

# Independent

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## Ex-ISI chief Faiz Hamid taken into custody by military: ISPR

Process of "Field General Court Martial" initiated against former spy master, says military's media wing; Arrest made on allegations levelled by housing society CEO; Detailed court of inquiry undertaken by army to probe allegations

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): In an unprecedented move, the country's former spymaster, Lt-Gen (ret) Faiz Hameed, was detained by military authorities and court martial proceedings have been initiated against him on charges of corruption, misuse of authority and violating the Pakistan Army Act.



against Lt-Gen (ret) Faiz Hameed. Consequently, appropriate disciplinary action has been initiated against Hameed, under provisions of Pakistan Army Act," read a statement issued by military's media

wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Monday. "In addition, multiple instances of violation of Pakistan Army Act post retirement have also been established. The process of Field General Court Martial has been initiated and Gen Faiz has been taken into military custody," the statement added.

Given the powerful position of head of ISI, it is seen as unusual that the former spymaster was not only arrested but court martial proceedings have been initiated against him.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurates the Commonwealth Asia Youth Alliance Secretariat, at the International Youth Day ceremony.

## CM assures to provide protection to foreign investors in Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated Balochistan is the suitable province for investment and assured that complete protection would be provided to the foreign investors in the province.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the representative delegation of Shanghai ADM International Development Trading Company Limited who called on him here on Monday.

During the course of meeting, matters about private Chinese investment were discussed.

The members of delegation briefed about the suggestions regarding investment in the province.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister said that the completion of CPEC projects would cast positive impacts on the national economy.

He also said that the trade and business activities would also be flourished with the foreign investment.

He said that the opportunities of livelihood and industrial development would also be made available with the CPEC investment in the province.

While the process of social development would also be expedited with completion of the CPEC projects.

He assured full cooperation to the foreign investors in the province.

In this regard, the Balochistan Board of Investment would provide every assistance, he added.

## Preparations in full swing to celebrate I. Day

ISLAMABAD (Online): As the Independence Day is approaching closer, a large number of stalls displaying national flags, bunting, flag-coloured dresses and other accessories have been set up at markets and streets to attract buyers across the country.

Meanwhile, a country-wide tree plantation drive "Plant for Pakistan Campaign" is also under way to promote plantation to reduce pollution. Radio Pakistan and Pakistan Television are broadcasting special transmission to highlight the services and sacrifices of heroes of Pakistan Movement.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Chief Executive Officer Shanghai International Trading Yasin Bhambhani meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

## Mountaineer Murad Sadpara passes away

ISLAMABAD (INP): One of the top climbers of the country, Murad Sadpara, who went missing after being wounded in the Broad Peak a day ago, passed away on Monday.

The vice president of Alpine club, Ayaz Shigri confirmed the news of Sadpara's death. Sadpara was injured in his way back from the summit of Broad Peak which is 8,047 metres in height.

The Pakistan Army helicopter helped four climbers reach the base camp where they were also trying to retrieve Sadpara's dead body.

It must be noted that Sadpara had climbed four peaks including the K-2. He was spearheading the 'K-2 Clean-up Expedition' and was involved in retrieving Hassan Shigri's dead body last year.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary for Department of Social Welfare, Haji Wali Mohammad Noorzai addresses to media persons during press conference, in Quetta.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti addressing concluding ceremony of horse riding gala held in connection Jashn-e-Azadi

## Welfare of Balochistan's people top priority of govt, says PM

Shehbaz Sharif pledges support for youth to transform Pakistan into a developed nation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday held a meeting with a delegation led by President National Party Dr Abdul Malik Baloch and discussed the overall political situation in Balochistan province.

Senator Jan Muhammad Jamali and member National Assembly Pullain Baloch were part of the delegation.

During the meeting, the prime minister said welfare and well being of the people of Balochistan was the top priority of the government, adding steps were being taken to provide equal opportunities of employment to youth of Balochistan.

Dr Abdul Malik Baloch thanked the prime minister for solarization of agriculture tubewells in Balochistan.

## Only solution to resolve public issues at their doorstep lies in empowering LB institutions, states Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the solution to the public issues at their doorstep and decreasing the dependence of people of remote and backward areas on the federal and provincial governments lies in making the local bodies institutions empowered.

The Governor said that the local bodies representatives are well aware of the daily hardships facing the general public and they are in the best position to understand their needs.

He also stressed the need to strengthen the third tier of the government i.e., local government.

The Governor was speaking to the former

Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Dr. Ishrat Hussain who called on him here at the Governor House on Monday.

During the course of meeting, the matters were discussed about concept of the shared government, constitutional protection of the local governments, quick results of the governance and sustainable development. Speaking on the occasion, Governor said that it is necessary to strengthen the third tier of government for promotion of comprehensive planning and shared government.

He said that it is decided that the local government plays an important role in providing solution to the issues at the doorstep of citizens.

## Independence Day celebrations continue all over Balochistan: We would get rid of elements conspiring to weaken country, create differences between youth & state, Sarfraz Bugti

Chief Minister says social media is good thing, but it's negative use being made; emphasizes upon ensuring correct use of social media to prevent; conspiracies

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has categorically stated that his government would eliminate the conspiracies being made to weaken the state.

We would also get rid of the elements conspiring to create differences among the state and youth of province. The social media is a good thing, but it's negative use is being made.

The world adopted social media tool by putting the moral values on strong lines. But the social media

tool was used badly in perspective of Balochistan.

These views were expressed by the Chief Minister while addressing the closing ceremony of All Balochistan Shooting Championship here on Monday.

The Chief Minister maintained that the celebrations of Independence Day are being held wholeheartedly all over the province.

He said that Balochistan is hit by the enemy forces, which want to weaken the country.

He regretfully pointed out that a particular group

is trying to weaken the state through propaganda and violence.

He emphasized the need to ensure correct use of social media to prevent the conspiracies.

The Chief Minister expressed the resolve that the provincial government would eliminate all such elements and conspiracies which are trying to weaken the state. Besides, we would also eliminate such elements which are creating differences between the state and youth through social media or while sitting on the mountains.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari addressing a ceremony in connection with Minorities' Day in Pakistan, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Pakistan committed to protection of minorities' rights, ensure equal opportunities: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday reiterated that Pakistan was committed to protection of the rights of minorities and provision of equal opportunities to them to excel in every walk of life as enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan.

Addressing a ceremony to mark the celebrations of Minorities' Day at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the president said, "Under the Constitution and under the onus of oath my office, I have the duty to protect all rights of the minorities and provide all kind of facilitation".

He said that the objective behind the observance of Minorities' Day at the official level was to acknowledge the valuable contributions made by the members of different communities living in Pakistan.

The president further stressed upon enhancement of jobs opportunities for the minorities in different government's departments on merit basis besides, increasing the existing jobs quota.

Lauding the role of the minorities in the national progress and prosperity, he said that they were the equal citizens of Pakistan

and future builders of the nation.

Stressing upon the significance of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's vision, the president said they were required to fully emulate his message aimed at fostering unity, brotherhood and religious tolerance in society.

The event arranged by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony was attended by members of parliament, ulema, religious leaders, members of the diplomatic corps, media and representatives from different minorities.

## Defence Minister visits Naval Headquarters

ISLAMABAD (APP): Defence Minister, Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Monday visited Naval Headquarters (NHQ) here and called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf. During the meeting, matters about the Regional Maritime Security milieu and operational readiness of the Pakistan Navy were discussed, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

The naval chief apprised the minister on maritime challenges and the Pakistan Navy's preparedness to meet them.

The minister was also briefed on the Pakistan Navy's future capability enhancement and modernization plans.

The minister took keen interest in details of recent acquisitions of state-of-the-art platforms and equipment which will further strengthen the seaward defence of the country. The minister also acknowledged the importance of the Pakistan Navy in safeguarding the maritime interests of the country.

He assured that his ministry would make all efforts to meet the requirements of the Pakistan Navy despite the prevailing economic constraints.

## Imran Khan warns of protests if attempts made to extend CJP Isa's term

RAWALPINDI (INP): Founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Imran Khan, has warned of potential protests if the government disregards decisions concerning reserved seats and attempts to extend the Chief Justice's term.

During an informal discussion with journalists in Adiala Jail, Khan expressed his discontent with the current political climate, comparing Pakistan's situation to that of Bangladesh under Sheikh Hasina.

"Our conditions are worse than Bangladesh's," Khan claimed.

Describing the conditions, the PTI's supreme noted that Hasina Wajid had appointed her own Army Chief, Chief Justice, and police chiefs while sidelining opposition parties.

He drew parallels between these events and Pakistan, stating "These events have occurred and are occurring in Pakistan as well."

In a critique of the government's handling of the 9 May incidents, Khan accused the authorities of orchestrating a crackdown on PTI under false pretenses.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari exchanges views with US Ambassador, Donald Blome during meeting held at Bilawal House in Karachi.

## LHC decision annulled: SC declares 3 PML-N candidates successful in NA constituencies

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) while nullifying Lahore High Court (LHC) decision pertaining to National Assembly (NA) constituencies including NA-79, NA-81 and NA-154 has declared PML-N candidates successful.

Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa had reserved decision on appeal pleas.

Justice Aqeel Abbasi differed with the decision.

It is pertinent to mention here that Abdul Rehman Kanju, Azhar Qayyum Nehra and Zulfikar Ahmed from PML-N had resorted to SC against LHC decision.

Objections were raised in NA 154 Lodhran, NA 81 Gujranwala and NA 79 Gujranwala in February election.

EC had accepted pleas of PML-N candidates. EC had issued notification regarding success of 3 candidates of PML-N.

SC has accepted appeal pleas of Abdul Rehman Kanju, Azhar Qayyum Nehra and Zulfikar Ahmed from PML-N in this decision.

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Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**The court's power**

The rumbling within the Supreme Court grows louder. In an order pertaining to held-up pension payments by the National Bank of Pakistan, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah has underlined that implementing the apex court's verdicts is not 'optional'. "To disregard or delay the implementation of [the Supreme Court's] verdicts is to challenge the very framework of our legal system," he has remarked in the order, noting that when the apex court issues a verdict, it does so as the ultimate interpreter of the Constitution. He has warned that non-compliance sets a dangerous precedent that could lead to executive overreach.

Justice Shah's observations, also reflected in his remarks a day later at a conference, have stirred speculation over how proceedings in the reserved seats case may unfold. It may be recalled that the government recently enacted legislation designed to frustrate the Supreme Court's order in the case, while its representatives and allies have taken turns to attack both the judgement and the eight judges behind it.

"The power to hold individuals or entities in contempt for failing to comply with a court order is fundamental to the judiciary's ability to function effectively," Justice Shah observes in his order. "Without this power, the judiciary would be rendered toothless, unable to enforce its decisions, thereby jeopardising the administration of justice."

If the sword of contempt is unsheathed, the ECP could be its first casualty. Having acted on multiple occasions as if it is under no compulsion to obey the laws or court orders, the ECP has, in this instance too, refused to respect the Supreme Court as the final arbiter of the Constitution. It should have allotted whatever reserved seats accrued to the PTI by now in line with court directives, but has chosen, instead, to play tag-team with the government in subverting the verdict.

Still, it must be acknowledged that part of the blame falls on the court itself. Due to certain past actions and decisions, the apex court earned the distrust of the political class, lending itself to controversy. Such actions include the endorsement of military takeovers, and its role in dislodging at least two prime ministers. It must be noted, however, that even in these cases, its verdicts were implemented.

Secondly, the court must also acknowledge that the absence of the detailed verdict in the reserved seats case continues to foster controversy. While it should take adequate measures to enforce its writ and uphold the constitutional order, it must also realise that it needs to announce the detailed verdict soon for the objections against it to be addressed with finality.

The reserved seats case has turned into a charged political issue. Wisdom and restraint are needed in abundance to see the matter through.

**The best-laid plans**

Zarrar Khuhro

Recently, Benjamin Netanyahu entered the US Congress like a conquering hero, garnering over 50 standing ovations in a 60-minute speech from fawning Congressmen and women clapping for their AIPAC dollars like trained circus seals. While several Congress people boycotted the proceedings and Rashida Tlaib staged a lonely, one-woman protest in the hall, the overwhelming impression was that this is America's genocide as much as it is Israel's. In Pakistani parlance, they are absolutely on the same page.

Around the same time, half a world away, Hamas and Fatah — bitter rivals at the best of times — met in Beijing to sign a national unity agreement under the auspices of the Chinese government. Hamas, Fatah and 12 other Palestinian groups agreed to lay the groundwork for an "interim national reconciliation government" that would govern post-war Gaza.

While this does not mean that the problems between Hamas and the Fatah-run Palestinian Authority (PA) — widely viewed by Hamas and its allies as Israel's accomplices — have ended, it does put a crimp in one of the proposed US-Israeli plans for a post-war Gaza.

Although Netanyahu claims that he wants all of Gaza under direct Israeli control, while holding out the option of a 'deradicalised' Palestinian governmental presence, there have been several other proposals that offer insight into what America and Israel envisage happening.

For example, anonymous Israeli officials have let it be known that they were "open in principle to Palestinians securing ar-

eas of the Gaza Strip cleared of Hamas". This statement tallies with US discussing ways to 'revitalise' and reform the PA with an aim of having it at least participate in the governing of a post-Hamas Gaza. This proposal was formally rejected by Hamas and also Israel, but Israeli media reported that Netanyahu 'unofficially' expressed interest in the plan, though that could have been just to string the US along. The Beijing agreement now makes that an impossibility; even before that, the PA had begun to realise that obedience to Tel Aviv will not stop the killings of Palestinians in the West Bank nor the illegal seizure of their land, all of which has increased manifold since Oct 7.

In addition to this, support for Hamas in the PA-controlled West Bank has increased manifold, with 82 per cent Palestinians polled there expressing understanding for why Hamas launched the attacks and 88pc calling for PA President Mahmoud Abbas to resign. All this means that the PA is in no physical or political shape to take over Gaza, even if it wanted to.

Before this, another option considered by Israel had come to a premature close. This was to hand over control of Gaza to local clans, who would 'govern' the area while also keeping what was left of Hamas suppressed with Israeli aid, and acting as intermediaries for Tel Aviv.

Gaza is home to many clans and large family groups of varying influence and power. And while most tend to be law-abiding and benign, some, like the infamous Doghmush clan, formed gangs that engages in murder, kidnapping and racketeering, especially in the chaos preceding and immediately after the Hamas takeover.

Realising that credibility would come from establishing control, Hamas quickly cracked down on such groups and publicly executed those accused of criminal activities, attacks on Hamas leaders and collaboration with Israel. In 2017, one such condemned man, Hisham al-Aloul, accused Israeli intelligence of betraying him before he was executed.

With Hamas under fire and Gaza being decimated, some in Israel decided to give this plan another go earlier this year by once again looking to members of the Doghmush clan as accomplices. Once again, we saw an embattled Hamas take swift action by executing a major clan leader of the tribe in Mar-ch this year. This was followed by a joint statement from the heads of Palestinian tribes, clans and families rejecting any notion of being used as a governing political body.

Soon after, Basem Naim, a top member of Hamas' political bureau in Gaza, announced that all Palestinian tribes 'have rejected this 'Zionist offer' and know that these offers and plans are malicious and aim at dividing the Palestinians".

Words were followed by action and we saw Fatah, along with numerous clans, civil society groups and factions, stepping in to help provide security for the aid convoys that Israel had relentlessly targeted with the excuse that these transported Hamas members.

This leaves the fantasy of a 'multinational' or 'Arab/Muslim-led' security force that would magically appear and take over control of whatever is left of Gaza.

But given that the only country to even reportedly express interest in this is the UAE, an Arab ally of Israel, this option can be viewed as dead on the ground, much like the children of Palestine. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Skills and success**

Neda Mulji

Some weeks ago, the Federal Directorate of Education and Professional Training organised a wonderful summer fiesta for school-children, with a wide range of skill-based workshops, seminars, lectures and activities. This kind of immersive experience with creative writing, financial literacy, digital technology and so forth, is the urgent need for students who haven't got much exposure to global skills.

Sadly, these children will go back to teacher-led classrooms and traditional teaching after the summer break. Many precious steps forward, but some unfortunate leaps backwards too. It may be time to revisit what they are learning in classrooms and whether the curriculum and teaching methods support the skill development we must envisage for a progressive, holistic application of knowledge.

Skill development starts in early years with knowledge of the world around us, roles and responsibilities, creative and critical thought, and strong foundations in numeracy and literacy. If we begin to benchmark the skills taught in our classrooms to global standards, we may hope to target the aims of the SDGs for education.

This includes reflective teaching practices that only equip teachers with books, and accompanying pedagogy focusing on real-life skills. We also need to integrate technological experiences for our early years' students. Digital reading programmes, for example, are more efficient at teaching pronunciation, decoding and comprehension. Such programmes lead children through evidence-based reading strategies that start with prompts

and clues to help the child think creatively, absorb the text, and develop the ability to give personal responses using their critical thinking capability.

Such programmes are not as competitive as a noisy classroom environment that has over 50 students and one teacher. In fact, technology affords the time and patience for students to learn at their own pace, and matches their comprehension ability. The programmes are user-friendly, structured to lead students through reading levels, and monitor their progress with timely reports showing reading hours, books covered and scores achieved on comprehension quizzes.

Literacy in the early years is not only about being able to read, but also acquiring the ability to express opinions, draw conclusions and gradually using language independently. A strong early years literacy programme will give students many opportunities to play with words, come up with unique perspectives, and delve into the possibilities of structuring sentences in multiple ways. Sadly, students are mostly preoccupied with the need to produce the 'right' answers, and in that vein, we end up encouraging mimicry where the teacher becomes the crutch that students come to depend on.

A strong math curriculum would enable students to learn in different ways. If one strategy isn't working, a teacher's challenge is to be able to offer different ways to help the student navigate concepts. Rather than 'learning' numeracy concepts, they can be taught to use manipulatives to visualise, analyse and draw conclusions. Simple and easy

ways to support children in accessing learning outcomes can lead to massive benefits as they progress through school levels. And the better their grip on learning, the faster they will develop confidence in their ability to excel in academics. Often, in our society, we equate confidence with being able to speak in public; we couldn't be further from the truth. Confidence stems from one's belief in their ability to learn, understand and apply what they know. The application of skills is the yardstick of confidence that we should be focusing on, especially in the early years. Instead, much of our focus remains on memorisation and reproduction in assessments and tests. Even the melodious tune used to learn the tables hasn't changed in more than a century.

It's time to look closely at what we are producing and how far we've changed our teaching and learning methods to evolve with the times. Teachers are no longer the only source of information, and students will inevitably turn to digital resources; but are we equipping them to understand, navigate and use the digital resources to their advantage and in responsible ways?

When children sing Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, do we ask them if they know what a star is made of? Do we ask them how far the stars might be from us? Do we ask enough questions to pique their curiosity about the world and their place in it? Do we give them the confidence in their own ability to find answers?

It's not always what we teach, but how we teach it that determines the trajectory of success for our students. - Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**Pakistan restarts tractor export to Africa: Rana Tanveer**

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Industry and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain cut the ribbon at a ceremony arranged on the occasion of restart of the tractors export to Africa here at Millat Tractor Company on Monday.

The company's Chief Executive Raheel Asghar and other top management of the company as well as the foreign guests were also present.

Addressing the ceremony, the Federal

Minister said, "The process of exporting Pakistani tractors to different African countries has started again. I hope it will revive the sinking tractor manufacturing industry." He said that the decision to export tractors to African countries would expedite the process of the tractor manufacturing industry and also ensure speedy agricultural development, thus setting the country's economy on strong footing.

Rana Tanveer Hussain said that everyone knows that the biggest challenge facing Pakistan is the economy, however, the country's economy will recover soon only through agricultural development. The present government has managed to save the country from default and "our goal is to revive the economy," he said, citing that from 2013 to 2017, Pakistan had been developing fast and afterwards, every sector

had started declining due to the incompetent government that took over in 2018. The Federal Minister mentioned that though the present government has taken difficult decisions, these would prove beneficial for the nation and the country, and everything will be fine in a year. "Agriculture will play an important role in the recovery of the economy and the government has given many incentives.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with PepsiCo's CEO for Africa, ME & SA Mr. Eugene Willemssen accompanied by CEO Pakistan and Afghanistan Mr. Muhammad Khosa.



MANSEHRA: First Unit of the Suki Kinari (SK) Hydropower Station in a group photo during ceremony after successfully completed the back feeding process, marking the official countdown to grid-connected power generation for the station, located on the Kunhar River in Mansehra.

**OGDCL announces commencement of production from Pak first-ever tight gas project**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) on Monday announced the successful commencement of early commercial production of Tight Gas from Pakistan's first-ever Tight Gas project, Nur West Well-1 at the Nur Development & Production Lease (D&PL), located in the Sujawal district of Sindh.

According to press release, the Nur West Well-1 is currently producing 1.5

million Standard Cubic Feet per Day (MMSCFD) of gas with a wellhead flowing pressure of 1050 PSI. The gas is sourced from the Lower Guru formation ('A' Sand) and has been seamlessly integrated into the Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGCL) network. This integration will strengthen the national gas supply infrastructure and contribute to the stability of Pakistan's energy supply.

**Gold rates remain unchanged**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold witnessed no change on Monday and was traded at Rs 256,500 in the local market.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat also remained stagnant at Rs.219,907 while there was no change in prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold which was traded at Rs.201,582, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.2,850 and Rs.2,443.41 respectively.

**Ahsan Iqbal chairs review meeting on public-private partnership projects**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Monday chaired a meeting to review the progress of ongoing projects being executed under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) framework.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Minister for Petroleum Senator Musadik Malik, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Muhammad Jahanzeb

Khan, Secretary Planning Awais Manzoor Sumra, Secretary Railways, Secretary Economic Affairs Division, PPP CEO Malik Ahmed Khan and senior officials from federal and provincial ministries, a news release said.

The participants reviewed the implementation report of the ongoing projects and discussed decisions made during the previous meeting.

**China Mobile leads global telecom industry**

ISLAMABAD (APP): China Mobile International Limited, [China Mobile Communication Corporation (CMCC)] continues to lead the telecom industry, ranking 55<sup>th</sup> on the Fortune 500 list—a notable rise of seven positions from last year.

Specifically, within the telecom sector, China Mobile, which ascended to the top of the industry last year, maintains its leadership on the industry list this year, said a news release issued here on Monday. The Fortune Global 500 list was released with a total of 133 Chinese companies,

including those from Taiwan, making it to the list. Among them, the three major Chinese telecom operators have collectively secured their positions once again. Over the past year, despite facing a complex and challenging external environment, China Mobile seized the opportunity presented by the accelerating digital transformation of the economy and society.

The company remained steadfast in its development goal of becoming a "world-class information service and technology innovation company."

**Finance Minister meets PepsiCo's CEO for Africa**

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday held a meeting with PepsiCo's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Africa, Middle East (ME) and South Asia (SA) Eugene Willemssen to discuss Pakistan's economic progress and potential collaboration opportunities.

He was accompanied by CEO Pakistan and Afghanistan Muhammad Khosa, said a news release. The minister welcomed Willemssen and provided an update on Pakistan's economic progress.

He also highlighted recent improvements, including increased foreign exchange reserves, decreased inflation, and stable currency.

**Iran's trade with Africa reaches \$1.3 billion**

ZANJAN (APP): The president of the Iran-Africa Joint Chamber of Commerce has called for strategic planning to enhance Iran's trade relations with the continent, which currently stand at approximately \$1.3 billion. The current trade volume, Masoud Berahman told a conference in the city of Zanjan on Sunday, is significantly lower than the potential trade opportunities between Iran and Africa.

The minister attributed these positive indicators to the successful completion of the nine-month stand-by arrangement (SBA) with the IMF and mentioned that a staff-level agreement (SLA) has been reached to ensure continued economic stability.

He also spoke about ongoing reforms in the energy sector, state-owned enterprises (SOEs), and taxation, emphasizing the government's initiative to incorporate under-taxed and untaxed entities into

the tax net. Muhammad Aurangzeb appreciated the PepsiCo's seed lab initiative and its impact in driving agricultural and overall economic growth. Talking about the digitization in Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), the Minister discussed the integrating RAAST (the digital payment system) and NADRA (the national database and registration authority) to further improve efficiency. Willemssen expressed appreciation for Pakistan's positive economic indicators and noted the growth in the financial sector.

**Cars' sale increase 58% in July 2024**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The sale of cars during the first month of the current financial year 2024-25 has increased by 58.21 percent as compared to the same month of last year, a recent data released by Pakistan Automobile Manufacturers Association (PAMA) said. According to the data, as many as 5,857 cars were sold during the month under review as opposed to 3,702 units in the same month of last year. The breakup figures

showed that 790 units of Honda Civic and City were sold during the corresponding month of the year 2024-25 as compared to the sale of 208 units last year.

Toyota Corolla and Pakistan cars sales also increased by 3.65 percent as it went up to 1,106 units from 1,067 units in July of the previous year.

Suzuki Swift's sales also surged by 101.60 percent as its sale increased to 502 units from 249 units last year.



## Marvam Nawaz says: After Qur'an & Sunnah, we take guidance from Imam of Kaaba & Imam of the Masjid-e-Nabawi

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif accorded a warm welcome to the Imam Masjid-e-Nabawi Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair on his arrival at the Chief Minister's Office here on Monday.

The CM said, "On behalf of people of Punjab, I welcome your highness, Pakistan is your home." She also prayed for the health and long life of the Saudi King, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. The CM said the friendship of the Saudi royal family with her father Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is enviable. She added, "I follow Hazrat Umar Farooq's (RA) governance model. Hazrat Umar Farooq (RA) was a beacon of light for the rulers. Our powerhouse is in Madinah. I don't know much about

Lahore, but I know about every street in Madinah."

CM Maryam Nawaz noted that the meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman along with Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif was great. She added, "Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman wants to serve his people which is my mission as well. Prince Muhammad bin Salman is serving the people of Saudi Arabia with sincerity," she said.

The CM said, "After the Qur'an and Sunnah, we take guidance from Imam of Kaaba and Imam of the Prophet's Mosque in Saudi Arabia." She added listening to the recitation of Imam Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair, one's grief fades away and one's faith is revitalised. She underscored visiting Imam of Masjid-e-Nabawi

is a great honour for every Pakistani.

Imam Masjid-e-Nabawi Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair expressed good wishes for the people of Punjab from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the people of Madinah. He thanked Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif for the warm welcome, and said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are like two pole stars shining together in the sky. He added Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are strategic friends, they were in the past and will be in the future. He highlighted Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is a friend of Pakistan, his leadership is a source of improvement and prosperity for Pakistan. "Maryam Nawaz Sharif is following in his footsteps.



PESHAWAR: Governor KP Faisal Karim Kundi addressing during his visit to Khyber Eye Foundation.

## Governor Kundi thanks center to allocate funds for Lift Canal

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday paid thanks to federal government for allocating funds for the long-standing demand of the Chashma project Dera Ismail Khan that will not only resolve the water problem but to increase in agriculture sector.

He said this during a meeting with a delegation of senior journalists from Dera Ismail Khan led by senior journalist Muhammad Saleem Qureshi and the Chief Editor of a local daily, Chaudhry Asghar at the

Governor's House Peshawar.

The governor said that he always raised the issue of the lift bank canal at every forum. He said that the Chashma Lift Canal is a crucial irrigation project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, designed to enhance agricultural productivity by diverting water from the Chashma Barrage to the arid lands of Dera Ismail Khan. This ambitious project involves lifting water from the barrage through a series of pumps and canals, providing a reliable water source to areas previously affected

by water scarcity, he remarked.

Governor Kundi emphasized that the development and prosperity of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are among his top priorities.

He highlighted the need for collective efforts to ensure peace and stressed the importance of the media's role in promoting messages of peace, unity and tolerance.

He acknowledged the public's concerns about the state of education and healthcare in the province, admitting that there has been insufficient progress in these sectors.

## Saudi Arabia has always supported Pakistan in difficult times: Governor

Independent Report

LAHORE: Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan accorded a warm welcome to Imam Masjid Nabawi Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair here today at Governor House Lahore. Saudi ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed al-Maliki was also present. Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said his presence is a matter of joy and honor for him.

He said Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia enjoy long standing fraternal relations. Governor Punjab said that Saudi Arabia has always supported Pakistan in difficult times. Imam

Masjid Nabawi Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair also led the Zuhri prayer in Jamia Masjid of Governor House.

A large number of Governor House staff and public offered prayer led by Imam Masjid Nabawi. Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair also offered a special prayer for the prosperity, peace and unity of Muslim Ummah.

The distinguished guest also visited the Governor's House. Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan informed the Imam of Masjid Nabawi Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair about the historical importance of the Governor's House.



LAHORE: Imam Masjid Nabawi Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair meeting with Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

## Punjab cabinet to approve LG law draft soon: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq has said that the legislative process is underway to conduct local bodies elections in Punjab. There is ambiguity in the law made by the former government.

He was addressing a round table conference on the topic of local democratic governments. Civil society representatives, senior journalists and others also participated in the conference. The participants emphasized the need for early holding of local body elections in Punjab.

Minister Zeeshan Rafiq said that the Local Government Act 2019 called for the abolition of the Union Council, the basic unit of local bodies. He regretted that elected local bodies were not

allowed to flourish in the past decades, but Muslim League-N has a track record of conducting local bodies elections during its tenure.

Zeeshan Rafiq reminded that Muhammad Nawaz Sharif strengthened the local bodies during his prime ministership, but the government that came after him sent the local bodies of the Muslim League-N government home.

He said that under the supervision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the preparation for holding local body elections in Punjab is proceeding ahead.

"Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has set up a high-level committee within a month of assuming power, which has studied various systems and sent the recommendations of the new bill to the cabinet," he said.

## Security plan released for Youm-e-Azadi

FAISALABAD (APP): The Police department has released security plan here on Monday for the celebration of 77th Youm-e-Azadi (Independence Day 2024). During a meeting, City Police Officer (CPO) Kamran Adil said that more than 4293 police officials including 54 Sub Inspectors (SIs), 634 Assistant Sub Inspectors (ASIs), 232 head constables and 3355 constables/lady constables would perform security duties across the district while 5 Superintendents Police (SPs) and 13 Deputy Superintendents Police (DSPs) were deputed to monitor the security duty. He said that one-wheeling, rash driving, underage driving, aerial firing and display of weapons had been banned and all the Station House Officers (SHOs) were directed to ensure thorough patrolling in their respective areas for implementation of this ban on Independence Day.

## Meeting reviews preparations for I-Day celebrations

PESHAWAR (APP): A meeting held here on Monday with Chief Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary reviewed preparations for the 77th Independence Day celebrations.

Additional Chief Secretary Home and Tribal Affairs Department, Abid Majeed, relevant administrative secretaries, and other officials were present at the meeting, while commissioners and deputy commissioners participated via video link.

The meeting was given a detailed briefing from Secretary Administration, Muhammad Israr, about the activities planned for Independence Day. Commissioners and deputy commissioners informed the meeting about the programs planned in their respective districts.

On this occasion, the Chief Secretary stated that, as like previous years, this year's Independence Day would be celebrated with great enthusiasm and zeal.

## Police nab eight during crackdown against illegal arms

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested eight illegal arm holders and recovered arms, ammunition from their possession during crackdown here on Monday. According to police spokesman, Chakri police held Akhlaq and recovered 7mm rifle from his possession and a 12-bore rifle was found from Faizan while 01 pistol 30 bore was recovered from Usama. Similarly, Mandra police apprehended two illegal arm holders Shan and Haider and recovered 02 pistols 30-bore from their custody.

## Committee met to address teachers' issues in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Minister for Education Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Faisal Khan Tarakai on Monday chaired a meeting of the committee formed to address the demands and issues of teachers. The meeting was attended by Additional Secretary of Education Faiz Alam, Additional Director Dr. Muhammad Iqbal and other senior officials.

During the meeting, the education minister was briefed on the issues and demands presented by various teachers' unions. The minister reiterated the government's

commitment to resolving the teachers' issues and stated that various committees have been formed to find appropriate solutions. He said the purpose of the meeting was to review the actions taken by these committees. He directed that a secretary-level meeting be convened within a week to resolve the issues related to the teachers' CP Fund.

This meeting will include the Secretary of Finance, Secretary of Law, Secretary of Establishment, and Secretary of Education, and the Education Minister will chair it.

# International News

## Gazans flee 'from death to death' as Khan Yunis hit

Monitoring Desk

KHAN YUNIS: Israel expanded evacuation orders in Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip overnight, forcing tens of thousands of Palestinian residents and displaced families to leave in the dark as explosions from tank shelling reverberated around them.

Palestinians already displaced numerous times by Israeli air strikes were forced to flee Al-Halaa and other northern neighbourhoods of Khan Yunis on Sunday, a day after an Israeli airstrike on a school in Gaza City killed at least 90 Palestinians.

"We're exhausted. This is the 10th time I and my family have had to leave our shelter," said Zaki Mohammad, 28, who lives in the Hamad housing project in western Khan Yunis, where the occupants of two multi-floor buildings were ordered to leave.

"We are running from death to death."

An Israeli airstrike near the Khan Yunis mar-

ket at the city centre killed four Palestinians and wounded several others, medics said, while residents reported that two multi-floor buildings were bombed, as smoke rose from areas where Israeli planes carried out attacks in the eastern and western parts of the city.

The forces pushed deeper into Al-Jalaa area that erstwhile was considered relatively safer zone. Al-Jalaa would become a "dangerous combat zone", the Israeli forces warned the remaining population of Palestinians as the army dropped leaflets containing fresh evacuation orders telling residents and refugees to leave the Khan Yunis area also.

"For your own safety, you must evacuate immediately to the newly created humanitarian zone. The area you are in is considered a dangerous combat zone," said the announcement posted on X.

Families gathered their meagre belongings and left

the area, fearing fresh missile strikes and fighting. Crowds of people, mainly from the Hamad neighbourhood in Al-Jalaa, left with whatever they could lay their hands on, some loading mattresses, clothing and cooking utensils into pick-up trucks, while others simply walked with their bags.

Young men and women escorted elderly family members, while others tried to catch a ride to safer zones.

Head of the UN refugee agency for Palestinian refugees UNRWA Philippe Lazzarini said on X, "Just in the past few days, more than 75,000 people have been displaced in southwest Gaza."

Lazzarini said the new evacuation orders sent many people fleeing. "Some are only able to carry their children with them, some carry their whole lives in one small bag," he said. "The people of Gaza are trapped and have nowhere to go."



Displaced Palestinians make their way as they flee Hamad City following an Israeli evacuation order, in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip.

## Israeli minister tells US that large-scale Iranian attack expected, Axios reports

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant told US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Sunday that Iran was making preparations for a large-scale military attack on Israel, Axios reporter Barak Ravid said in a post on X, citing a source with knowledge of the call.

In a statement on Monday, Gallant's ministry confirmed the call took place overnight. It said Gallant and Austin discussed operational and strategic coordination and the Israeli military's readiness in the face of Iranian threats.

Austin has meanwhile ordered the deployment of a guided missile submarine to the Middle East. The US military had already said it would deploy additional fighter jets and Navy warships to the region to bolster Israeli defences.

On Friday, an Iranian Revolutionary Guards deputy commander was quoted as saying by local news agencies that Iran was set to carry out an order by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to "harshly punish" Israel over the assassination on July 31 of the leader of Palestinian militant group Hamas in Tehran.

## US publicly announces submarine move to Middle East amid Israel-Iran tensions

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has ordered the deployment of a guided missile submarine to the Middle East, the Pentagon said on Sunday, as the region braces for possible attacks by Iran and its allies after the killing of senior members of Hamas and Hezbollah.

While the USS Georgia, a nuclear-powered sub-

marine, was already in the Mediterranean Sea in July, according to a US military post on social media, it was a rare move to publicly announce the deployment of a submarine.

In a statement after Austin spoke with his Israeli counterpart, the Pentagon said Austin had ordered the Abraham Lincoln strike group to accelerate its deployment to the region.

## Bomb blast in Kabul leaves one dead, 11 injured

Monitoring Desk

KABUL: A bomb blast on a minibus in a neighbourhood of Afghanistan's capital killed one person and wounded 11 others on Sunday, a Kabul police spokesman said.

The blast went off in Dasht-i-Barchi — home to many Shias, a historically persecuted community in Afghanistan and a frequent target of the Islamic State group that considers them heretics — in the western neighbourhood of Kabul.

"An IED (improvised explosive device) was planted on a minibus in the Dasht-i-Barchi area," Kabul police spokesman Khalid Zadrani said in a statement.

## Helicopter crashes into roof of Cairns Hilton Double Tree hotel, killing pilot

Monitoring Desk

SYDNEY: A helicopter on an unauthorised flight crashed into the roof of a Hilton hotel in Cairns' northern tourist town of Cairns on Monday, killing the pilot and forcing hundreds of guests to evacuate after a blaze, authorities said.

## US presidential candidate Kamala says she supports eliminating taxes on tips

Monitoring Desk

LAS VEGAS: US Vice President Kamala Harris told supporters in Nevada on Saturday she supported eliminating taxes on tips, taking a similar position to her rival Donald Trump in an effort to win over service workers, an important constituency in the state.

Harris and her Democratic running mate, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, wrapped up a multi-day tour of battleground states on Saturday with their stop in Nevada, a western state that could play a pivotal role in the November 5 presidential election.

"It is my promise to everyone here when I am president we will continue to fight for working families, including to raise the minimum wage and eliminate taxes on tips for service and hospitality workers," Harris said.

Harris said she would

work to drive down consumer prices, vowing to "take on big corporations that engage in illegal price-gouging" and corporate landlords that unfairly raise rents on working families, as well as going after big pharmaceutical companies to drive drug prices lower.

Trump, who told a rally in Las Vegas in June that he would seek to end taxation of income from tips, accused Harris of stealing his policy proposal.

"Kamala Harris, whose 'Honeymoon' period is ENDING... just copied my NO TAXES ON TIPS Policy," Trump said on his Truth Social app.

"The difference is, she won't do it, she just wants it for Political Purposes!"

A Harris campaign official said her proposal would require legislation to be passed by Congress.

## Bangladesh swears in new chief justice

Monitoring Desk

DHAKA: Bangladesh's new chief justice has been sworn into office after his predecessor, viewed as a loyalist of toppled premier Sheikh Hasina, quit following protester demands, a presidential official said on Sunday.

It is the latest in a string of fresh appointments to replace an old guard viewed as linked to the previous regime, ousted by the student-led uprising.

Syed Rezaat Ahmed, the senior-most high court judge, was sworn into office by President Mohammed Shahabuddin, the president's press secretary Shiplu Zaman said. "He became the 25th chief justice of Bangladesh," Zaman said.

Ahmed studied at the University of Dhaka, Oxford and Tufts University in the United States.

Ahmed's predecessor Obaidul Hassan on Saturday became the latest to

announce his departure, after hundreds of protesters gathered outside the court to demand he step down.

Appointed last year, Hassan earlier oversaw a much-criticised war crimes tribunal that ordered the execution of Hasina's opponents, and his brother was her long-time secretary.

Bangladesh's new interim government said on Sunday it was working to resolve attacks on Hindus and other religious minorities reported after ouster of former premier Sheikh Hasina. Hindus are the largest minority in Bangladesh. They are considered a steadfast support base for Hasina's party, the Awami League. After Hasina's abrupt resignation and flight abroad on Monday brought an end to her 15 years of rule, there were numerous reports of attacks against Hindu households, temples and businesses.



## Ahsan stresses upon peace, stability, reforms for national success

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Monday emphasized upon the crucial role of peace, political stability, policy continuity, and continuous reforms in achieving national success.

Speaking at an event marking the International Day of Youth, organized by the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, he stressed that these interconnected factors were vital for driving growth and prosperity in Pakistan, urging the youth to recognize the importance of a stable and peaceful environment for the country's progress.

"This is not a matter of political ideology, but a question of the future and well-being of 240 million people and youth of Pakistan," he added.



ATTOCK: President, Asif Ali Zardari offering Fateha for Lieutenant Uzair Mehmood Malik Shaheed, during his visit to the Shaheed's home, in Attock.

## President expresses condolence with bereaved family of Shaheed Lt. Uzair

ATTOCK (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday visited the residence of Shaheed Lieutenant Uzair Mehmood Malik to express condolence with the bereaved family.

The president prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul. President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

On the occasion, the president paid tribute to Shaheed Lt. Mehmood for laying down his life for the

country, adding that he had embraced martyrdom while facing Khawarij terrorists with bravery.

The president while expressing resolve to root out terrorism, observed that nation was proud of its valiant martyrs and their unmatched sacrifices strengthened the determination of nation further.

He also prayed for the bereaved family to bear the loss with equanimity.



QUETTA: Ex Governor State Bank, Ishrat Hussain calls on Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandukhail at Governor House.

## Interior Minister meets Chairman MQM and Secretary General JUP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi held separate meetings with Chairman MQM Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and JUP Secretary General Owais Noorani. During the meetings, matters of mutual interest, the overall political situation of the country and promoting religious harmony and brotherhood were discussed.

Mohsin Naqvi and

Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui strongly condemned the vicious propaganda against state institutions. Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that state institutions are a proud asset of the country, and the organized propaganda against state institutions is like betraying the country. He underscored that no one will be allowed to run a nefarious campaign against the state institutions.

## CM grieved over incident of firing in Khad Kocha

### Orders quick action for arrest of terrorists

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has expressed grief over the incident of firing in Khad Kocha, Mastung and ordered to the Home department for arrest of the terrorists involved in it.

The Chief Minister said that the incident is sorrowful and as such immediate action should be taken against the terrorists.

He also expressed heartfelt grief and sorrow over the death of Deputy Commissioner Panjgur, Zakir Baloch in the incident of terrorism and injuries caused to others.

He said that Zakir Baloch was a talented of-

ficer of Balochistan government. He also said that Zakir Baloch was a rising star whose services would always be remembered.

He asserted that terrorists involved in the incident would not be spared and they would be chased till the end.

He stressed that all have to respond to the terrorists together.

He prayed for the departed soul of Zakir Baloch. He also prayed that may Allah Almighty give enough strength and patience to bear the tragic loss of his death. Besides he directed to provide best treatment facilities to the injured persons.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a group photograph with other guests at the inaugural session of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development on 'Gender Empowerment and Green Economy'.

## Good consumers fed up of load shedding & over billing: Governor directs QESCO to stop unannounced electricity load shedding immediately

### Directs to improve the official procedure and adopt appropriate behaviour with the consumers

#### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has directed to the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) to stop the unannounced electricity load shedding immediately just because the good consumers paying utility bills of electricity have become fed up due to the negative impacts of electricity load shedding and especially over billing.

The Governor also directed to dispose of the complaints of electricity consumers in order to maintain the high standard of customer service.

He was speaking on occasion of the briefing con-

ducted by the Chief Executive Officer of QESCO, Engineer Shafiqat Ali here on Monday.

Also present on the occasion was the Principal Secretary to Governor Hashim Ghilzai.

The Governor on the occasion directed to improve the official procedure and adopt appropriate behaviour with the consumers.

He also directed to take practical steps for providing electricity along with complete voltage without causing inconvenience to the consumers.

The Governor stressed the need to dispose of the complaints of the consumers about electric-

ity. He directed to WAPDA high ups to pay focus on the payment of arrears so that it's overall performance could be improved.

He also emphasized upon the district administration to extend wholehearted cooperation for protection of QESCO authorities at the district level.

He made it clear to take well care of the electricity supply during official timing in the government offices.

He also directed to take practical steps for providing electricity along with complete voltage without causing inconvenience to the consumers.



QUETTA: Chief Executive Officer QESCO Balochistan Engr. Shafiqat Ali briefed Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail about QESCO.

## Finance minister chairs CCoSOEs meeting

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday presided over a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs).

The meeting was attended by Minister for Housing & Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, Minister for Law

& Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Governor SBP, Chairman SECP, and other senior officers from the relevant ministries and divisions.

The Cabinet Committee approved the proposals of Finance Division and Power Division for the appointment of candidates as independent directors/chairman on the boards of ZTBL and NTDC respectively. The Committee also

considered the proposal presented by the Ministry of Housing & Works and decided to categorize Pakistan Housing Authority - Foundation (PHA-F) as essential with further directions to present a revised plan of PHA-F to the Committee. Meanwhile Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday met with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) team to review revenue collection performance.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with JUP Secretary General Owais Noorani.

## JI knows how to make and get implement agreement

### Sheikh Rashid predicts technocrat govt by Sept 20

LAHORE (Online): JI Amir Hafiz Naem ur Rehman has said JI knows to make agreement and get it implement too. "We will implement every clause of agreement signed with government. Pakistan cannot afford chaos, he said this while addressing a ceremony here Monday.

He went on to say that due to 14-day dharna even every child came to know IPPs are our enemies.

He invited PTI workers to become part of his movement. "I say to PTI workers to become part of our movement. I left my seat for your candidate too. You want what now. He added if relief is not given to people then we will stage sit-in in front of parliament. Government has been made bound to levy tax on feudalists. If governments goes back then we will observe wheel jam strike.

Speaking to media outside the Adiala Jail, Rashid said that the government was preparing to step down and interviews for new set-up were being taken in this regard. He also announced to be fully participating in political activities from Aug 31. He said that former premier Nawaz Sharif would not give extension to anyone whereas Shehbaz Sharif didn't have any power as the government was reduced to rubble.

The two sides com-



ISLAMABAD (APP): The 7th session of Pakistan-Türkiye Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) was held here on Monday. Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Sajad Qazi and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye, Nuh Yilmaz, led their respective sides.

## Pakistan's Parliament championed critical legislation on gender violence, women empowerment: Speaker NA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Monday said the path to sustainable and inclusive development sans women empowerment and gender equality was elusive whereas the Parliament of Pakistan had championed critical legislation barring gender violence and supporting women empowerment in the country.

In his keynote address at the inaugural session of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) on "Gender Empowerment and Green Economy", the Speaker underscored that the presence of high-level dignitaries depicted great leadership and partnership of regional parliamentarians in achieving gender equality and women empowerment goals.

As many as 15 Asian

countries' parliamentarians and others from Pakistan, diplomatic community, high level political figures, government officials, international non-governmental organisations (INGOs), members of international donor organisations, and academia participated the event. Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq lauded PM's aide Romina Khurshid Alam for her tireless efforts in organizing the international meeting with a very timely and pertinent agenda synchronized with the national sustainable development goals. The parliament of Pakistan has played a crucial role in ensuring well guided legislation on gender equality, reproductive health, and established women caucus, youth parliamentarians committee, and other parliamentary forums for inclusive engagement of all stakeholders in policy making initiatives, he added.

"The Parliament of Pakistan became the first public building for securing net metering license to promote green economy and renewables. The Speaker National Assembly's residence and the Parliament building were first converted over solar energy when there was no public building with solar power in the country," he mentioned. Pakistan, he said, had prepared billions of rupees project for solarization of Balochistan that would not only help reduce power leakages, but also ensure renewable energy rollout in the biggest province of the country by territory. "Climate Change is a present reality affecting our day-to-day life. We are disproportionately affected due to increased intensity of disasters and violence against gender in the aftermath of climate catastrophes.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with students on the International Youth Day ceremony.

## Balochistan CM greets youth for securing 2nd position

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti participated in the ceremony held marking the Minorities Day here on Monday.

The Chief Minister also cut cake at the ceremony arranged by the parliamentary secretary for Minorities Affairs and the Hindu community.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister said

## National Minorities Day ceremony CM cuts cake to show solidarity with minorities

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti participated in the ceremony held marking the Minorities Day here on Monday.

The Chief Minister also cut cake at the ceremony arranged by the parliamentary secretary for Minorities Affairs and the Hindu community.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister said

that minorities have full protection in the province. He said that the pleasant relations are established between the local people and the minorities settled in the province for centuries.

He said that it is endeavour of the provincial government to formulate such projects of development and social welfare which may benefit the minorities.

## PTI hints at moving no-trust motion in NA

RAWALPINDI (INP) - Senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Ali Muhammad Khan on Monday hinted to move no-trust motion in National Assembly.

Talking to media outside Adiala Jail, PTI leader said that no-confidence motion may be moved against the prime minister if their mandate isn't restored.

He said that the elections were held on the direction of Chief Justice of Pakistan on Feb 8 but the mandate of PTI was stolen that day. He also demanded a judicial commission to probe the alleged rigging into Feb 8 elections.

## Dutch envoy calls on Asif, express willingness for constructive bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands, Henny Fokel De Vries called on Minister for Defence, Defence Production and Aviation Khawaja Muhammad Asif here Monday and expressed her willingness to promote constructive bilateral ties in various sectors.

The Federal Minister emphasized that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Republic of Netherlands and wants to further enhance defence collaboration, a

news release said. Latest security situation along Pak-Afghan border and Pakistan's commitment to peace and stability in the region came under discussion.

He also impressed upon Pakistan's commitment to eradication of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Both sides reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and explored various possibilities of further strengthening political, economic ties with focus on global and regional issues.



QUETTA: Col. (Retd) Humayun Achakzai and Major (Retd) Khudai Dost meeting with Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai.

## Youngsters are guarantor of country's bright future: Dr. Rubaba Buledi exhorts youth to focus on education and skills, participate in positive activities

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister of Balochistan for the Women's Development Department, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi has stated that youth are the true asset of any nation, and no country's progress is possible without the development and welfare of its youth.

In her message on the eve of International Youth Day observed on Monday, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi said that sixty percent of Pakistan's population consists of young people, and this segment is the guarantor of the country's bright future. If appropriate investment is made in this sec-

tor, it can bring about positive changes in all fields.

She mentioned that the recent approval of the Youth Policy by the Government of Balochistan is an important step for the youth of the province. The purpose of this policy is to provide a conducive environment for young people to harness their potential so that they can not only achieve their individual goals but also play a significant role in the development of the province and the country.

Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi further stated that the government is taking all possible measures to provide opportunities for the youth of

Balochistan to advance in economic, social, educational, and health fields. Under this policy, young people will be provided with modern education, skills, and employment opportunities, enabling them to make a name for themselves at the national and international levels.

In her message to the youth, she urged them to focus on their education and skills, participate in positive activities, and contribute to societal development. The Balochistan government is always with the youth and is committed to their development.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding revenue review of FY 2023-24.