

# Independent

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## Moody's raises Pakistan's ratings to CAA2, reflecting better outlook

**Upgrade reflects improving macroeconomic conditions and moderately better liquidity, says rating agency; PM Shehbaz lauds Moody's credit rating upgrade for Pakistan; commends economic team's efforts**

ISLAMABAD (Online): Global rating agency Moody's has upgraded Pakistan's local and foreign currency issuer and senior unsecured debt ratings to Caa2 from Caa3.

According to the one of the top international rating agencies, the upgrade to Caa2 reflects Pakistan's improving macroeconomic conditions and moderately better government liquidity and external positions, from very weak levels.

It noted that concurrently, the outlook for Pakistan is changed to positive from stable.

Accordingly, Pakistan's default risk has reduced to a level consistent with a Caa2 rating. There is now greater certainty on Pakistan's sources of external financing, following the sovereign's staff-level agreement with the IMF on 12 July 2024 for a 37-month Extended Fund Facility of seven billion dollars.

The rating agency expected the IMF will approve the Extended Fund Facility in the next few weeks, noting that Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves have about doubled since June 2023.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti distributing giving away cash award and employment order in PDMA to Mohibullah who rescued a family stranded in flood in Killa Abdullah. DG PDMA Jahanzeb Khan is also present

## CM appreciates excavator driver, gives cash award

He announced that the provincial government would construct a school in the native area of the brave excavator driver.

Besides, the government would also nominate excavator driver for the gallantry award. He said that we are proud of his bravery and courage.

Also present on the occasion were the Director General PDMA, Jahanzaib Khan, Director PDMA, Faisal Tariq and the concerned teams of PDMA.

## Traders observe shutter down strike, lodge protest against taxes, hefty electricity bills

QUETTA: The traders of Balochistan observed shutter down strike against the enforcement of new taxes and hefty utility bills of the electricity across the province including Quetta, on Wednesday.



All the business concerns, trading centers and shops remain closed on call given by the traders organizations including Markazi Tanzim Tajran Pakistan and Markazi Anjuman Tajran Pakistan and Balochistan in the metropolis and different other parts of the province.

The flow of traffic also remained less than the routine in Quetta city.

Meanwhile, the protest demonstration was held under the auspices of Markazi Anjuman Tajran outside the Quetta Press Club the same morning.

The leaders of traders including Abdul Rahim Kakar, Yasin Mengal and others led the protest demonstration which was participated by large number of local traders from various parts of the city.

They chanted anti-government and anti-FBR slogans against the enforcement of taxes on the traders community.

They also lamented the FBR's Traders friendly scheme and described it as the anti-traders scheme.

They said that the scheme introduced by the FBR is not acceptable to the traders, as it would cast negative impacts on the trade and business.

The traders leaders asserted that the protest would be intensified if the demands were not met.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti distributing cheques of scholarships through Balochistan Education Endowment Fund (BEEF) under Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Scholarship Program

## People can displease with performance of Govt, but can't get annoyed with state: Chief Minister

**Baloch youth being kept away from state under planned conspiracy: Mir Sarfaraz Bugti says provincial government implemented its education friendly vision; announces to expand educational scholarship programme further in future; youth policy got approved from cabinet to bring youth closer to State and provide ample opportunities of progress; 30,000 skilled youth would be sent abroad**

Independent Report  
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that the Baloch youths are being kept away from the state under pre-planned conspiracy. He said that one can displease with performance of the government, but one can not get annoyed with the state.

He said that the incidents of terrorism occurred in last few days were sorrowful, and added that innocent people are not assassinated after offloading them from the buses in Baloch traditions.

The Chief Minister was addressing the grand ceremony of distribution of cheques of academic scholarships among male and female students under the Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Scholarships Programme here at a local hall, on Wednesday. The cheques of scholarships were distributed through the Balochistan Education Endowment Fund (BEEF).

The provincial ministers, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, Mir Asim Kurd, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Secretary Finance, Babar Khan, Chief Executive of BEEF, Zikriya Khan Noorzai and other concerned high ups. The students securing BEEF scholarships were also present on the occasion.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding economic growth and investment.

## SCIB passes bill regarding protection of journalists and media professionals

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting on Wednesday unanimously passed the Private Member's Bill for "The Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals (Amendment) Bill, 2023" with several amendments after examining all clauses starting from 20-D of the bill introduced by Senator Saleem Mandviwalla.

The bill was passed during the meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting held at the Parliament House under the chairmanship of the Committee Senator Syed Ali Zafar.

## Two-day conference on "importance & impacts of geo-politics" begins: Our national geography also has capacity to determine fate of other nations in region besides us, says Governor

Independent Report  
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the geography considers to be the fate of any nation and this can be stated with conviction that our national geography has the capacity to determine the fate of other nations in the region besides us.

He said that there's no denying the fact that our blue economy offers bright prospects of future along with having capacity of changing Pakistan into Asian tiger.

The Governor was addressing the conference on importance and impacts of geo-politics organized in collaboration with the King College London at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS) here on Wednesday.

Present on the occasion were the pro-Vice Chancellor of BUIITEMS, Dr. Abdul Rehman Khan Achakzai, representative of the King College London, Dr. Salman Khan, faculty members of the BUIITEMS, researchers, scholars, intellectuals, students and others.

The Governor stressed the need to bring under consideration the importance of neighbouring countries in backdrop of the international relations and impacts of resources on the population. He said that the famous saying is that "neighbors can't be changed" emphasizes that the geographic location of any of the country and its neighbouring countries is decided.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail addressing the participants of two-days workshop regarding Geo Politics held in BUIITEMS with cooperation of King College London

## UN urged to play role in stopping cross-border TTP attacks in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi held a meeting with the UN delegation led by UN Special Representative for Afghanistan Indrika Ratwatte.

The high-level delegation included UN Resident Coordinator Mohamed Yahya, Fady El Meouchy, Special Assistant to the DSRSG, and Head of the UN mission in Afghanistan Malik Ceesay.

The minister welcomed the UN delegation at the Ministry of Interior. The UN Special Representative for Afghanistan strongly condemned the recent terrorist attacks in Balochistan.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that terrorism is a global issue and Pakistan is the most affected country by it.

He highlighted that Pakistan's security forces, police, and people have rendered unparalleled sacrifices in the war against terrorism.

He also informed the delegation about the involvement of banned TTP in the terrorist attacks in Pakistan. He stated that banned TTP is using Afghan soil for these attacks, which must be stopped. He said that Pakistan is desirous of peace and stability in Afghanistan and is providing all possible support in this regard.

Mohsin Naqvi said that Pakistan has been hosting Afghan refugees for decades, adding, that the phase-wise repatriation of illegal foreigners has already started.

He stated that no action is being taken against individuals holding legal documents, adding that no one can be allowed to stay in Pakistan without a visa or other illegal documents.



ISLAMABAD: Newly-appointed IG Balochistan, Mr Moazzam Jah Ansari, meeting with President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr

## President stresses effective measures for improved law & order in Balochistan

Independent Report  
ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari met with the newly appointed Inspector General (IG) of Balochistan, Moazzam Jah Ansari, and emphasized the need for effective measures to improve the law and order situation in the province.

The President expressed his good wishes for Ansari's successful tenure as IG Balochistan and stressed the importance of fulfilling his responsibilities with dedication and diligence.

Ansari's appointment is seen as a significant step towards addressing the security challenges faced by Balochistan, and the President's meeting with him underscores the government's commitment to restoring peace and stability in the region.

## DC's permission declared mandatory for organizing conference & seminar at PC

Independent Report  
QUETTA: The permission of Deputy Commissioner has been declared mandatory for organizing any conference and seminar at the Quetta Press Club.

In this regard, the Deputy Commissioner Quetta has issued a letter to the President Quetta Press Club on Wednesday.

According to the notification, no political party or organization can conduct seminar or conference not anyone can hold protest without the prior permission of the district administration.

Meanwhile, the Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ) has rejected the decision of government in this regard. The BUJ said that interference of the district administration in the Press Club is condemnable.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat and Country Head Global Alliance 360 Dr. Faisal Habib signing a MoU regarding mutual cooperation on technical services in government departments

## ECP summons JUI-P head for not holding intra-party polls

ISLAMABAD (INP): Following the PTI, now it is the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Pakistan (JUI-P), which is on the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) radar as the commission on Wednesday directed the party head to show up at 10:00 on Thursday morning for not holding the intra-party elections.

A four-member bench of the ECP, headed by Nisar Durrani, will hear the case.

The JUI-P has neither held the intra-party elections so far nor has submitted any certificate to the election commission.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Balochistan attacks

Bad news keeps coming from Balochistan. Since Sunday night, in a series of coordinated militant attacks across the province, over 70 people, including security personnel, the assailants and ordinary citizens, have lost their lives.

Starting with the execution-style killing of 23 travellers in Musakhail, the terrorists blew up a railway bridge in Bolan, set several vehicles on fire at a Levis station in Mastung, and gunned down 11 people in Kalat before raiding an FC camp in Bela. This has been the most widespread assault in years. The separatist terrorist outfit BLA has claimed responsibility, maintaining that it had seized control of a big portion of the FC camp and most highways.

ISPR asserted that the security forces and law-enforcement agencies responded immediately to these criminal attacks, especially in Musakhail, Kalat and Lasbela, and killed 21 terrorists in ensuing clearance operations. However, it also said that 10 security forces soldiers and four LEAs personnel were martyred during the operation. These horrific attacks suggest that Baloch militants have intensified their violent campaign against the state and security forces. The army has vowed to bring the "instigators, perpetrators, facilitators and abettors of these heinous and cowardly acts to justice".

Balochistan has been in turmoil for many decades. The last two decades, especially following the killing of Nawab Akbar Bugti in an army operation, have seen the emergence of several armed secessionist groups. Strong evidence is said to link some of them to India and other neighbouring countries, who are opposed to the idea of a secure Pakistan.

These groups have targeted security forces, public installations, Chinese interests, unarmed Punjabi workers in Balochistan, and politicians who, as opposed to the militants, believe in a democratic struggle for the political and economic rights of the Baloch. Their violent acts and the killing of innocent people must be strongly condemned. The intensity of these attacks should put the whole country, especially its military and political guardians, on alert. That said, although kinetic action against those who target the province so mercilessly is necessary, the civil and security leadership must look deeper into the Balochistan question and identify the factors that have intensified the tension between the Baloch and the state. The reasons behind this wave of disaffection that have led young middle-class men and women to protest are well-known; they pertain to human rights violations, poor socioeconomic conditions, and the denial of political rights. These factors provide a fertile recruiting ground for terrorist groups on the lookout for angry, frustrated elements to join their ranks. The centre cannot ignore Baloch voices anymore, especially those who condemn violence and want peace and genuine efforts for change. It is only by listening to and cooperating with the people of Balochistan that the terrorists can be eliminated.

## Development first?

Syed Sikander Mehdi

Even a cursory review of discussions in Pakistan on the subject suggests that a desperate search for a shortcut to development has been going on for decades. How to attain fast-paced development seems to be the main concern of policymakers and institutions, and not what kind of development and development for whom.

Enthusiasts support the idea of 'development first' and 'development at any cost'. Some suggest, directly or indirectly, that democracy and freedom can wait and a 'transitional government' — a sort of national government, a government run by technocrats, a strong autocratic government — should be established for a period of 10 to 20 years to deliver. The Chinese, Malaysian, Singaporean, South Korean, and, until recently, the Bangladeshi models of development have been cited to justify authoritarian governance and market the narrative of development without freedom.

In the case of Bangladesh, the events following the Dhaka University students' protest against the quota system in government jobs, which led to the toppling of Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed's government earlier this month, clearly show that development without freedom is no guarantee of political stability and sustainable development.

Since it emerged as a sovereign country in 1971, Bangladesh has passed through many storms and evolved like a number of other post-colonial societies. Pre-1971, the eastern wing

struggled for equal rights and democracy. However, on attaining statehood, it drifted away from its cherished goals. By and large, its post-independence history remains overshadowed by authoritarian governance, mob violence, successful and unsuccessful military coups, the assassination of political leaders — including Bangladesh's founder Mujibur Rahman along with most of his family members in August 1975 and Lt-Gen Ziaur Rahman, the sixth president of Bangladesh, in May 1981 — stifling of the media, rigged elections and rampant corruption. A country created in the name of democracy, freedom, and prosperity for all ended up as a typical Third World country.

However, the long and uninterrupted autocratic rule of Sheikh Hasina Wajed from 2009 to 2024 did transform the country into a roaring economic success. Small wonder, then, that the rise of the country as one of the fastest-growing economies in Asia was noticed worldwide.

What was less noticed, however, was its medieval style of politics. The new history of Bangladesh, written on the premises of the universities, colleges and schools of Dhaka and other cities and towns, and on the streets and paddy fields of the country, has revealed that spectacular development without freedom is akin to building a gigantic building structure on a very weak foundation.

In less than a few weeks, the pyramid of power and economy was brought down by a popular uprising. This uprising was not led by any towering opposition leader, nor by the front-ranking, military-

supported Bangladesh Nationalist Party, nor by prominent social reformers and civil society leaders, including Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus, who now heads the post-Hasina Wajed government. Led by little-known student leaders, this historic movement rejected the idea of development without freedom.

Amartya Sen, leading Indian economist and Nobel laureate, published an important study in 1999. This study, which is titled Development as Freedom, exercised considerable influence on the international discourse on development and change. In this study, he puts forward the idea that development is freedom, because it increases the freedom of choice.

The idea of development at any cost, and the Chinese, Malaysian, Singaporean, South Korean and, later, the Bangladeshi model of development, seem to have impressed many development experts and policymakers in Pakistan. The viewpoint is quite widespread that rapid development should be attained even if freedoms and rights have to be sacrificed. Being fascinated by the authoritarian brand, many pay little attention to the consequences of the rapidly spreading fascist tendencies in various societies around the world. Worse still, it is little noticed and much less appreciated that countries such as Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and US, and several others, have been enjoying sustainable development because of the blending of democracy, freedom, rule of law and development in their political, economic and social system. — Courtesy Dawn

## Man and microbe

Naseem Salahuddin

The human body consists of trillions of individually living cells that breathe, fight, attack, die, rejuvenate, and replenish. The human cell is a world in itself, with a nucleus housing a DNA coil stretching out to construct protein-building enzymes, which are the building blocks of all organs. Each organ has a defined role and is responsible for its survival. The human body is a marvel of engineering and must be respected.

As an analogy, the microscopic bacterium is a single cell that, too, is a world in itself. Although it has no nucleus, it has its factory of particles whose primary function is to replicate by breaking itself into two, two into four, four into 16, and exponentially into millions — all within minutes. They inhabit our entire gut, from the mouth to the end of the five metres of convoluted intestine. The bugs live their own lives, not harming the host. But, if annoyed by unwholesome ingredients or unwanted competitors, they may revolt.

The battle between humans and microbes is an example of the arms race inherent in biological systems. If vandals threaten a household, the reaction will be to strengthen the walls and lock all entrances. If the intruders have guns, citizens will procure weapons. It is the hour of survival of the fittest.

The bacterium has comparable prowess. If the common bacterium called Staphylococcus aureus penetrates the skin, it may cause boils, abscesses, or septicemia, and must be destroyed with antibiotics. In the 1940s, penicillin containing a chemical ring of beta-lactam eliminated the Staph. With pro-

longed use and under pressure, the Staph started to produce an enzyme called beta-lactamase that destroyed penicillin. Scientists strengthened penicillin by adding a radical, but the resilient Staph counteracted with protein PBP2a that resisted the robust antibiotic called methicillin. The battle between Staph and methicillin continues, but Staph is coming ahead.

The same saga unfolds combat between antibiotics and the typhoid-causing Salmonella, the powerful E. coli, and its close cousins Pseudomonas and Enterobacter, that thrive in wet areas in hospitals and produce enzymes that destroy antibiotics. These tenacious bugs stick to equipment or the hands of doctors and nurses and are transmitted to sick patients, who get sicker with infection in the blood or internal organs. A few years back, infectious disease physicians could destroy bad bugs with conventional antibiotics and restore the patient's health. Today, we play Russian roulette: if the lab reports resistant bacteria, new generations of antibiotics costing Rs5,000-20,000 a day for two to four weeks in a hospital may or may not save the patient's life. No new drug molecules are in the pipeline in the world of pharmaceuticals. Treating deadly microbes is a game of thrones.

Other devious microbes that defy lifesaving drugs, like tuberculosis bacteria and fungi, invade an already weakened body and elude treatment with older drugs. Newer drugs are enormously expensive and toxic, and the humble sufferer has little choice between living and dying. As population and poverty increase in direct propor-

tion, multidrug-resistant TB is spreading more fiercely than ever to the marginalised population who can hardly afford nutritious meals and drugs at a monthly Rs20,000 for nine months or longer, in addition to frequent expensive tests.

Sadly, the trend of irrational antibiotics use by doctors originates in medical colleges, where the professor teaches in overcrowded classrooms, wards and clinics, leaving no room for arriving at logical diagnoses, and doctors are left to be brainwashed by pharmaceutical reps who promote their products, offering incentives that influence prescribing habits. Diagnostic laboratories either do not exist or are inept; roadside stores sell medicines randomly. Self-treatment, driven by the desire for quick solutions and without proper medical guidance, is another significant factor. Consequently, drug resistance is rising rapidly and poses a serious public health threat.

Addressing antimicrobial resistance requires a multifaceted approach. Antimicrobial stewardship programs in hospitals and clinics are crucial in guiding the appropriate use of antibiotics. By avoiding antibiotics against viral infections and limiting their use to treat only disease-causing bacteria, we may prolong their effectiveness for many decades.

AMR is not just an individual, local, or national issue. It is a serious global threat. We can only hope to manage and mitigate its impact through concerted action at all levels — individual, institutional, and international. As part of this global community, each of us is responsible for stanching the tide of further resistance by exercising caution in using antibiotics. — Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Ahsan calls for utilizing China's expertise, technology in agriculture sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister to China, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday stressed the importance of leveraging China's expertise and technological advancements in Pakistan's agriculture sector, once considered the backbone of the national economy.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting regarding the recent visit of the Prime

Minister to China, according to a news release.

During the meeting, participants discussed the possibility of sending provincial experts from the agriculture sector to China for further development and knowledge exchange.

Ahsan Iqbal said the exchange of trade delegations would help build trust between the private sectors of the two

countries, adding Pakistan would raise the issue of easing visa procedures for its entrepreneurs with the Chinese embassy.

He also mentioned that Pakistan was utilizing all available resources to ensure the safety of Chinese investors and officials.

The minister reiterated the federal government's commitment to providing all possible facilities to private

investors and taking necessary steps to remove obstacles hindering foreign investment, ensuring a conducive environment for trade and investment.

He directed the relevant authorities to complete and submit a framework for the transfer of Chinese industries to Pakistan within a week, outlining the standards and outcomes required for the quality and success of industrial sectors.



Chairman Prime Minister's Steering Committee on Gem & Stones and Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan presided over a meeting in Islamabad.



MULTAN: Farmer women busy in cutting grass in the field for their animals.

### PSO reports profit of Rs. 15.9 billion in FY24

ISLAMABAD (APP): Management has also announced a dividend of PKR 10/- per share, representing a 100% payout for the financial year 2023-24.

Furthermore, PSO's subsidiary, PRL, delivered a robust performance with a profit after tax of PKR 4.1 billion and gross revenue of PKR 403.6 billion. On a consolidated basis, the group achieved a profit after tax of PKR 18.3 billion, translating to an Earnings Per Share (EPS) of PKR 39.

In the intensely competitive white oil market, the company expanded its market share to 51.6% share, exceeding its previous record and solidifying its position as the market leader.

### PSX loses 486 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) shed 486.82 points on Tuesday, showing a negative change of 0.62 percent, closing at 78,084.24 points against 78,571.06 points on the last working day.

A total of 591,511,522 shares were traded during the day as compared to 512,337,206 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 17.177 billion against Rs 18.894 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 436 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 163 of them recorded gains and 222 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 51 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Kohinoor Spinning with 74,333,884 shares at Rs 11.57 per share, WorldCall Telecom with 47,382,319 shares at Rs.1.26 per share and Energycico PK with 43,914,580 shares at Rs 3.98 per share.

Hallmark Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.56.87 per share price, closing at Rs 625.57, whereas the runner-up was Mari Petroleum Company Limited with a Rs 50.90 rise in its per share price.

### Government pledges to lead the country towards progress: Ali Pervaiz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Finance, Revenue and Power Ali Pervaiz Malik said on Thursday that the government pledged its commitment to steering the country towards progress.

Talking to a private news channel, he said the government, took difficult economic measures to put the country on the right track.

He said we are making significant progress and will soon overcome the relevant issues.

### Pak apparel exports to China increase by 5% in 2024

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan's exports of men's and women's apparel to China have been increased by approximately five percent reaching over \$18.03 million in the first seven months of the year, said the latest data from General Administration of Customs of China (GACC).

Commercial Councillor at the Pakistan Embassy in

Regarding the International Monetary Fund, the Minister said positive news is expected in the coming days.

IMF is a necessary component to pull the country out of the economic quagmire, he added.

He said the government is doing all the efforts to support low-income electricity users. The federal government has given protection up to 200 units in consultation with IMF.

Beijing, Ghulam Qadir highlighted the growing popularity of Pakistani apparel in China, attributing this trend to the superior quality and competitive pricing of the products.

He also emphasized Pakistan's strategic advantage in land trade with China, coupled with the zero-tariff benefits under the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA).

### Govt maintains zero tolerance policy towards power pilferage: Awais

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari on Tuesday reiterated that the Federal Government and the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) had maintained a zero-tolerance policy towards electricity theft and their facilitators.

Presiding over a high level meeting at Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) headquarters, he emphasized the importance of 100% recovery of dues from both government and private consumers.

He stressed that any delay in this process would not be tolerated and that the entire relief distribution would be closely monitored to ensure

transparency in this regard. Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari further highlighted that consumers were the most valuable asset of any organization, and the provision of quality and timely services, accurate meter readings, and prompt bill delivery ought to be ensured.

He also mentioned that the complete eradication of electricity theft was possible through adopting modern technology in the power sector.

### PM orders to hold consultation with traders at all levels: Naem Mir

LAHORE (APP): Tajir Dost Scheme Chief Coordinator Naem Mir said on Tuesday that Prime Minister had ordered to hold consultation with traders at all levels. According to official sources, the Federal Board of Revenue Chairman had invited representatives of traders for dialogue at 3:00 pm today. He said, "We want to hold consultation with traders organizations before issuing new amended SRO."

### Export of footwear increases 2.62% in July 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The export of footwear from the country witnessed an increase of 2.62 percent during the first month of the current fiscal year (2024-25) as compared to the exports of the corresponding last year.

The country exported footwear worth US\$ 11.793 million during July 2024 as opposed to the export of US\$ 11.491 million during July 2023, showing growth of 2.62 percent, according to the

data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

Among the footwear products, the exports of leather footwear witnessed a decrease of 1.24 percent, from US\$ 9.570 million to US\$ 9.452 million during the month under review.

The canvas footwear exports also decreased by 43.64 percent by going down from US\$ 0.286 million last year to US\$ 0.161 million, the PBS data revealed.

# CM orders payments via Himmat Cards by September 15

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that the care of deserving special persons is responsibility of the state. The CM participated in a ceremony to sign an MoU (memorandum of understanding) between Department of Social Welfare and Bank of Punjab for the issuance of Himmat Cards (ATM Cards) to 65,000 special people across Punjab, through which Rs 10,500 will be paid to them every quarter.

The chief minister directed the authorities concerned to start payment through Himmat cards by September 15. She said: "Special people are very special to us." CM Maryam Nawaz was apprised that Himmat Cards will be issued to 40,000 people in phase-I and to 25,000 people in phase-II. She was also briefed that a 30 per cent quota had been reserved for women in the issuance of Himmat Card to deserving special persons. She was briefed that a

dedicated helpline 1312 has been set up for the assistance of deserving special persons. The MoU was signed by Secretary Social Welfare Javed Akhtar Mahmood and President Bank of Punjab Zafar Masood. Provincial Minister for Social Welfare Sohail Shaikat Butt, MPA Sania Ashiq, Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Chairman P&D Nabil Awan, DG Social Welfare Amna Munir and other relevant officers were also present.



LAHORE: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman talking to media persons along with Traders Organization regarding countrywide shutter down strike during his visit to protest camp.

## KP govt announces Rs 10 mln for families of Balochistan martyrs

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has announced a compensation amount of Rs 10 million each to the families of those martyred in recent terrorist attacks in Balochistan. The announcement was made on the directives of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to show solidarity with the people of Punjab and martyrs. Muzammil Aslam, Advisor to the Chief Minister for Finance, said that the provincial government deeply sympathizes with the families of the martyrs. He emphasized that both the

government and the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, who have faced the scourge of terrorism, fully understand the pain and suffering caused by such tragic incidents. He said that the party's leadership strongly condemned the terrorist attacks and expressed their sorrow and solidarity with the affected families, underscoring their commitment to stand by them during this difficult time. Muzammil Aslam said that terrorist incidents in North Waziristan have also claimed the lives of five individuals.

## New Election Commissioner KP welcomed with luncheon party

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Election Commissioner Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Shamshad Khan and newly appointed Provincial Election Commissioner Saeed Gul on Tuesday arranged a luncheon wherein all the officers of the Provincial Election Commissioner KP headquarters were in attendance. The KP Election Commission Officers said during the function the Provincial Election Commissioner appreciated the services of Shamshad Khan.

## Two youths killed over issue in Swabi

PESHAWAR (APP): At least two youths were shot dead over a dispute in the vicinity of Yar Hussain police station in Swabi district, police informed on Tuesday. Police said the accused called the victims into an empty house and later shot them dead. The dead were identified as Jalal and Adnan, police said and added that both the victims were 22-years-old. The Yar Hussain police have registered a case on the complaint of the brother of the deceased Jalal and started investigation to nab.

## SMBR says: Comprehensive flood management plan to be developed across Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Senior Member Board of Revenue (SMBR) Punjab Nabeel Javed highlighted the need for a detailed plan to enhance drainage infrastructure and address urban flooding from heavy rains, aiming to minimize inconvenience to residents. Presiding over a crucial meeting held at the Board of Revenue here on Tuesday, he directed all commissioners and local

governments to submit comprehensive reports regarding the statistics of union councils across Punjab. Attendees included Secretary Irrigation Wasif Khurshid, Secretary Local Government Board Rizwan Nazir, Commissioner Lahore Zaid bin Maqsood, Additional Secretary Housing and Urban Development Umar Farooq, commissioners from across Punjab.



ABBOTTABAD: Mayor of Abbottabad, Sardar Shuja Nabi exchanging views with Neil Hawkins, Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan during meeting held in Abbottabad.

## LHC RWP bench Court cannot issue directives on assumptions

RAWALPINDI (Online): Justice Mirza Waqas Rauf of Lahore High Court Rawalpindi bench has remarked during hearing of petition against detention of deputy superintendent Adiala jail Rawalpindi the petitioner has no authentic information and the court cannot issue directives to any one on the basis of assumptions. He further remarked "The case has been registered and there is no such thing therein. Tell the court Muhammad Akram is in whose custody. The court while declaring reply of CPO Rawalpindi unsatisfactory summoned him again on

August 29. The petitioner along with her son and counsel Imaan Mazaari was present in the court during hearing of case Tuesday. The counsel for the petitioner told the court deputy superintendent is missing since August 14 and police and any other institution is not providing any information of any sort. We suspect Muhammad Akram is in the custody of intelligence agencies. The court inquired Muhammad Akram is in the custody of which agency so that the court may issue directive to some one because we can issue no directives on the basis of assumptions.

## CS KP shows solidarity with martyrs families

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry on Tuesday expressed profound sympathies with families of four security personnel who embraced martyrdom during an intelligence-based operation against terrorists in Tirah valley of Khyber District.

In his message, the Chief Secretary KP expressed solidarity with the bereaved families and prayed for high places in Heaven for the souls of the martyrs. He also prayed for fortitude to the affected families to bear the loss with patience.

## Two killed, three injured in traffic accident

MULTAN (APP): Two persons of the same family were killed and three others sustained injuries in a traffic accident that occurred near Kheera Chowk area of Multan, tv channels reporting Rescue sources quoted on Tuesday. According to details, a rashly driven bus hit the two wheeler near Kheera chowk area.

## AJK Govt channels funds to grassroots to improve public services

MIRPUR-AJK (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister, Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq on Tuesday highlighted the government's focus on completing development projects promptly and making funds accessible at the grassroots level to enhance public services. During a review meeting with District Officers in Kuttan Colony, Neelum Valley, the prime minister urged department heads to prioritize public service and perform their duties with dedication. He stressed that the benefits of allocated funds should reach the community. The prime minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to completing hydropower

projects in AJK within the given timeframe and assured that appointments of administrative officers would be made based on merit to promote good governance. He also highlighted plans to upgrade road infrastructure to boost tourism and create local job opportunities. The prime minister instructed the Electricity Department to improve revenue collection, noting that only 22% of residents in Neelum pay their electricity bills, despite affordable rates. He emphasized the need for community cooperation in timely payments of electricity and water bills and called for actions against defaulters.

He stressed that the benefits of allocated funds should reach the community. The prime minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to completing hydropower



LAHORE: Members of Professors and Lecturers Association are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Lahore press club.

## Gul Hasan Sheikh says Better treatment facilities should be provided to patients in time

Independent Report MIRPUR MATHELO: Better treatment facilities should be provided to the patients in time and the supply of free medicines should be ensured, Regional Director of Ombudsman Ghotki Gul Hasan Sheikh expressed these thoughts on the occasion of visiting Taluk Hospital Daharki. On the instructions of Chief Sindh Muhammad Sohail Rajput, he visited

Taluka Hospital Daharki, on this occasion, the director of ombudsman inspected the hospital medical room, X-ray machine room and other departments. They should be properly treated and properly cared for and no negligence or negligence should be done, on this occasion MS Dr. Fida Hussain Kalwar informed about the facilities available in the hospital.

# International News

## Israeli strikes across Gaza kill 18, including 8 children, Palestinians say

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: Palestinian officials say Israeli airstrikes across the Gaza Strip have killed at least 18 people, including eight children. The Civil Defense, first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government, said three children and their mother were killed in an airstrike late Monday in the Tufah neighborhood of Gaza City. It said three other people were missing after the strike. Another strike late Monday hit a building in downtown Gaza City, killing a child, three women and a man, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. In southern

Gaza, a strike on a home early Tuesday killed five people, including a man, his three children as young as 3 years old and a woman, according to a casualty list provided by Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, where the bodies were taken. Another airstrike early Tuesday flattened a home west of Khan Younis, killing at least four people, including a child, according to Nasser Hospital, where the dead were taken. Footage shared online showed residents digging through the rubble. A man carried a wounded child to an ambulance, while two others carried a dead body wrapped in a blanket.

Palestinian health officials do not say whether those killed in Israeli strikes are civilians or fighters. Israel says it tries to avoid harming civilians and accuses Hamas of putting them in danger by fighting in residential areas. But the military rarely comments on individual strikes, which often kill women and children. Gaza's Health Ministry says Israel's offensive has killed over 40,000 people in Gaza. The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250 people.



Iran's new foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, welcomes Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani ahead of their meeting in Tehran.

## Zuckerberg says Biden admin pressured Meta to 'censor' Covid-19 content

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Meta Platforms CEO Mark Zuckerberg said the Biden administration had pressured the company to "censor" Covid-19 content during the pandemic, apparently referring to White House requests to take down misinformation about the coronavirus and vaccines. In a letter dated August 26, Zuckerberg told the US House of Representatives Judiciary Committee

that he regretted not speaking up about this pressure earlier, as well as other decisions he had made as the owner of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp around removing certain content. In July 2021, President Joe Biden, a Democrat, said social media platforms like Facebook "are killing people" for allowing misinformation about coronavirus vaccines to be posted on its platform.

## Taliban promise to enforce morality law 'gently'

Monitoring Desk KABUL: Afghanistan's Taliban authorities said on Monday a recently ratified morality law would be enforced "gently", after the international community and Afghans voiced concern over new restrictions. Women must cover completely and not raise their voices in public, according to a 35-article law announced on Wednesday by the justice ministry. It imposes wide-ranging stipulations from behaviour to dress and social interactions.

## No intention to increase ME tensions, says Iran

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Iran does not seek to increase Middle East tensions, Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi told his Italian counterpart Antonio Tajani, adding that its response to the killing of the Hamas chief in Tehran would be "definite and calculated". Iran blames Israel for the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh on July 31, which Araqchi was quoted by Iran's state media as saying was "an unforgivable violation of Iran's security and sovereignty".

## Russian attacks on Ukraine kill 5 in second day of major strikes

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Russia launched missile and drone attacks targeting scores of Ukrainian regions and killing at least five people, officials said on Tuesday, a day after Moscow's biggest air attack of the war on its neighbour. Two people were killed when a hotel was "wiped out" by a missile in the central city of Kryvyi Rih, regional officials said. Three died in drone attacks on the southeastern city of Zaporizhzhia. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Tuesday that Kyiv would retaliate against Russia for its attacks. He asked allies to consider joint air defence operations and provide long-range capabilities after Russia pummeled Ukrainian energy infrastructure

with more than 200 missiles and drones on Monday. During Tuesday's attack, Ukraine downed five out of 10 incoming missiles and 60 out of 81 drones, the air force said. The Ukrainian air force lost track of 10 more drones that have likely come down somewhere on its territory, it said. It said that one more crossed into Belarusian territory; 10 more were still flying around in Ukraine's airspace on Tuesday morning. The Russian defence ministry said its forces had carried out a high-precision weapon strike on Ukraine overnight, the Interfax news agency reported. Moscow denies targeting civilians since launching a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, although thousands have been killed.

## UN forced to halt humanitarian operations in Gaza

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations said on Monday it had been forced to halt its humanitarian operations in Gaza due to a new Israeli evacuation order for the Deir al-Balah area, a senior UN official said. "We are not operating today. As of this morning, we're not operating in Gaza," the official said, adding that since the start of the war the UN has sometimes had to "delay or take a pause." "This is not a decision that we're saying we're stopping to operate, but practically we cannot operate," the official said. According to the official, the UN "had relocated most of our personnel in our operations" to Deir al-Balah following a Rafah evacuation order several months ago. The Israeli military had told people on Sunday to "evacuate immediately". "We need to find

solutions," the UN official said. "And if it means that we need to anchor down for 24-48 hours and reset, we do that. But we're not leaving." "Right now the challenge is to find a place where we can reset and effectively operate." Israel's military struck the Gaza Strip on Monday a day after truce talks in Cairo coincided with a major but brief cross-border escalation involving Hezbollah in Lebanon. In the latest flare-up between Israel and Hamas-ally Hezbollah, the Lebanese group on Sunday launched rockets and drones in retaliation for a top commander's killing as Israel carried out air raids the military said thwarted a larger attack. Israel swiftly revoked a state of emergency declared early on Sunday, and Hezbollah said its operation was "completed".

## Iran's supreme leader opens door to negotiations with United States over Tehran's nuclear program

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Iran's supreme leader opened the door Tuesday to renewed negotiations with the United States over his country's rapidly advancing nuclear program, telling its civilian government there was "no barrier" to engaging with its "enemy." Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's remarks set clear red lines for any talks taking place under the government of reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian and renewed his warnings that America wasn't to be trusted. But his comments mirror those around the time of Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, which saw Tehran's nuclear program greatly curtailed in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. Yet it remains unclear just how

much room Pezeshkian will have to maneuver, particularly as tensions remain high in the wider Mideast over the Israel-Hamas war. "We do not have to pin our hope to the enemy. For our plans, we should not wait for approval by the enemies," Khamenei said in a video broadcast by state television. "It is not contradictory to the same enemy in some places, there's no barrier." Khamenei, who has final say on all state matters, also warned Pezeshkian's Cabinet, "Do not trust the enemy." Khamenei, 85, has occasionally urged talks or dismissed them with the U.S. after then-President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the deal.

## India's green energy wind drive hits desert herders hard

Monitoring Desk JAISALMER: Whirring wind turbines in India's Thar desert supply critical green energy for the world's most populous nation, but those living in their shadows say it comes at their expense. It illustrates the hard balance faced as India, the third-largest greenhouse gas emitter, scrambles to boost its non-fossil fuel capacity to stem the rising impacts of climate change. The big companies have come here and built the windmills, but they're useless to us," said 65-year-old livestock herder Nena Ram, describing an age-old farming system upended by the giant turbines.

## Indian police fire teargas at hundreds protesting over Kolkata doctor's rape, murder

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: Police in India fired teargas and water cannon to disperse hundreds of protesters marching in the eastern city of Kolkata on Tuesday to demand the resignation of a top state minister in the wake of a gruesome rape and murder of a trainee doctor. Protesters led by university students broke through the iron barricades set up on the route of their march to the West Bengal state secretariat, television footage showed, resulting in a baton charge by the po-

lice, who had earlier declared the protest illegal. The August 9 attack on the 31-year-old doctor has caused nationwide outrage, similar to the widespread protests witnessed after a 2012 gang-rape of a 23-year-old student on a moving bus in New Delhi, with campaigners saying women continue to suffer from high levels of sexual violence despite tougher laws. A police volunteer has been arrested for the crime and the federal police have taken over the investigation.

## Pakistan urges push for narrowing differences

UNITED NATIONS Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he "very much hopes that member states, in their wisdom, will bring the process of Security Council reform to a result".

The UN chief "has been extremely vocal, especially lately, on the need for reform, notably on the need to find a (permanent) seat for an African country on the Security Council," his spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said in response to a question at the regular noon briefing at UN Headquarters in New York.

Full-scale negotiations to reform the Security Council began in the General Assembly in February 2009 on five clusters—the categories of membership, the question of veto, regional representation, size of an enlarged Security Council, and working methods of the council and its relationship with the General Assembly.

Despite a general agreement on enlarging the Council, as part of the UN reform process, member states remain divided over the details.

Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he "very much hopes that member states, in their wisdom, will bring the process of Security Council reform to a result".

"We welcome the adoption of the oral decision today to 'roll over' the negotiations on Security Council reform within the IG process," Ambassador Usman Jadoon, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told the 193-member Assembly after the vote.

With the aim of "instilling new life" into the discussions on Security Council reform, the General Assembly further decided to include in its next session's agenda the item entitled "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council".



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presenting shield to Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

## CM, Governor Balochistan urged to establish Information Commission

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) has once again called on the Government of Balochistan to take immediate action to establish the Balochistan Information Commission, as mandated by the Balochistan Right to Information Act 2021.

Despite repeated letters to various authorities, including the Chief Minister, Governor, and key legislative officials, no progress has been made in appointing the members of the Commission, a delay that undermines the fundamental right to information and violates the law, a news release said.

The latest letters were sent to Governor of Balochistan, Shaikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail and other officials urging them to facilitate the establishment of the Commission.

This follows several earlier communications, including letters dated March 12, May 07, June 07, and August 01, 2024, addressed to Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, Chief Minister of Balochistan. These letters highlighted the provincial government's failure to appoint Commission members within the legally mandated period of 120 days from the commencement of the Act.

Access to information is not just a legal right; it is a pillar of democratic governance," said Mukhtar Ahmad Ali, Executive Director of CPDI.



ISLAMABAD: Employees of PWD scuffle with the police during a sit-in protest (Dharna) in favor of their demands at Srinagar Highway in the Federal Capital.

## Information Commission Balochistan's website launched, hailed as milestone

Independent Report QUETTA: The Information Commission Balochistan's website has been launched, marking a significant milestone in promoting transparency and access to information in the province. Secretary Information Imran Khan praised the efforts of the Commission in implementing the Right to Information Act.

The website was launched during a meeting attended by IT expert Abdul Astar Baloch, Executive Director Adil Jehangir, Director General Public Relations Muhammad Noor Khetran, and other officials.

Speaking at the meeting, Adil Jehangir said that the Commission plans to celebrate International Day for Universal Access to Information for the first time in Balochistan in collaboration with the Information Department.

Muhammad Noor Khetran emphasized the need for a user-friendly website that provides easy access to information for the public. Other officials, including Mir Bahram Baloch, Mir Bahram Lehri, and Rana Ahsan, suggested uploading awareness material on the website to educate the public about their right to information.

The launch of the website is seen as a significant step towards promoting transparency and accountability in Balochistan.



QUETTA: Team of AD Balochistan briefed Provincial Secretary Imran Khan and Director General Public Relations Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran regarding website of Information Commission



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Mr. Qaisar Ahmed Sheikh was chief guest in the special event program organized by Pak-China Institute in COMSTECH Auditorium.

## High quality network of roads, motorways being built the country: Aleem

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan said on Wednesday that a network of high-quality highways and motorways was being laid in the country.

In future, no motorway will be constructed with less than six lanes while the motorways from Karachi to Sukkhar and Sialkot, Kharian to Islamabad will be the top priority of the National Highway Authority (NHA), these views were expressed by the minister in the departmental briefing of NHA where Chairman NHA, Federal Secretary Communications, and other senior officers were present.

He further directed that all motorways should be constructed with at least three lanes on one side so that these can fulfill the needs of the future.

He said the NHA should collect maximum revenue by constructing a toll plaza for heavy traffic, and public and private transport. He said that to strictly ensure the implementation of axle load rules on these roads and motorways which should not be violated at any cost.

Abdul Aleem Khan further said that there was no room for corrupt and incompetent staff in the NHA. He further said that in those areas where there were problems in revenue collection, the issue could be solved by handing over the toll collection to the private sector.

He directed that every year the National Highway Authority should set its annual revenue targets which will surely not only increase the efficiency and revenue of the institution but also bring a clear and positive difference.

The minister said that the NHA should adopt a self-reliance policy and use available resources, professional skills, and manpower. "NHA should be a financially stable and independent entity in the future", he remarked.

Improving the means of transportation was one of the top priorities of the government while creating a business model compatible with modern requirements has become inevitable as well.

"By introducing a new vision in NHA, we should not only enhance our capacity globally by offering our expert services to other countries but also earn a significant amount of foreign exchange", he added.

NHA Chairman while giving a briefing to the Minister said that in the current situation, it was a bitter reality that only 13% of toll tax was being collected from the NHA highways. He further informed that the process of refinement has been started in the light of the instructions.



ISTANBUL: Balochistan Minister for Irrigation Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani visiting Omarli Dam in District Cekmekoy

## Unannounced gas load shedding plagues Sariab Road

Independent Report QUETTA: Residents of Sariab Road, Quetta, are facing daily hardships due to unannounced gas load shedding, which continues from 11pm to 7am. Local political and tribal leader, Naeem Raisani, has taken notice of the issue and appealed to the administration to resolve the problem.

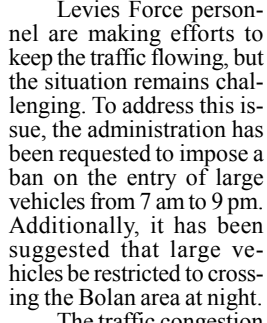
He warned that the public will not tolerate further injustice and may be forced to take to the streets if the situation persists. Raisani emphasized that the administration should address the issue to avoid public unrest and ensure a steady gas supply.

## Severe traffic jam at Pinjra Bridge

Independent Report DHADAR: A severe traffic jam has been reported at the Pinjra Bridge, located 10 miles from Dhadar near Mach, causing chaos and distress for passengers, particularly children and women, due to the scorching heat. The jam was caused by speeding large vehicles and double-line crossing, resulting in long queues of vehicles on both sides.

Levies Force personnel are making efforts to keep the traffic flowing, but the situation remains challenging. To address this issue, the administration has been requested to impose a ban on the entry of large vehicles from 7 am to 9 pm. Additionally, it has been suggested that large vehicles be restricted to crossing the Bolan area at night.

The traffic congestion has led to frustration among commuters, and urgent measures are needed to resolve the issue and ensure smooth traffic flow.



HUB: View of business activities seen shutdown due to strike called by Business Community against rising sales and advance taxes, inflated electricity bills and the FBR's fixed tax policy, in Hub.

QUETTA (APP): Member of the Balochistan Assembly, Abdul Majeed Badini, on Wednesday said that the provincial government has approved Rs. 320 million for a flood protection embankment to save Dera Allah Yar from floodwaters.

The Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, has also approved Rs. 180 million for the strengthening of drainage canals in Jaffarabad city.

Talking to APP, he said Dera Allah Yar faces a significant sewage issue as there has been no sewage system since the beginning. Due to a lack of proper management, no development work has been carried out in the past in Jaffarabad district, leading to increased unemployment numerous problems. He noted that there is no existing sewage system in Dera Allah Yar, and rainwater remains stagnant in the streets, homes, and roads, causing the city to appear flooded.

He further stated that this is a waterlogged and flood-prone area, and the water does not get absorbed for a whole month.

MPA Majeed Badini deplord that during the floods of 2010 and 2012, the entire Jaffarabad was submerged, and water remained stagnant for four months.

The 2024 floods again affected the area, and recent rains have once again impacted it.

The Chief Minister of Balochistan has approved Rs. 180 million for the strengthening of drainage canals and has also approved a flood protection embankment, which will help resolve these issues, he hoped. Expressing his pleasure over poor management issue, he said the lack of resources is not the problem, but the issues remain unresolved due to poor management, with no one fulfilling their responsibilities. From 2010 to 2022, the government and NGOs spent billions on development projects, but the ground situation is contrary to this, as not a single brick is visible in Jaffarabad.

## Umrani visits Omerli Dam in Çekmeköy, Istanbul

Independent Report QUETTA: The Minister for Irrigation, Government of Balochistan, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, visited the Omerli Dam located in the Çekmeköy district of Istanbul Province, accompanied by senior officials.

The dam, which was constructed based on the principles of integrated water resources management, features upstream watershed management, significant water storage capacity, and downstream irrigation to support agricultural activities.

During the visit, Minister Umrani proposed replicating this strategic approach in Balochistan. Although the irrigation department is already implementing integrated water resources management in several projects, the Minister emphasized the need for further improvements.

He suggested adopting the Omerli Dam as a model for future irrigation initiatives in Balochistan to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of water management in the region. Although the irrigation department is already implementing integrated water resources management in several projects, the Minister emphasized the need for further improvements.

## Political parties unite to reaffirm unwavering support for CPEC

Pakistan-China Institute hosts multi-party moot, pledges commitment to strengthen Pak-China ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan-China Institute (PCI), headed by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, successfully organised a unique event under its "Friends of Silk Road" series, which brought together leaders of eight political parties on one platform to reaffirm support for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Leaders belonging to parties from Government and Opposition, PML-N, PPP, PTI, MQM, BAP, NP, NDM and JUI-F, from all provinces, were represented. They discussed the results of the recently concluded 3rd Plenum of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and its impact on China and its foreign relations, a news release said.

Chairman Pakistan-China Institute, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed emphasised the pivotal role of the CPC in China's on-going journey of reform and modernization, adding CPC is the world's biggest political party with 100 million members and longest-serving political party, which has transformed China. Citing figures of China's phenomenal progress since the 1979 Reform & Opening Up, he said then China had per capita income of \$ 157 while now it's \$ 12,000, then China's GDP was \$ 150 billion, now it's \$ 18 trillion. And Fortune 500 now counts China with 142, largest number of companies. Senator Mushahid Hussain listed 5 reasons for the China Success Story in such a short time: Quality of Leadership, Ability to do Course Correction, Continuity of Policy, Learning from others, and Peaceful Foreign Policy.

Senator Sherry Rehman noted that the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee will have far-reaching impacts not only on China but also on the world. "China has played a crucial role in the development of the Global South, and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has created numerous investment opportunities in Pakistan," Senator Rehman stated.

She praised China's Global Security Initiative, calling it a commendable effort that will ensure peace and stability globally. Additionally, she highlighted China's role in clean energy development under CPEC as a significant contribution to sustainable development in Pakistan and the region. Saadia Khagan Abbasi commended China's leadership in technological advancement, human development, and labour productivity. "The focus on security and development is a unique selling point of China", she added. Leader of Opposition, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Senator Shibli Faraz emphasised China's development story as a role model for the world and highlighted the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as having the potential for shared development and prosperity across the globe.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan being briefed by Chairman National Highway Authority in the departmental briefing of National Highway Authority.

## DC Jhal Magsi cracks down on absenteeism at Veterinary Hospital

Independent Report JHAL MAGSI: In a surprise move, Deputy Commissioner Jhal Magsi, Syed Rehmatullah Shah, visited the Veterinary Hospital in Gandawah and expressed strong displeasure over the absence of key staff members. He promptly issued orders to issue show-cause notices to those who failed to report for duty.

The DC's visit comes in the wake of the district's recent struggles with livestock diseases and floods in 2022, which had a devastating impact on the local animal population. He emphasized the critical need for preventive measures, vaccination drives, and strict maintenance of cleanliness and attendance at veterinary centers to safeguard the public's animals from diseases.

## Our players are second to none in intelligence, potential: Governor

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that our players are second to none in intelligence and potential, but they need opportunities and necessary facilities.

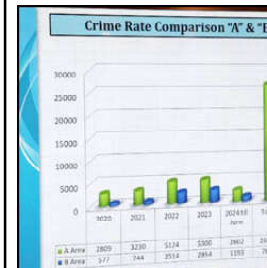
He was addressing ceremony of All Balochistan Arshad Khan Master Weightlifting Championship at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) here on Wednesday. The Advisor and Parliamentary Secretary, Nasimur Rehman Musakhail, Mir Asghar Rind, Barkat Ali Rind, Member Provincial Assembly, Ms. Salma Kakar, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat and Director General of Sports, Dr. Yasir Bazai.

Addressing the participants, the Governor said we have to strengthen the sports sector in the province.

He stressed that equal opportunities should be provided to all talented sports persons so that they may brighten the name of country.

He also said that Pakistan has a big name and place in the world of sports at international level.

He said that the world-fame squash player, Jahangir Khan has been declared as one of the best players of 1,000 years as he maintained his victory in 555 matches. Similarly, the gold medalist Arshad Nadeem brightened the name of country and nation by setting new record.



QUETTA: Under trainee officers of National Police Academy Islamabad being briefed during their visit to Levies Directorate. DG Levies Naseebullah Kakar is also present

## PM approves transfer of NESPAK from Power to Cabinet Division

ISLAMABAD (Online): Right-sizing continues in the institutions by the federal government, it has been decided to transfer the control of NESPAK, a subsidiary of the Power Division, to the Cabinet Division. The PM gave green signal for transferring NESPAK.

## Fintech industry leaders meet Chairman NADRA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Industry leaders from Pakistan's fintech sector on Wednesday met with Chairman NADRA Lieutenant General Muhammad Munir Afsar and presented the current landscape, status and challenges to the industry. The discussions focused on the progress made by fintechs, the potential they offer for growth, innovation and the challenges faced by the industry, said a press release.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman NADRA acknowledged the pivotal role of fintechs in driving financial inclusion and digital transformation in Pakistan and expressed his strong commitment to supporting the industry.

He also emphasized the need for a collaborative approach to overcome the challenges and assured the industry leaders that NADRA is fully aligned with the vision of a financially inclusive Pakistan.

He further said that the authority is keen to work closely with fintechs to develop solutions that will streamline processes and enhance the overall digital experience for consumers.

## Training Program on Google Workspace held for Info Dept officials

Independent Report QUETTA: In line with the global shift towards paperless technology, a training program was organized for officials of the Information Department in Balochistan to promote digital documentation and workflow. The program was conducted under the directives of Provincial Secretary Information Imran Khan and Director General Public Relations Muhammad Noor Khetran.

The training focused on Google Workspace and its applications, providing detailed insights into its usage and benefits. Officials from the Information Department, including Director Syed Tanveer Akhtar, Director Saeed Ahmed Shahwani, Deputy Director Muhammad Najeebullah Langove, and Deputy Director Syed Jafar Shah, attended the program. System Analyst Muhammad Asim Durani and Information Cell DGPR Zainul Abideen provided training and highlighted the ease of using Google Workspace.