

The party leadership of Loralai division praised the public friendly vision of the Chief Minister.

## Agri Dept accepts joining report of complaint on notice of Balochistan Ombudsman

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Ombudsman Nazar Baloch sought a response from the Agriculture Research Wing Department after receiving the complaint. The complainant, Bilal Ahmed, son of Abdul Malik, had complained to the Provincial Ombudsman against the Director General of Finance and Accounts Quetta some time ago that the same department refused to accept his joining report after receiving his appointment order and his salary has also stopped.

On which the Provincial Ombudsman, after preliminary investigation, registered the case for formal investigation and issued a notice of response to the department concerned.

In compliance with which the Director General (DG) of Agriculture Research Balochistan said in reply that the complaint of the questioner has been accepted on the same basis as his report and the salary of the complainer would be issued by the Finance Department of Turbat district.



QUETTA: Independent Layers Group Head Mir Attuaalh Langouve along with Balochistan High Court Bar Secretary General Shah Rasool addressing a press conference.

## Shibli Faraz opposes appointment of ad hoc judges in letter to CJP

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) stalwart and Leader of the Opposition in the Senate Shibli Faraz has written a letter to the Chairman of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) and Chief Justice of Pakistan, Qazi Faez Isa, urging the JCP to reject the proposal for appointing ad hoc judges.

Senator Shibli Faraz expressed concerns in his letter that the appointment of ad hoc judges gives the impression that the judiciary is being influenced for the benefit of a particular party.

Senator Shibli Faraz emphasised that the appointment of ad hoc judges should not create the perception of balancing opinions against a specific party within the judiciary.

The opposition leader in the Senate argued that pending cases cannot justify the appointment of ad

hoc judges after the appointment of permanent judges.

He noted that the proposal for ad hoc judges came on the same day the Supreme Court ruled in favour of PTI with a 5-8 decision and that no transparent procedure was followed for the selection of ad hoc judges.

He added that the proposed ad hoc judge, retired Justice Maqbool Baqar, held significant positions in the caretaker government while retired Justice Tariq Masood prolonged the military custody case of 100 PTI supporters, and retired Justice Mazhar Miankhal made remarks about invoking Article 6 against PTI leaders.

Shibli Faraz highlighted that critical cases such as the civilian military trial, the February 8 election case, and the recent ban on PTI are pending in the Supreme Court.



LORALAI: Office bearers of different political parties and representatives of civil society meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti

## PN Ship YARMOOK deployed on regional maritime security patrol

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Navy has deployed its warship PNS YARMOOK with embarked helicopter in the Indian Ocean for safety and security of merchant ships bound to and from Pakistani Ports. During the deployment, the Pakistan Navy Ship will undertake independent operations as well as combined operations along with other friendly

and partner nations to achieve common objectives of safe and secure maritime commons. The ship will also call on regional ports for Naval Diplomatic tasks in line with Pakistan's foreign policy objectives, a Pakistan Navy news release said. Pakistan Navy is committed to ensure freedom of navigation on high seas and safety of international sea lanes of communication.

## Aleem sponsors repatriation of stranded Pakistani prisoners from Sri Lanka

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan has come forward to sponsor the repatriation of Pakistani prisoners from Sri Lanka, where they have been stuck for several years.

This philanthropic move has been hailed as a major breakthrough in the efforts to bring back these

prisoners, who were facing difficulties in paying their expenses and fines.

According to sources, the Ministry of Interior had been in touch with Sri Lankan authorities for the past three months to facilitate the release of Pakistani prisoners.

However, the process was delayed due to financial constraints.



QUETTA: Chairman Public Accounts Committee Asghar Ali Tareen presiding over introductory meeting of PAC