

# Independent

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**RAWALPINDI:** Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir interacts with retired officers of Pakistan Army during a graceful reception in honor of Pakistan Army veterans on the eve of 77th Independence Day of Pakistan held in Rawalpindi.

## COAS warns of attempts to create rift between public and armed forces

*Pays tribute to Army veterans for dedication, instrumental role in shaping nation's history*

**RAWALPINDI (APP):** Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir has paid heartfelt tribute to the contributions of the retired personnel, lauding their dedication and instrumental role in shaping the nation's history.

The COAS hosted a graceful reception in honor of Pakistan Army veterans on the occasion of Independence Day. The event brought together a multitude of retired army officers and soldiers, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The COAS paid heartfelt tribute to the contributions of the retired personnel, lauding their dedication and instrumental role in shaping the nation's history. He emphasized the paramount importance of unity and resilience in the face of challenges, urging veterans to continue playing a vital role in Pakistan's progress and development.

The COAS also cautioned against the insidious threat of fake news and propaganda being perpetrated by inimical elements to weaken the bond between the people of Paki-

stan and the Armed Forces.

He reassured that the unwavering support of the nation, including the veterans, would foil all such futile efforts.

The veterans expressed faith and confidence in the leadership of the Pakistan Army, pledging their support in combating both internal and external security challenges.

The event served as a testament to the unbreakable bond between the Pakistan Army and its veterans, united in their commitment to the nation's prosperity and security.



**Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi meeting with British Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Hamish Falconer in London.**

## Pakistan, UK agree to continue counter-terrorism cooperation

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi met with British Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Middle East, Afghanistan and Pakistan) Hamish Falconer in London and discussed matters of mutual interest, including the promotion of Pakistan-UK bilateral relations.

combating the scourge of terrorism were also discussed. Both ministers emphasized the need to increase mutual cooperation for peace and stability.

The minister stated that the second phase of repatriation of the Afghan refugees to their homeland would start soon.

He said that Pakistan was the most affected country by terrorism, while it's security forces have made unprecedented sacrifices in the war against terrorism and added that terrorism was a global issue, and many countries face this challenge in various forms.

## President Zardari approves Sitara-i-Imtiaz for Dr. Rubaba

**Independent Report.** QUETTA: The Government of Pakistan has announced the nomination of Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, Advisor to the Chief Minister of Balochistan on Women Development, for the prestigious Sitara-i-Imtiaz, one of the country's highest civil awards.



The award will be conferred upon her in a grand ceremony on September 13. The President of Pakistan has approved Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi's nomination from Balochistan, following which the federal government has issued an official gazette notification. Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi is the only woman from Balochistan to be honored with this award this year, recognizing her outstanding contributions and tireless efforts for the advancement of women's rights in the province. Throughout her career, Dr. Buledi has played a significant role in improving health, education, and women's rights in the under-

## Three more retired Army officers taken into military custody: ISPR

**RAWALPINDI (APP):** In connection with the Field General Court Martial (FGCM) proceedings of Lt General @ Faiz Hameed, three retired officers were also in military custody for their actions prejudicial to military discipline.

Further investigations of certain retired officers and their accomplices for fomenting instability at the behest of and in collusion with vested political interests, are continuing, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said on Thursday.

## Govt unveils five-year economic plan to ensure stability

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** The government has prepared a five-year economic plan to provide relief to people and ensure economic growth.

This was stated by Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar while talking to media in Lahore.

He said Prime Minister will present his five-year economic plan to the nation during his address.

Information Minister said government is striving to achieve economic and political stability in the country.

He said government will provide relief to the people in electricity bills. Attaullah Tarar welcomed the process of self-accountability by institutions, stating that it should be adopted by every institution.

He also criticised a political party and its leader for attacking the country's integrity.

## Independence Day celebrates with great enthusiasm in Balochistan: Govt. has to work against proxies of separatist movements & RAW, asserts Chief Minister

*Mir Sarfraz Bugti says banned outfit involved in killing of DC Panjgur Zakir Baloch; there is issue of missing persons, but 80 percent issue has been resolved, ready to sit with all concerned to resolve remaining 20 percent issue; anyone can do politics remaining within framework of Constitution; thankful to Deputy PM and Speaker NA for becoming part of Ind. Day celebrations*

### Independent Report

**QUETTA:** The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has categorically stated that government has to work against the proxies of separatist movements and Indian notorious secret agency "RAW", and anyone can't be allowed to act as their proxies.

The Chief Minister said that everyone has the right to do politics, but it should be done remaining in the framework of constitution of the country.

He said that we have solid intelligence report and evidences that the banned organization is involved in the killing of Deputy Commissioner Panjgur, Zakir Baloch.

He said that "yes there is the issue of missing persons, but 80 percent of the same has been resolved while we are ready to sit with the concerned to resolve the remaining 20 percent."

These views were expressed by the Chief Minister while addressing a hurriedly called press conference at the Chief Minister's secretariat on Thursday morning.



He was flanked by the spokesman, Government of Balochistan, Shahid Rind.

The Chief Minister on the occasion strongly condemned the killing of Deputy Commissioner Panjgur in the terrorist attack in Mastung area and

said that we have intelligence reports that the banned organization is involved in the incident of killing of Deputy Commissioner Panjgur Zakir Baloch in Mastung. In the incident, the Chairman Panjgur council, Abdul Malik Baloch was also injured, adding he mentioned. He said that all such incidents are being done against the state under an organized conspiracy.

He said that we are going to attribute the Government College Hoshab to the martyr Zakir Baloch.

## PML-N decides to fully support establishment

**LAHORE (INP) -** Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif directed the party leaders to be very careful while issuing statements on Faiz Hameed case.

Chairing a high-level party meeting in Model Town Lahore, Nawaz Sharif said that all party leaders should refrain from giving emotional statements. It was also decided to fully support the government and the establishment.

During the meeting, the situation arising after the arrest of Gen @ Faiz Hameed was debated.

During the meeting, the

report of the legal team on the proposed constitutional amendment regarding the extension of the tenure of the judges was discussed. Moreover, a proposal to ban public demonstrations in Islamabad and Punjab for law and order was also considered.

PM Shehbaz Sharif briefed the participants of the meeting on the role of Parliament in ending the political and judicial crisis.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar told the participants about the latest situation on the country's economy and negotiations with the IMF.



**QUETTA:** Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti addressing the ceremony of distribution of certificates of admission and scholarships of the children of the registered labourers under the arrangements of Workers Welfare Board

## PM calls for vigilance against flooding in Punjab's urban, Chenab river areas

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif directed the NDMA, PDMAs, and other relevant agencies to remain on high alert to address the potential severe flooding in areas near the Chenab River and urban flooding caused by heavy rains in Punjab.

According to a statement from the PM Office Media, the prime minister indicated that he was personally monitoring the anticipated heavy monsoon spell until August 25.

He had directed National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMAs), rescue and relief agencies, civil defense, and district administrations to be prepared to protect residents in the Chenab River catchment area and cities at risk of flooding due to heavy rains.

## Dar expresses commitment to achieve economic stability

**ISLAMABAD (Online):** Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar has said that the government is striving to achieve economic stability, making Pakistani economy among the strongest economies of the world.

He was addressing a ceremony in connection with Urs of Hazrat Syed Abdul Latif Kazmi popularly known as Bari Imam in Islamabad.

Ishaq Dar said prudent economic measure are being taken to transform Pakistan into a robust economic power and expressed the optimism that the country would be soon included in G20 club as a rapid economic change is on the horizons.

## Admission certificates & scholarships distributed among 400 children of labourers: Children of labourers have full right of acquiring education in any higher institution, says CM

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stated that the children of labourers have full right of acquiring education in any educational institution of the country.

The Chief Minister said that it has been his endeavour that children of labourers don't become labourer.

The Chief Minister was addressing the ceremony of distribution of certificates of admission in Islamabad's best institutions and scholarships distribution among 400 children of the registered labourers under the arrangements of Workers Welfare Board here on Thursday.

The Provincial Ministers Mir Asim Kurd, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Advisor to Chief Minister for Labour and Manpower, Sardar Ghulam Rasool

Umrani, Member National Assembly, Malik Shah Gorgeji, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Inspector General of police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, and other concerned high ups.

The Chief Minister said that we are going to achieve a milestone.

He said that the dream about the children of labourers is going to be materialised. He said that in first phase, we are sending some 400 children to acquire best education in Islamabad.

In next phase, the girl students would be sent in the best educational institutions, he added.

He said that the children would act as the ambassadors of Balochistan in Islamabad. He said that these children are making new begging from today.

He exhorted the children to acquire better education and brighten the name of country.



**RAWALPINDI:** A large quantity of weapons, ammunition and explosives were recovered after security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in Kurram District on reported presence of Khwarij.

## GoB declares DC Zakir Baloch as martyr

*Renames Govt Boys College, Hoshab as Shaheed Zakir Baloch Govt Boys College*

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has declared former Deputy Commissioner Panjgur, Zakir Baloch, as a martyr.

According to a notification issued by the Home and Tribal Affairs Department of Balochistan, the Home Department has exercised its powers under Section 17 of the Balochistan Civil Servants and Employees Benefits and Death Compensation Policy 2020 and declared Zakir Baloch (BCS/BS-18), former Deputy Commis-

sioner Panjgur, as a "martyr". This notification is issued in recognition of Zakir Baloch's ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

The Government of Balochistan has renamed the Government Boys College, Hoshab as the "Shaheed Zakir Baloch Government Boys College, Hoshab Turbat with immediate effect, on Thursday.

According to the spokesman, Government of Balochistan, the martyr Deputy Commissioner Panjgur Zakir Baloch embraced martyrdom during duty.

## Governor visits Trauma Centre; inquire about health of blasts' injured

### Independent Report

**QUETTA:** The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail visited the Trauma Center adjacent to the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital Quetta on Thursday.

During the visit, the Governor inquired about health of the persons injured in different blasts occurred in Quetta.

He announced to fix artificial hand to a person whose hand was lost in the

explosion in China market. He also announced to give him government job to the injured person.

The Governor appreciated the timely steps taken for treatment of the injured persons by the Medical Superintendent of Sandeman Hospital Dr Ishaq Panezai and the Managing Director of Trauma Center Dr Arab Kamran Kasi.

He also prayed for early recovery of the injured persons.



**QUETTA:** Additional Chief Secretary Home Shahab Ali meeting with Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango

## PTI founder says Gen (Retd) Bajwa removed Gen (Retd) Faiz to seek extension in his service

*Arrest of Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed internal matter of army: Imran*

**RAWALPINDI (Online):** PTI founder Imran Khan has said Gen (Retd) Faiz is our asset who was wasted.

Gen (Rtd) Bajwa removed Gen (Retd) Faiz for extension in his service despite being forbidden by me. If Gen (Retd) Faiz is behind May 9 then it should be investigated, he said this while talking to media men on the occasion of hearing of Al-Qadir Trust reference in Adiala jail Thursday.

He held it is good army is conducting internal accountability. If it is carrying out accountability then

it should be done in respect of all.

He held "Khawaja Asif has said Gen (Retd) Faiz is directly linked to May 9 incidents. In fact all the matter started from my arrest. Why it is not being investigated. If Gen (Retd) Faiz is behind May 9 then investigations should be made in this regard.

He added May 9 in fact was part of London plan. Wherever fire has erupted the CCTV footages of these areas are missing, our CCTV footages were brought before us and we be proved faulty.



**QUETTA:** Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail enquiring about health of injured of Wednesday's bomb blasts at Trauma Center

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Throttling connectivity

The five stages of internet governance in Pakistan seem to be as follows: curb, deny, double down, reluctantly admit, and repeat. By now, nearly every smartphone user in Pakistan has experienced interruptions to WhatsApp, the Meta-owned messaging app that has become indispensable to billions of people the world over.

According to Downdetector, a website that tracks internet disruptions, thousands of Pakistani users have reported outages and interruptions in connectivity over the past week. Most reports have been about trouble with calls and messages, including voice notes, multimedia content and downloading problems over mobile data. This means that everything, from important legal documents to the customary 'Jashn-i-Azadi Mubarak' messages, is getting lost in the ether as cellular providers, undoubtedly at the behest of the authorities, continue to throttle connectivity.

We know why this is happening — because of the need to clamp down on so-called digital terrorism; the state has already made its intentions quite clear with its treatment of the social media platform X. The latter served as a virtual town hall where people could debate, argue, protest and mobilise in support of various worthy causes.

This made it liable to be deemed a threat to national security. And yet, ministers and government departments continue to use X for official communications through virtual private networks. Now the authorities seem to have decided that WhatsApp has replaced X as the new staging ground for dissent and are tightening the noose, with little to no regard for the social and economic disruptions this will cause.

The authorities may have genuine concerns with the platform, including its use to share misinformation and disseminate propaganda against the state and its institutions. It is also true that some smear campaigns against important personages, including recent claims regarding two judges of the Islamabad High Court, have been fuelled by their circulation via the messaging app. However, curbs are never a solution. As with X, those who wish to use it can always connect via a VPN. Experts say there is no real way to completely block access to a particular piece of content without disrupting the whole pipeline. One need only think about how people currently use WhatsApp: businesses share quotations, shipping invoices and pay orders with their clients; doctors are sent medical records and queries over WhatsApp, lawyers need to be kept abreast of court dates and legal documentation. These are just some examples of how irreplaceable the app has become for people from all walks of life.

While Pakistan grapples with its many economic woes, this connectivity crisis threatens to sap whatever economic potential is left in the services industry. Given our earlier failed experiments at banning YouTube and Facebook, it is about time we learned not to throw the baby out with the bathwater.

## The lone ranger

F.S. Aijazuddin

It took our solitary Olympic gold medalist Arshad Nadeem to remind us of the old adage: Success has many fathers but Failure is an orphan.

No matter how many awards, honours, cash prizes and plots may be bestowed upon him, it is clear that Arshad's achievement in Paris was singularly his own. His trusty javelin soared into the skies and landed at 92.97 metres, and then to show that this second throw was not a fluke, on its final flight it landed a metre short — at 91.79m.

Arshad's portly coach Salman Iqbal Butt watched from the stands, recalling when, as a teenager at Aitchison College in 1977, he threw a javelin and set a collegiate record of 50.69m.

The public has opened its hearts to Arshad. Governments (federal and provincial) have opened their coffers to him, but not their private purses. They are personally as ungenerous as Lord Chesterfield once was to Samuel Johnson when he begged his lordship for patronage to support his project — the first English dictionary. It took Johnson seven years to complete his magnum opus. Chesterfield then condescended to offer an endorsement.

In February 1755, Johnson sent a letter to Chesterfield that has served as a warning to tight-fisted patrons: "Is not a patron, my lord, one who looks with unconcern on a man struggling for life in the water, and when he has reached ground, encumbers him with help? The notice which you have been pleased to take of my labours, had it been early, had been kind; but it has been delayed till I

am indifferent and cannot enjoy it; till I am solitary and cannot impart it; till I am known and do not want it."

Hopefully, all the gratuitous patronage being showered on Arshad will shake the government out of its lethargy and schools out of their unconscionable neglect of sports as an integral part of education. Famously, Lord Wellington attributed his success on the battlefield to his school: "The battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton." A grateful nation rewarded Wellington with both an estate in Hampshire and a fortune of £400,000.

Many would contend that the World Cup 1992 was won on the playing fields of Aitchison College. No one could have imagined that the captain (an Aitchisonian), who held that trophy aloft in March 1992 at Melbourne and then in processions across the country, would watch Arshad Nadeem's triumph from a cell in Adiala jail. Sic transit gloria.

For those of us armchair enthusiasts who forfeited sleep to watch the Paris Olympics, it became clear that few of the major countries sported their own nationals. The Chinese and the Japanese did. Others were populated with hyphenated Africans. One commentator even went so far as to compliment one sprinter for being the first African from the African continent to win a gold medal. Hadn't anyone briefed him that all of us homo sapiens originated in Africa? Over the centuries, the mobile migrated. Some were exported as slaves, a few repatriated by the US to populate the new nation of Liberia. Some fought desperately to avoid deportation by Rishi

Sunak's government to Rwanda. Millions remained to fight for liberation from their colonialist masters. The best among them today compete for their adopted countries in the Olympics.

Soon, the IOC will have to drop national groupings in favour of individual participation. With so many blacks in the US, British, French, and German teams, spectators may parrot Lady Susan Hussey's tactless question of a Black Briton: "But where do you really come from, where do your people come from?"

After his winning javelin throw, Arshad Nadeem prostrated himself in a sajdah and then draped himself in our flag. No one needed to ask Arshad where he came from. He was a humble Muslim, and a proud Pakistani son of a justifiably proud Pakistani mother from Mian Channu.

The British novelist E.M. Forster had once observed that "I am sure that if the mothers of various nations could meet, there would be no more wars." The mothers of both Arshad Nadeem and his Indian rival (and friend) Neeraj Chopra made moving statements 'adopting' the success of each other's son. Social media hummed with their messages and with images of Arshad and Neeraj, clothed in their national flags, shaking hands on the podium.

It is unlikely that PMs Modi and Shehbaz Sharif will bring Arshad and Neeraj to the Wagah border where the four can shake hands. The next best thing would be for their two mothers to be brought there to embrace across the white line. It would be better than our two countries aiming nuclear javelins at each other. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Fixing the IPPs

Tasneem Noorani

Visiting Islamabad with my grandchildren, I decided to introduce them to our very impressive Islamabad Sports Complex. Getting there, we found that the Asian Junior Individual Squash Championship was going on. It was a delight to see scores of kids, both boys and girls, from the age of 10 onwards, from 12 different countries competing hard. I felt proud that Pakistan was hosting such a lovely event with international-level infrastructure. But my pride was shattered when I asked a parent of a Malaysian kid what all they had done in Islamabad. Nothing, he said, because we are confined to our guest house and not allowed to move around because of security concerns.

Each time I've travelled to Islamabad of late, I find a new roadblock or security barrier. Twenty years ago, on official visits to Kabul, I would be struck by the number of security barriers there. Back in relaxed Islamabad, one could understand why Afghans wanted to come to Pakistan. We seem to be fast headed in a similar direction, where the flow of migration may be reversed. Why are we in such a fatal dive?

Economy is the more obvious reason; however, that's not the cause but the result of misgovernance, which is a consequence of a fluid governance structure. This, in turn, is due to the establishment's arbitrary and unchecked brute power. Even if we look at just the last 25 years — and not the previous 50, which were no different — we see army chiefs either imposing martial law, or when the cost-benefit of taking over directly turns adverse, manoeuvring and strategising for a tenure extension. Politicians,

parties and the Constitution were used as pawns to achieve the ultimate objective of an extension.

Without delving further into that argument, as it is dangerous territory, one can say that even if the establishment calls the shots we could have still stayed the course had we possessed a sturdy local bodies system. I say this after watching Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speak at a joint session of the US Congress. The way the Congress men and women stood up 53 times during his 50-minute speech to give him a standing ovation was ridiculous. They must have clapped for 30 minutes out of the 50.

The managers of our rent-a-crowd jalsas could learn something from the Congress representatives. It seems that those present were under watch and had to show their loyalty and how grateful they were to Netanyahu for massacring innocent women and children. This joint session was a crass demonstration of how effectively the Zionist establishment controls the most powerful country in the world. But despite this helplessness of the US politicians before the establishment, much like in our case, their country runs smoothly.

This, in my view, is due to the fact that their state governments are powerful, effective and independent of the centre, and most civic services, including law and order and the criminal justice system, work smoothly. So the American public would not be unduly bothered if President Joe Biden naps during meetings because their law and order, criminal justice system, electricity and gas bills, etc, are not affected.

A strong local government system with manageable-sized provinces would do wonders

for this country, despite the unending shenanigans of the centre, for which there is little hope of betterment.

In addition to our dysfunctional local bodies and disproportionate federating units, there is the issue of mega corruption, where the scale of corrupt gains is beyond the comprehension of the common man. Take the case of setting up independent power producers (IPPs), where decision-making politicians have been claiming it as their contribution to national progress.

The fact is that their decisions, based on unmitigated greed and political point-scoring, has landed the country with a permanent hole in the bucket, haemorrhaging Rs2 trillion every year, which equals defence spending and is almost 25 per cent of the government's revenue. How could it be anything but greed when four power houses receive Rs10 billion monthly, without producing a unit of electricity? How could it be anything but greed if a power plant based on imported coal were set up 1,000 kilometres away from the port? How could it be anything but greed if more and more power houses were established to take the installed capacity to 44,000 MW when the transmission capacity is only 22,000 MW?

Those who are corrupt have no fear of being prosecuted nor of the recovery of their illegal gains; the government, on the contrary, is in a fix as to how to stop the bleeding in the face of agreements being appealed before the trigger-happy International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes. I wonder if the experience gained by the powers that be in fixing a political party could be used to fix the IPPs? -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Senate body on IT discusses issue of recent internet disruptions

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunications Thursday discussed the issue of recent internet disruptions across the country causing real-time hindrances for individuals running e-commerce businesses.

Senator Palwasha Muhammad Zai Khan chaired the meeting.

Secretary for the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications, Aisha Humera Chaudhry,

explained that there is no issue with broadband connections; however, mobile operators using mobile data are facing disruptions.

The PTA is assessing the issue, and the ministry will be in a better position to provide an overview once the assessment is completed in two weeks.

The committee addressed the complaint of MNA Ali Jaan Mazari regarding poor internet service in Kashmir.

He said that internet services have been crawling

for the last four months, and despite several requests, no action has been taken so far.

PTA officials highlighted that there are around 156 sites of three major service providers in the area and that internet services are mostly down due to unannounced load shedding.

However, the PTA is assessing the issue and will submit its report in the next 15 days.

The committee also directed the PTA to submit its quarterly survey report at the next meeting.

### NA body constitutes sub-committee to revive PSM

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly (NA) Standing Committee on Industries and Production on Thursday constituted a sub-committee to address the financial and administrative challenges faced by Pakistan Steel Mill (PSM), prioritizing the concerns of its employees. The committee was met under the chairmanship of Member National Assembly (MNA) Syed Hafeez ud Din, said a news release.

The Terms of Reference (ToRs) and composition of the Sub-Committee are as follows: "To address the financial and administrative issues,

particularly those related to employees and the operations of Pakistan Steel Mills."

The sub-committee's membership includes Convener Ms. Naz Baloch, along with Abdul Hakeem Baloch, Muhammad Arshad Sahi, and Dr. Mahesh Kumar Malani as its members. Earlier, the Minister for Industries and Production provided an extensive briefing on the status of Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM). He said that PSM has a total landholding of 19,000 acres, of which 4,008 acres remain unutilized, while 305 acres have unfortunately been illegally encroached.

### Gold rates dip by Rs.300 to Rs257,400 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold witnessed a decrease of Rs.300 on Thursday and was traded at Rs 257,400 against its sale at 257,700 on the last trading day in the local market. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat also decreased by Rs256 to Rs.220,680 from Rs.220,936, whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat decreased to Rs202,290 from Rs202,525. 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. Prices of gold in the international market decreased by \$4 to \$2,454.



ISLAMABAD: federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb presiding over a meeting of Economic Coordination Committee (ECC).

### PCJCCI wants CPEC turned into a 'green' initiative

LAHORE (APP): President Pakistan-China Joint Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) Moazzam Ghurki said on Thursday that 'Green' is the future of humanity on planet, which has already been affected by severe climate change.

Speaking at a think tank session held at the PCJCCI, he said that China - Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) should be turned into a model Green Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to protect and preserve

the natural environment in the region. "Hopefully, it will preserve the environment as well as accelerate pace of green technologies and production of green energies channels in the ongoing projects of the CPEC in the country," Ghurki said and added "Intensified plantation, development/support of natural forestation, bee's honey hatcheries/production and last but not the least green tourism activities would play a pivotal role in this connection."

### BoR, FBR decide to modernise tax recovery system

LAHORE (APP): In a strategic meeting on tax audit conducted under the chairmanship of Senior Member Board of Revenue (SMBR) Punjab Nabeel Javed, it was decided to integrate and automate the tax recovery systems of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and the Punjab Board of Revenue (BoR).

The meeting was attended by Member Taxes Zaman Wattoo, Regional Commissioner Withholding Tax (RTO) Bilal Hussain, Dr. Imran Javed and other officials from both institutions.

The SMBR stressed the urgent need for a system to modernise tax recovery procedures between the FBR and the BoR Punjab. He highlighted the importance of digitalizing the audit processes of PLRA (Punjab Land Records Authority) and FBR to reduce the chances of tax evasion.

It was also proposed that a joint committee be formed between the FBR and the BoR to compile comprehensive data of taxpayers.

### STZA establishes four new special technology zones worth Rs 30 bln

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) announced the establishment of four new Special Technology Zones (STZs), focusing on business process outsourcing, information technology, high-tech production, research and development, tech skill development, and knowledge products.

The decision has been taken in line with the vision of the Prime Minister and the Federal Government to enable job creation for the

youth and prioritise the technology sector.

According to news release, these four new zones consists of 1.4 million Sqft high-quality tech infrastructure and 130 acres of land available for exclusive use of the technology companies.

An investment of Rs. 30 billion has already been made in developing the specialised tech infrastructure by the zone developers while more than Rs 150 billion investment is expected in next 2-4

years by local and foreign technology companies.

The 4 new zones will have the capacity to house more than 50,000 professionals with an export potential exceeding US\$ 350 million annually.

The newly designated zones included the NUST Special Technology Zone and Tech7 Special Technology Zone in Islamabad, Mindbridge Special Technology Zone in Lahore, and Capital Smart Technology Zone in Rawalpindi.

### Registration of 1m farmers for Kisan Card to be met by 31st

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Agriculture Secretary Iftikhar Ali Sahoo has said that registration target of one million farmers for Kisan Card will be achieved by August 31st. According to official sources here, the secretary said that till now more than 600,000 farmers had registered themselves for the cards. He said the provision of Kisan Card would start from September 1st and it would be provided from the nearest branches of Bank of Punjab. From October 15, fertilizer, pesticides and seeds could be purchased from Kisan Card, he added. He directed the relevant officers to speed up registration process of dealers for purchasing pesticides.

### ADM Group to invest \$250m in Pakistan's electric vehicle sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): ADM Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Yasir Bhamhani on Thursday said that the ADM Group was keen to invest an amount of \$250 million in Pakistan for the manufacturing of electric vehicles to provide ecological-friendly automobiles to local consumers.

In a meeting with Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, he said the first phase of the project charging network station would be established, followed by the manufacturing of electric vehicles in the second phase. He said the

electric vehicles will have a range of 300 kilometres on a single charge.

The minister said the government is ready to facilitate direct foreign investment in the country, and the Ministry of Industries and Production is committed to collaborating closely with all relevant stakeholders to ensure a smooth process. He emphasized the importance of focusing on green energy, adding that electric vehicles have become a reality.

Rana Tanveer highlighted the benefits of electric vehicles, including their lower cost compared to traditional vehicles and fuel savings.



Senator Palwasha Muhammad Zai Khan, chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Ministry of Information Telecommunication in Islamabad.

## Governor KP emphasizes support for youth affected by terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faizal Karim Kundi, on Thursday stressed the importance of providing benefits to the war on terror affected youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through the Prime Minister's Youth Program.

The Governor said this during a ceremony at the Prime Minister's Secretariat, where squash player Norina Shams from Dir was awarded a sponsorship by the Zakori Group.

The event was attended by Prime Minister's Advisor on Youth Affairs Rana Mashood, NEVTEC Chairperson Gulmina Bilal Ahmad, Zakori Group Chairman Ayub Zakori, Bilour Group Director Sherbaz Bilour, Deputy

Secretary of Sports Qasim Khattak, and other officials.

Governor Kundi expressed appreciation for the support extended to Norina Shams and urged similar backing for other talented youth from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He criticized the provincial government for neglecting sports and highlighted that many young people are making significant achievements in sports through their own efforts.

He emphasized that the Governor's House is dedicated to encouraging talented youth and is working to promote educational and recreational activities as a means to protect the province from terrorism and extremism.

For the first time in

the history of the Governor's House, conferences on Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal and Pashto famous poet Khushal Khan Khattak, as well as interfaith harmony, have been organized.

Governor Kundi called on the federal government to ensure that 50 percent of social welfare funds are allocated to sports and youth welfare.

He also urged institutions and affluent individuals across the country to support and encourage talented youth from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Rana Mashood, Advisor to the Prime Minister, affirmed the government's commitment to making Khyber Pakhtunkhwa a priority under Governor Kundi's leadership.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Industry and Commerce, Chaudry Shafay Hussain called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

## Punjab Governor says: Boosting trade & business activities indispensable for the country's stability

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Industry and Commerce, Chaudry Shafay Hussain called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, investment and promotion of technical education in Punjab were discussed. The Provincial Minister informed the Governor of Punjab about the steps taken for the promotion of investment and technical education in the province. Speaking on this occasion, Punjab

Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider said that boosting trade and business activities is indispensable for the country's stability. He said that significant investment initiatives have been taken in Punjab due to which foreign investors including Overseas Pakistanis are also showing keen interest. He said that everyone should play a role to take the country on the path of development. Governor Punjab further said that the future of Pakistan hinges on the promotion of technical education.

## CM condoles martyrdom of four security personnel in SW

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur has expressed deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences over the martyrdom of four security personnel in South Waziristan.

In his message, the Chief Minister conveyed his sympathies to the families of the martyrs and prayed for the highest ranks of the martyrs in Jannah, as well as strength and patience for the bereaved families.

## KP CM inaugurates model design, online application for solarization scheme

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur inaugurated the Model Design and Online Application System for the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Solarization Scheme on Thursday.

In addition to the initial plans, the Chief Minister announced an expansion of the scheme to 130,000 households, with 30,000 exclusively from the Merged Districts. This ambitious project will provide complete 2kW solar systems to underprivileged

households across the province, significantly enhancing energy access for those most in need.

The solarization scheme is part of the provincial government's broader efforts to address energy needs in communities where access to electricity remains a challenge, particularly in backward and remote areas.

By prioritizing the most vulnerable populations, the scheme aims to reduce the energy burden on families, enhance living standards, and promote the use of clean energy solutions.



LAHORE: School teachers welcome the students on the opening day after Summer Vacation as Students arrive to attend their first day of school.

## Senior minister reviews CM's vision 'Pollution-Free Punjab'

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE (APP): Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb Thursday presided over a progress review meeting on four important sectors in which a high-level delegation from the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office participated.

A briefing was given on the progress of matters pertaining to air quality, school education, population and health issues. The meeting was held that fine would be imposed by identifying smoke-emitting bikes through Safe City cameras. Smog level increases in the month

of May due to burning crop residue.

The target is to bring the Air Quality Index from 100 PM to 70 PM by 2028. 1800 new bikes are registered in Lahore every day and motorcycles are the biggest cause of air pollution. Motorcycles generate more than 75 percent of transport pollution. Effective legislation and enforcement on the environment will make it possible to achieve the smog reduction target.

Marriyum Aurangzeb ordered to carry out implementation of the plan for establishing at least 100 VICS stations in Lahore at the earliest.



FAISALABAD: Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora holding a press conference along with CPO Kamran Adil in Operations Complex at Police Lines.

## WASA signs MoU with KOICA to cope with urban flooding

**Independent Report**  
MULTAN (APP): WASA signed a MoU with Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) for mega projects to cope with urban flooding, MD WASA Khalid Raza told APP.

Following the agreement, Water and Sanitation Authority (WASA) would receive aid worth \$10 billion to initiate the projects here in different parts of the

district to resolve underlying matter of urban flooding.

MoU of Record of Discussion was signed in Lahore amid presence of Special Secretary Housing Punjab, DG MDA and Country Director of KOICA.

Under the agreement, a master plan would be chalked out to save the district and adjacent places from urban flooding, said the DG.

## 1 Gutka material supplier arrested

**Independent Report**  
THATTA: On the instructions of SSP Thatta, Dr. Muhammad Imran Khan, Thatta Police's crackdown on narcotics, crime elements, habitual criminals, gutka, and mainpuri is ongoing.

On the instructions of SSP Thatta, Incharge CIA Thatta, Inspector Mumtaz Ali Brohi, along with his staff, successfully raided near Solangi Stop Thatta during a patrol and foiled an attempt to supply gutka material in a vehicle, number AAN-582, and arrested 1 gutka material supplier, Khuda Bux son of Suleman Dal.

Police seized the vehicle and recovered 104 kg of gutka material, 200 packets of gutka mawa, and registered a case against the accused at Thatta Police Station.

## Punjab minister stresses awareness on rains, flood risks at local level

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister and Chairman Cabinet Committee for Disaster Management Khawaja Salman Rafique emphasised the need to raise awareness among citizens regarding the risks of rains and floods at the local level. Presiding over a Cabinet Committee meeting at the PDMA Head Office here on Thursday, he urged the district

administrations and revenue officers to disseminate critical information through mosques and other community channels.

The meeting, which reviewed action plans related to river erosion prevention schemes, also discussed a 6-point agenda.

DG PDMA Irfan Ali Kathia provided a detailed briefing on the agenda items.

# International News

## Turkiye will continue to increase pressure on Israel, Erdogan tells Palestinian leader Abbas

**Monitoring Desk**  
ANKARA: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan told visiting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Wednesday that Türkiye will continue to support the Palestinian cause and push the international community to increase pressure on Israel, his office said.

The two leaders discussed recent developments and the steps to be taken for a lasting ceasefire and peace in Gaza, Erdogan's office said in a post on X.

Erdogan condemned Israel's war in Gaza, the statement said, accusing some Western countries of remaining silent and continuing to support Israel.

Erdogan also told Abbas that all countries, especially in the Muslim world, should step up efforts to ensure an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the uninterrupted delivery of humanitarian aid to Palestinians.

Abbas is set to address an extraordinary session of Türkiye's parliament on Thursday. Israel's assault on Gaza started after the Palestinian Islamist militant group Hamas attacked Israel on Oct 7.

Türkiye has denounced the war and has halted all trade with Israel. It submitted a request to join South Africa's case at the International Court of Justice accusing Israel

of genocide.

Türkiye's invitation to Abbas came after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the US Congress on Jul 25, which Ankara has condemned.

"We will show that Mr Abbas has the right to speak in our parliament just as Netanyahu has the right to speak in the US Congress," Erdogan told members of his ruling AK Party on Wednesday before meeting Abbas.

Erdogan, who has been a staunch supporter of Hamas, said Turkey had also planned to invite the political leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, who was assassinated in Tehran.



A charity kitchen worker hands out food to Palestinians, amid a hunger crisis in the northern Gaza Strip.

## Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman fears for his life

**Monitoring Desk**  
RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman also informed US lawmakers that any potential agreement with Israel should include a genuine path to establishing a Palestinian state, especially amidst rising Arab anger against Israel.

It may be noted that in February, Saudi Arabia informed the US that it would not establish diplomatic relations with Israel until a Palestinian state was established within the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

He indicated that his efforts to restore Saudi-Israeli relations and cooperation with the US have put his life in danger.

At one point, he referenced the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, who was killed fol-

lowing the Camp David Accords with Israel.

Prince Mohammed bin Salman has expressed concerns about the possibility of being assassinated.

According to Politico magazine, Prince Mohammed bin Salman told US Congress members that there was a risk of an attempt on his life.

He indicated that his efforts to restore Saudi-Israeli relations and cooperation with the US have put his life in danger.

At one point, he referenced the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, who was killed fol-

## Lebanon says two killed in Israeli strikes

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: Lebanon's health ministry said Israeli strikes killed two people in the country's south on Wednesday, with Hezbollah announcing the deaths of two of its fighters, the latest cross-border violence amid fears of a full-blown regional war.

Hezbollah has traded near daily fire with the Israeli army since the Palestinian militant group Hamas's unprecedented October 7 attack on Israel triggered the Gaza war.

## US approves \$20 billion weapons package for Israel

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden's administration approved more than \$20 billion in new weapons sales to Israel, brushing aside pressure from rights activists to stop arms deliveries over the death toll in Gaza.

The sale comes as Biden has pressed Israel and Hamas to reach a ceasefire after 10 months of bloodshed, although the weapons would take years to reach Israel.

In a notification to Congress, the State Department said it had approved a sale of 50 F-15 fighter jets to Israel for \$18.82 billion.

Israel will also buy nearly 33,000 tank cartridges, up to 50,000 explosive mortar cartridges and new military cargo vehicles.

The F-15 aircraft, which will begin to be delivered in 2029, will upgrade Israel's current fleet and include radar and secure communications equipment.

"The United States is committed to the security of Israel, and it is vital to US national interests to assist Israel to develop and maintain a strong and ready self-defense capability," the State Department said in its notice on the F-15s, which are made by Boeing.

On the tank cartridges, the United States said the sale "will improve Israel's capability to meet current and future enemy threats, strengthen its homeland defense and serve as a deterrent to regional threats."

The US Congress can block weapons sales, but such a process is difficult.

## Ukrainian President Zelenskyy says Kyiv troops have full control of the Russian town of Sudzha

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Thursday that the country's troops have full control of the Russian town of Sudzha in the Kursk region in their incursion into Russian territory.

The town, the largest that Ukraine has reportedly seized so far, had a prewar population of around 5,000 people. It holds a measuring station for Russian natural gas that flows through Ukrainian pipelines to Europe.

Natural gas flows from West Siberian gas fields through pipes that pass through Sudzha and cross the Ukrainian border into Ukraine's system.

Zelenskyy said a Ukrainian military commander's office is being set up in Sudzha. He didn't elaborate on the details or the functions of the office.

The claim couldn't be independently verified. Russia did not immediately

respond to Zelenskyy's statement, but its defense ministry said earlier Thursday that Russian forces had blocked attempts to take several other communities.

There was no indication of any disruption of the gas flow through Sudzha, which accounts for about 3% of Europe's imports.

Satellite images analyzed by The Associated Press on Thursday show that a Ukrainian drone attack on Russian air bases damaged at least two hangars and other areas.

Images taken Wednesday by Planet Labs PBC show that two hangars at Borisoglebsk Air Base had been struck, with a field of debris around both.

It was not immediately clear what purpose the hangars served. There also appeared to be potential damage to two fighter aircraft at the base.

## Bangladesh mob beats suspected supporters of ex-PM Hasina after rally call

**Monitoring Desk**  
DHAKA: A mob wielding bamboo rods and plastic pipes beat several suspected supporters of Sheikh Hasina on Thursday, vowing to quash a rumoured rally for the ousted Bangladesh premier outside her childhood home.

Hasina, 76, fled by helicopter last week to neighbouring India, where she remains, as student-led protests flooded Dhaka's streets in a dramatic end to her iron-fisted 15-year rule.

Thursday is the anniversary of the 1975 assassination of her father, independence hero Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, during a military coup — a date her government had declared a national holiday.

Previous years saw huge rallies around Bangladesh to mark the occasion, but the students who toppled Hasina were

eager to ensure supporters of her Awami League party did not have a chance to regroup. "Fugitive and dictator Sheikh Hasina has ordered her goons and militia forces to come to the site so they can produce a counter-revolution," Imraul Hasan Kayes, 26, told AFP.

"We are here to guard our revolution so that it doesn't slip out of our hands."

With no police in sight, hundreds of students on Thursday patrolled the street leading into Hasina's old family home where her father and many of her relatives were gunned down nearly 50 years ago.

The landmark was until recently a museum to her father, but it was torched and vandalised by a mob hours after her fall.

Several people the crowd suspected of being Awami League supporters were thrashed with sticks.

## Meth found in sweets given by New Zealand charity

**Monitoring Desk**  
WELLINGTON: Pine-apple sweets dished out by a New Zealand charity have tested positive for potentially lethal amounts of methamphetamine, police said on Wednesday, sparking an urgent race to remove them from the streets.

A child, a teenager and a charity worker have already been taken to hospital after they tasted the candies. Although none are seriously ill, police have launched a criminal investigation and are now trying to track down up to 400 other people who may have received the sweets. "We need to round these up as quickly as we can," said Detective Inspector Glenn Baldwin, adding that 16 of the sweets had been found so far. Police suggested the drugs might have been packaged inside the distinctive yellow "Rinda" wrapping by traffickers or dealers to evade detection.

## FO tightens visa rules amid rise in political asylum claims by parliament staff

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Foreign Office has introduced stricter guidelines on the issuance of visa notes and note verbales for the Senate and National Assembly Secretariats after the growing trend of Parliament employees and officers seeking political asylum abroad.

Following the approval of Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, the Foreign Office immediately implemented these new guidelines. Foreign Secretary Cyrus Sajjad Qazi communicated the changes through an official letter addressed to the Secretaries of the Senate and National Assembly, outlining the revised procedures.

The letter specifies that the facility of issuing note verbales for private visits to holders of diplomatic and official passports has been discontinued. Additionally, the issuance of letters of introduction for

visa purposes to the families of officers from the National Assembly and Senate Secretariats has been banned.

For private passport holders accompanying members of Parliament on official and private visits, a new requirement mandates an affidavit to ensure that the visa-seeking individual will not seek asylum in the destination country. Furthermore, an undertaking must be provided, confirming that the Foreign Office's introduction letter will not be misused.

The guidelines also state that letters of introduction will no longer be issued to family members of officers from the National Assembly and Senate Secretariats. Diplomatic and official passport holders will now only receive note verbales for official visits after a formal request from the Senate or National Assembly Secretariat.



QUETTA: Pakistan's Ambassador to Russia Muhammad Khalid Jamali meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

## We gained country as result of sacrifices of our ancestors: Jamali

QUETTA (APP): Former Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Jan Muhammad Khan Jamali on Thursday said that we got this country as a result of the great sacrifices of our ancestors.

Talking to APP regarding 77th Independence Day, he said that its protection and development was now our responsibility, we have to forget all our sub-group and group differences and rise above all kinds of prejudices and work in the form of a united nation.

At present, the country is facing internal and external challenges and the monster of terrorism, anti-national forces want to weaken and destabilize Pakistan by spreading unrest, but by establishing complete unity and agreement

in our ranks, we can defeat the evil intentions of the enemies, he said.

He said that we could make Pakistan a great Islamic state.

On the occasion of Independence Day, we should also pay homage to our martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the defense and peace of the country since the creation of Pakistan, he said.

He said that if we still could not learn from the past and play our part in the development of our country, the future generations would never forgive us. We pray for the development of our country and province and the prosperity of the people that Allah Almighty always keeps our country green and happy, he said.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti playing hockey on eve of final match of 77th Jashn-e-Azadi Inter Schools Hockey Tournament

## Customs House Gaddani celebrates Independence Day

**Independent Report**  
GADDANI: The Customs House Gaddani celebrated the 77th Independence Day of Pakistan with great enthusiasm. The ceremony began with the hoisting of the national flag, followed by a cake-cutting ceremony.

Customs Opraizer Syed Suleman Bukhari, Inspectors Sarajul Abidin, Ali Abbas, Sahil Ahmed, Abdul Hamid Khan, and other officials participated in the event. They expressed their commitment to the country's development and prosperity, saying, "Our beloved country is the result of the sacrifices of our forefathers, and we are determined to play our role in its progress and prosperity."

The officials also emphasized the importance of individual and collective efforts for the country's development, saying, "As Pakistanis, it is our responsibility to contribute to the country's growth and prosperity."

The ceremony concluded with a message of peace and harmony, with the officials vowing to work together to make Pakistan a haven of peace.

## Fisheries Department apprehends a trawler involved in illegal fishing

**Independent Report**  
ORMAARA: The Fisheries Department Ormaara has successfully apprehended a trawler involved in illegal fishing in the Ormaara marine limits.

The trawler, Al-Haseeb 21252-B, was caught by the Fisheries Department team led by Assistant Director Fisheries Ormaara, Bashir Ahmed Kakar, under the supervision of Assistant Director Fisheries Ormaara, Aslam Askani.

The trawler has been

taken into custody, and further legal action has been initiated under the Fisheries Act.

Assistant Director Fisheries Ormaara, Bashir Ahmed Kakar, warned that no one will be allowed to recklessly destroy marine life. He stated that action will be taken against those involved in illegal fishing.

The Fisheries Department has vowed to continue its crackdown on illegal fishing in the Ormaara marine limits.



ISLAMABAD: People of Jammu and Kashmir observed Black day on the occasion of Indian Independence day in the Federal Capital.

## 'Ring leader' must now face the music for his misadventures: Tarar

LAHORE (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage on Thursday said swift and rigorous accountability of the 'ring leader of anarchist group' was long-overdue, for his misadventures to sabotage the national interests.

Addressing a news conference, he said that "Irrefutable and glaring" evidence came forth after an investigation of the former spy chief Faiz Hameed that showed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder was the real mastermind of the conspiracy against the country.

The May 9 arson attacks on the sensitive installations and writing of a letter to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) by the PTI leadership for sabotaging the agreement, were the clear indications of the conspiracy, he added.

The minister said the whole nation witnessed the misadventures of the 'group of anarchists', hell bent upon creating chaos and instability.

He welcomed and lauded the decision of the institution to hold its former ISI chief accountable under its self-accountability initiative which ought to be followed by all institutions. He referred to the press release issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations that indicated that three retired officers had also been taken to the custody after the investigation of former spy chief Faiz Hameed. The political instability and chaos was apparently created on the behest of the PTI founder, he added.

He said the conspiracy was handiwork of the PTI leader, for fomenting instability in the country.

Tarar said that it seemed that Faiz Hameed was somehow involved in the politics as he worked to foil the no-confidence motion against the PTI founder. Nobody would be allowed to harm the national interests for some vested interests, he added.

He said the current investigation might lead to the arrest of more individuals who were involved in anti-state activities.

The minister wondered that now the PTI founder had distanced himself from those conspiracies despite his direct messages from the jail to carry out the negative motives.

He said efforts were underway to prevent chaos and bring political and economic stability under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The prime minister, while delivering his speech on the occasion of August 14, had announced the launch of home-grown economic reform programme for the next five years which was bound to progress, he added.

Tarar said the government had stabilized the rupee, and did reduce petrol and electricity prices through prudent economic policies.



QUETTA: Chairman Public Accounts Committee Asghar Ali Tareen presiding over a meeting regarding audit paras of P&D Department

## Japan offers funding three projects related to climate change

ISLAMABAD (Online): A meeting of Asian Parliamentarians' Forum on Population and Development, held in Islamabad with the co-operation of Special Investment Facilitation Council, has issued Islamabad Declaration. According to this declaration, the Japanese Minister of State offered funding three projects related to Pakistan's climate change. The Japanese Minister of State also assured to help Pakistan in getting funding from the World Bank to deal with disasters due to climate change.

The Forum of Asian Parliamentarians on Population and Development expressed willingness.

## Protecting Pakistan is obligatory for all patriotic Pakistanis: Amir Muqam

By M. Ilyass Khan  
PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs and President of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Amir Muqam, said that Pakistan was freed by our elders after many sacrifices, and it is obligatory for all patriotic Pakistanis to protect the country.

He expressed these views while addressing large public gatherings at the Pakistan Muslim League (N) Secretariat in Peshawar and Mardan Sher Garh on the occasion of Independence Day. On this occasion, Federal Minister



QUETTA: A delegation of World Bank meeting with Secretary C&W Lal Jan Jaffar

## Terrorists' attack on police post repulsed in DG Khan

DERA GHAZI KHAN (APP): Punjab police successfully repulsed an attack by terrorists at an inter-provincial post in Dera Ghazi Khan, police said on Thursday.

Around 50-60 terrorists attacked Likhani police post at the Punjab-KP boundary in DG Khan from all four directions.

However, police managed to identify their presence by thermal image cameras and attacked the terrorists by machine guns and mortar guns forcing them to retreat. Regional Police Officer DG Khan Captain (Retired) Sajjad Hassan Khan led the operation. IGP Dr. Usman Anwar said that Elite Force and Quick Reaction Force (QRF) back up teams immediately rushed to the check post while DPO Dera Ghazi Khan Syed Ali, leading elite force teams, reached Triman post from where he supervised the operation against terrorists.

## Historic rally led by Mir Ali Hassan Zehri marks Independence Day in Balochistan

**Independent Report**  
HUB: On the momentous occasion of the 77th Independence Day, a record-breaking rally was held in the Hub district of Balochistan, led by Meer Ali Hassan Zehri, The Translator to President Asif Ali Zardari on Balochistan Affairs, President of the District Hub District, and Minister of Industries and Commerce. The rally was a testament to the unwavering spirit of the people of Balochistan, who gathered in large numbers to commemorate the sacrifices of the nation's heroes who laid down their lives for their homeland.

Under the leadership of Meer Ali Hassan Zehri, the rally moved through the streets of Hub district, paying tribute to the martyrs who fought for the country's freedom. The Minister emphasized that no power can suppress the people of Balochistan from celebrating their independence, and that any attempts to create unrest will be met with resistance from the patriotic people of Pakistan.

Meer Ali Hassan Zehri also highlighted the crucial role of women empowerment in nation-building, stressing that women's participation is essential for the development of the country. He reminded the audience of the importance of educating children, who are the future of Pakistan.

The rally was attended by a large number of people from various walks of life, including political, social, and religious leaders. The event was a demonstration of unity and resolve, with the participants expressing their confidence in the leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who have always brought about revolution and progress.

Under the leadership of Meer Ali Hassan Zehri, the rally concluded with a message of hope and optimism, with the people of Balochistan looking forward to a prosperous, peaceful, and developed future.

## Meeting with Dy Prime Minister & Speaker NA: We believe in responsibility, transparency & accountability in coalition Govt like political life, says Governor

**Jaffar Mandokhail says both coalition partners are equal stakeholders in coalition govt. and complaints and reservations of both of to be removed through transparent process**

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that our diversity in coalition government is our strength and we believe in responsibility, transparency and accountability in the coalition government like our political life.

He said that we are making such sincere efforts to ensure good governance and bring economic and political stability in the province the basis of which has been laid on the democracy, following the rights, mutual respect, trust and cooperation.

The Governor said that both the coalition partners (PML-N and PPP) are equal stakeholders in the coalition government and

the complaints and reservations of both of the partners would be removed through transparent process.

The Governor was speaking during the meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq here the other day. Also present in the meeting were Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan and Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Shah.

According to an official hand out issued here on Thursday, the Governor Balochistan was patronizing the parliamentarians belonging to PML-N.

The Governor mentioned that some there can be some complaints and reservations of any coalition party or parliamentarian in the politics and government. But today, the central leadership has assured both the parties that their reservations and complaints would be removed through transparent manner.

The Governor appreciated the assurance made by the Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti about removing the reservations of representatives of PML-N regarding development projects.

He said that both the coalition partners would prove that they are equal partners and stakeholders in the government and both would continue to work for public interest.



TURBAT: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti offering Fataha and condoling with Kunar Baloch father of Shaheed DC Panjgor Zakir Baloch over his death

## CM condoles death of martyr Zakir Baloch with family: Blood of Zakir Baloch shed for serving Balochistan & people, sacrifice can't be forgotten

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that blood of Deputy Commissioner Panjgur Zakir Baloch was shed for serving the province and its people and as such his sacrifice could not be forgotten.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the father Kunar Baloch and family of martyr Deputy Commissioner Panjgur Zakir Baloch during his visit to Turbat on Thursday. He especially visited Turbat to express condolence over the killing

of Zakir Baloch and offered fataha for the departed soul.

Also accompanied by him were the Provincial Minister for Planning and Development, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi and Member Provincial Assembly, Ms. Meena Majeed Baloch.

Also present on the occasion were the Pro-Vice Chancellor, Professor Mansoor Baloch, his father Ali Muhammad Shahil and other relatives besides father of Zakir Baloch, Kunar Baloch, Commissioner Makran, Deputy Commissioner Kech and other high ups welcomed the Chief Minister.

Speaking to the family of Zakir Baloch, Chief Minister said that he (Zakir Baloch) was a very capable officer of the provincial government.

He said that the sacrifice of Zakir Baloch is beacon of light for the country. He said that those rendering sacrifice of their lives for the country and nation are our heroes. Earlier, upon arrival in Turbat, Commissioner Makran, Deputy Commissioner Kech and other high ups welcomed the Chief Minister.

## Torkham border reopens after 3-day closure

By Aman Shinwari  
KHYBER: The Torkham border crossing between Pakistan and Afghanistan has been reopened after a three-day closure. Pedestrian and trade activities have resumed, and the situation has returned to normal.

According to details, the border was closed on August 12 after a dispute between Pakistani and Afghan border forces over construction work in the Ghora Kari area. The dispute led to an exchange of fire between the two forces, resulting in the injury of two Pakistani soldiers. Local residents of Torkham had fled their homes due to fear, but after negotiations between the two countries, the situation returned to normal, and the residents returned to their homes.

The closure of the border had caused difficulties for travelers and cargo vehicles, but with the reopening, normal activities have resumed.



GWADAR: MPA Maulana Hidayatur Rehman addressing a Press conference

## CM applauds services of Commissioner Quetta for holding successful mega events of 77th Jashn-e-Azadi

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has applauded the services of Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat for arranging the successful mega events on occasion of the 77th Independence Day celebrations.

In a commendation certificate on Thursday, the Chief Minister paid tributes to the Commissioner and his team on holding the successful mega events.

He said that it was very challenging task keeping in view the present situation of law and order. However, the hard work and sense of responsibility demonstrated by your (Commissioner) team under your command was exemplary and praiseworthy. The Chief Minister expressed the hope that the Commissioner and his team would continue to work with the same resolve and dedication.

He also expressed best wishes for his (Commissioner's) future endeavours.

## AJK PM terms India's independence day as 'black day'

**Independent AJK Desk**  
MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq has said that Kashmiris have proved by observing India's Independence Day as 'Black Day' that they reject India's illegal occupation of occupied Kashmir. In a special statement, he said that Pakistan, Azad Kashmir, and Kashmiris living around the world staged protests and made the world believe that India has illegally occupied Kashmir, and its 1.5 million army is involved in serious human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. He added that through its unilateral actions on August 5, 2019, India wants to change the demographics of occupied Kashmir by issuing domicile certificates to hundreds of thousands of non-state subjects, thereby trying to turn the Kashmiri people into a minority in their own region.



QUETTA: Sardar Mukhtar Tareen and Syed Imran Agha meeting with Director General Public Relations Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran