

# Independent

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding the review of ongoing projects of Information Technology, digitization and steps to increase IT exports.

## PM views completion of IT Park Islamabad as milestone to achieve \$25 bn export mark

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that the completion of Information Technology Park project in Islamabad would help boost country's exports in this sector and prove as significant milestone in achieving \$25 billion IT exports target.

The prime minister, while chairing a meeting to review the ongoing projects of Information Technology, digitization and steps to increase IT exports, termed the progress on IT park project in Islamabad as satisfactory.

He further directed for taking steps to reduce its completion time-frame af-

ter consultation with the Korean experts, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The meeting was attended by Ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Ahmad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Attaullah Tarar, Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Deputy Chairman Planning Jehanzaib Khan, PM's Coordinators Malik Mukhtar Bharath, Rana Ahsan Afzal and relevant senior officials.

The meeting was apprised that work on the IT park project was in full swing and the Korean company had reset its completion date to February 2025 from earlier June 2025.

The Capital Development Authority's (CDA) teams were regularly visiting and monitoring the project site.

The meeting was further briefed over the digital smart cities and the commencement of its pilot project from Islamabad, which would enable the residents of the city to get easy access to 150 government's services through City Super Application.

Through this mobile application, the governmental and administrative services including CDA, Islamabad Police, health and educational services would be made available.

## 190 million pounds case: IHC stops trial court to announce final decision

ISLAMABAD (INP): Approving a request by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) stopped the trial court from announcing the final verdict on the £190 million settlement case.

A two-member divisional bench, comprising IHC's Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Babar Sattar, on Monday, heard a plea filed by the deposed prime minister, seeking the records for a past National Accountability Bureau (NAB) decision to close the graft case.

The incarcerated PTI chairman is accused of causing billions of rupees loss to the national exchequer in a case also involving a property tycoon. During the hearing, Khan's counsel Salman Safdar maintained that the proceedings in the reference against the former prime minister are still underway, and the last of the 35 witnesses are under cross-examination. He apprised the court that there were eight accused, six of which are absconders and the two are Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi.

As per the allegations in the case, the petitioner of this plea, facilitated the settlement between the government and the property tycoon when he was the prime minister, the counsel added. Referring to the 190 million pounds received from UK's NCA in 2019, Safdar contended that NAB maintained in the case that the funds had to be transferred in the government's account but instead they were received in the Supreme Court's bank account and that the Al Qadir Trust is operational instead of a ghost project.

## Iraqi Defence Secretary, CJCSC discuss bilateral security enhancements

Independent Report

RAWALPINDI: Lt Gen Ahmed Dawood Salman, Secretary Defence of Iraq called on General Sahir Shamsad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi.

Matters of bilateral interests including, emerging security environment and enhancement of security and defence cooperation between the two countries were discussed during the meeting.

The visiting dignitary commended the professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged the sacrifices rendered by people and Armed Forces of Pakistan in the war against terrorism.

## SC stays IHC's proceeding in audio leaks case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Monday served notices to respondents in an appeal of federal government against the order of Islamabad High Court (IHC) related to the alleged audio leaks of Najam us Saqib and Bushra Bibi.

The top court also suspended the order of IHC dated June 25, and stopped its proceeding into the matter till further orders.

A two-judge bench comprising Justice Amin ud Din Khan and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan heard the case. The apex court, in its order regarding the hearing, said that the Additional Attorney General has stated that the proceedings of the IHC have not been finalized. The high court has exceeded the jurisdiction of Article 199, the principles have been laid down in two decisions of the Supreme Court that the high court cannot take suo-moto notices by itself.

It said that the court was told that the five questions decided in the hearing of the high court on May 31, were not the case of the petitioners. It was also told that the high court could not investigate.

The Additional Attorney General Amir Rehman told the court during the hearing that in the order of the IHC of May 29, the authorities were stopped from phone tapping and CDR. Due to the order the institutions are unable to do counter intelligence and caught terrorists.



Lt Gen Ahmed Dawood Salman, Secretary Defence of Iraq meeting with General Sahir Shamsad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi.

## Tarar says: Provinces should follow Center, Punjab to ensure substantive relief to masses

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar on Monday brushed aside the undue criticism about relief initiative of Federal and Punjab governments in power bills, and called upon other provinces to follow suit for ensuring instant relief to the masses during summer season.

Talking to the media, he said it was the foremost priority of the government to provide substantive relief to the masses, reduce price of the electricity and bring down the inflation in the country.

"Provision of the relief to the people by the federal and Punjab governments during the summer season is a good move which should be welcomed by all," he added.

He said the federal gov-



ernment had already given upto Rs 5 per unit relief to all the protected and non-protected consumers in three months' electricity bills (June to August) with a generous allocation of a subsidy of 50 billion rupees.

Tarar pointed out that all those consumers who used upto 200 units of the electricity per month, had already received the relief across the country.

Likewise, the Punjab government allocated Rs 45 billion from its own funds to give subsidy to those who were using 200 units to 500 units per month.

Cumulatively, the relief initiatives of both the governments did provide the much-needed relief to the masses, he said, adding now it was up to other provincial governments to take identical steps to ensure relief to the masses.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses during inauguration ceremony of new facilities, held at Jinnah Hospital in Karachi.

## Bilawal extends Sindh's hand to boost Punjab's healthcare

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari says the best hospitals in the country are in Sindh.

Speaking at the inauguration of the CyberKnife Unit at Jinnah Hospital, he highlighted that three Sindh hospitals - JPMC, NICVD, and NICH - are among the top healthcare providers in Pakistan.

He noted that the Sindh government significantly improved medical services and offered to assist Punjab in enhancing its healthcare sector.

The former foreign minister remarked, "Pakistan often receives negative coverage both domestically and internationally, but the success of these three hospitals showcases the country's good governance."

He also mentioned that Sindh has developed the world's largest hospital for treating heart diseases, providing excellent care for children.

Additionally, he announced the launch of the city's third CyberKnife machine, which will offer free treatment.

APP adds: Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday said new state-of-the-art facilities at Jinnah Postgraduate

## Three brave sons of soil embrace martyrdom. Five terrorists killed during infiltration attempt at Pak-Afghan border

RAWALPINDI (INP): Three soldiers were martyred and five militants were killed during an intense exchange for fire near the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in Bajaur district.

The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a statement said a movement of a group of militants, who were trying to infiltrate Pakistan-Afghanistan border, was picked up by the security forces on night between 18 and 19 August. Own troops effectively engaged and thwarted their attempt to infiltrate. Resultantly, five militants were killed, while four others got injured.

However, during intense exchange of fire, three brave sons of soil: Naik Inayat Khan, Lance Naik Umer Hayat and Sepoy Waqar Khan, having fought gallantly, embraced martyrdom.

## Armed forces pay rich tribute to Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas

Independent Report

RAWALPINDI: The Armed Forces of Pakistan, the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, and the Services Chiefs pay solemn tribute to Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas on the occasion of his 53rd martyrdom anniversary. Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas stands as a luminous exemplar in the annals of Pakistan's history, embodying the very essence of valor and sacrifice.

On this day in 1971, Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty, demonstrating unshakable bravery and an unrelenting commitment to the defense of Pakistan. As we honor this national hero, we recall his extraordinary act of valor, which epitomizes the spirit of our Armed Forces and serves as a testament to his unyielding dedication.

The sacrifice of Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas will be etched in our collective memory forever, inspiring future generations to emulate his exemplary courage and loyalty.

The Armed Forces of Pakistan salute Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas's extraordinary courage, steadfast loyalty, and devotion to duty, drawing inspiration from his legacy to uphold the highest standards of professionalism and dedication to our great nation.



Portrait of Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas, a national hero of Pakistan.

## ICT admin intensifies monkeypox screening at airport

ISLAMABAD (APP): In response to the growing threat of monkeypox, the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration has intensified its efforts to ensure the safety of citizens.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon recently inspected the screening measures at the Islamabad Airport to prevent the spread of the virus, said the spokesman of the ICT administration.

The DC arrived at Islamabad Airport to review the current screening procedures for passengers arriving from abroad. After the inspection, the DC directed health officials to speed up the screening process, ensuring that no passenger goes unchecked.

On the occasion, the DC expressed his satisfaction with health department staff who were actively screening every passenger coming from foreign countries.

He directed that if any symptoms of monkeypox were detected, the patient would be immediately isolated and transferred to PIMS Hospital for further care.

He said that the PIMS Hospital has been prepared to handle monkeypox cases, with special arrangements made to isolate and treat affected patients.



Health officials performing screening at the Islamabad Airport to prevent the spread of monkeypox.

## Instead of limiting relief to Punjab Naeem urges nationwide reduction in power tariffs

KARACHI (INP): Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan, Hafiz Naeemur Rehman, has called for a reduction in the basic electricity tariff across the entire country, rather than limiting relief to Punjab.

He demanded this during a press conference in Karachi on Monday, emphasizing that the proposed Rs14 per unit reduction for two months in Punjab should be extended nationwide.

Rehman criticised the heavy burden placed on the public by Independent Power Producers (IPPs), attributing the blame to successive governments, including those led by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q), and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

He stated that the public could no longer bear the excessive capacity charges imposed by these agreements.

He warned that if the government failed to honour the agreement made with IPP to provide relief to the people, the party would initiate long marches towards Islamabad from across the country.

## Imran Khan says: All drama of arresting Faiz Hameed being enacted to send me to military court

RAWALPINDI (Online): PTI founder Imran Khan has said all the drama of arresting Gen (Retd) Faiz is being enacted to take him to military court.

"Efforts are underway to make Gen (Retd) Faiz approve against me. They know all other cases against me have been discharged. Therefore, they want to take me to military court, he said this while talking to journalists in Adiala jail Monday.

He held they want to get divulge some thing from Gen (Retd) Faiz. They will force Gen (Retd) Faiz to give some statement that May 9 was conspiracy.

If Gen (Retd) Faiz issued order of my arrest and stole CCTV footage then arrest him. Whoever hatches conspiracy he does not demand for judicial commission.

Regime change was done against us and I was put into jail. They are saying now Gen (Retd) was mastermind. Faiz got me arrested. They don't feel ashamed that they are saying Gen (Retd) Faiz issued directives to Bushra Bibi.

They fear when Qazi Isa will be retired their theft will open.

He held Gen (Retd) Bajwa had removed Gen (Retd) Faiz by striking a deal with Nawaz Sharif.



General Secretary Jamiat Ulama-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri addressing during Aalimi Majlis Tahaffuz Khatm-e-Nubuwwat protesting in favor of their demands in front of Parliament house, in the Federal Capital.



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Reluctant austerity**

The time for tokenism has long gone. Unless the current government gets serious about introducing and implementing a long-term sustainability plan, the financial pain the nation is being made to suffer now will yield few positive outcomes for the future.

Under pressure to curtail its expenditures, the government is reportedly mulling various measures to 'right-size' its footprint. The proposals currently under consideration include merging some ministries, and either collapsing, shutting down, or transferring a total of 28 departments under five identified ministries to the private sector.

Another proposal seeks to consolidate 12 institutions running under these five ministries, while yet another suggestion is to abolish the around 150,000 positions currently lying vacant in the federal government and gradually phase out various posts in grades 1 to 16. Meanwhile, the prime minister is also said to be insisting on shutting down or privatising any state institution "which has not shown adequate performance".

But the question is, will these measures make any real difference? It may be recalled that PM Shehbaz Sharif has previously announced not one, but two government austerity drives at different points during the last two odd years. Both failed and have since been quietly shelved.

Meanwhile, the federal government's total expenditures have more than doubled since the ouster of the PTI government in April 2022. Within the same period, the combined budget for the National Assembly and the Senate has been increased by more than 100pc; from Rs9.9bn in fiscal 2022-23 to a total of Rs19.98bn for this fiscal year. Furthermore, government salaries have been increased by 25pc this year, while additional financial resources of around Rs40bn have been allocated for civil servants in the form of loans and advances. At a time when ordinary citizens have been forced to tighten their belts in extremely painful ways, this profligacy cuts in inexpressible ways.

There is no question that the size of the government needs to be reduced post-haste. However, these efforts need to go beyond mere sound bites. Pakistanis have paid dearly for their government's inability to run the country within its means. Public debt, which has continued to accumulate at an accelerated rate over the past few years, has seemed not to be as much of a problem for those responsible for its accumulation than for ordinary citizens, who have paid for it in the form of runaway inflation and higher taxes.

The only way to demonstrate a commitment to righting this wrong is by the government cutting its expenditures in meaningful and painful ways. It must take back all unnecessary perks and privileges given to certain categories of public servants, such as free fuel, electricity and air tickets. Austerity should begin at the top. Otherwise, it will be little more than just for show.

**COP in Pakistan**

Aisha Khan

As the climate crisis continues to escalate, the pressure to implement sectoral policies will also increase. It is often said that climate change is multi-sectoral therefore making it difficult to implement policies after the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment. However, beyond that no mention is made of how to bridge the gap between policy and implementation, affix responsibility, monitor progress and make systemic functions ro-bust and accountable. It has become common practice to identify problems and attribute inaction to lack of finance, capacity and technology without examining the core issues responsible for slow progress or taking action to make policy implementable.

All the major sectors affected by climate change have a policy that serves as the guiding document for coping with emerging threats. The National Climate Change Policy 2021, National Water Policy 2018, National Food Security Policy and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy are comprehensive documents that outline the challenges and provide a roadmap for action. The implementation frameworks provide targets and timelines but fall short of sharing means of implementation or any mechanism for monitoring, reporting and verification.

The institutional arrangement in climate governance after the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment raises many questions. The fundamental question of responsibility stands diluted. Every province has developed its own climate change policy with place-based and people-centred priorities. While ostensibly sub-national policies feed into the National Climate Change Policy, there is no mechanism under which the centre can demand timely implementation from the provinces.

The Pakistan Climate Act, 2017, was designed to strengthen the technical capacity of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, build capacity of provincial stakeholders and provide a forum for discussion between the centre and the provinces for coordinated action. After a delay of seven years, the notification for operationalising the Climate Authority was done at the behest of the Supreme Court but questions about procedural due diligence still remain.

The lack of human capital and short-changing the system in procurement are two big hurdles. Recruitment routinely ignores merit. This has caused a steady decline in functions and now we are confronted with a critical capacity crisis. In climate governance, the world has moved into a domain where technical qualification, subject specific knowledge and quality research is needed to address challenges. This was the fundamental objective of creating a provision for setting up a 'Climate Authority' under the Climate Act. However, if roles are not assigned on merit, it will become another white elephant providing people with high salaries for low performance.

In order to improve coordination, build consensus, and enhance transparency and accountability, developing a customised model of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would be useful. An annual COP in the country will bring all stakeholders together to discuss country climate issues and how best to agree on an agenda of solutions. The Paris rule

book can serve as the toolkit for steering the process.

The modalities and responsibilities of the parties can be developed once the concept is actualised and representative bodies identified. Hosting an annual COP in Pakistan will allow for a systemic review of policies and compliance with 'Provincially Deter-min-ed Contributions' that feeds into the Nationally Deter-min-ed Contributions. The issues of mitigation, adaptation, finance and means of implementation can also be discussed at this annual convening, making the process both transparent and accountable with 'Common but Differentiated Re-spon-sibili-ties and Res-pect-ive Capabi-li-t-i-es' for developing an equitable and in-clu-sive roadmap that leaves no one behind.

In 2016, Pakistan had also signed the Open Government Partnership at the Paris Summit but that agreement, too, fell by the wayside. The OGP offered the perfect tool for strengthening good governance by co-creating policies with agreement on priority actions between civil society and sector-specific government agencies. This participatory approach to development would have made it possible to create collective ownership and a transparent mechanism for monitoring progress.

However, with mounting threats, the country can no longer afford inaction on climate. The judiciary in Pakistan has always taken a proactive stance on climate justice, upholding human rights. The best way forward is to enhance parliamentary oversight and increase judicial vigilance to ensure that the system is not derailed by vested interest groups. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Predatory instincts**

Huma Yusuf

The government installs a 'web management system'. Unidentified men whisk away a YouTuber who posts satirical content. A fashion designer threatens legal action against the director and cast of a TV serial. A legislator objects to a female professional's outfit and calls for SOPs for women's attire. These may seem like disconnected matters. But they are signs that a surveillance society is becoming entrenched in Pakistan, an outcome we must resist.

Anxieties about surveillance have been mounting globally and are largely linked to 'surveillance capitalism', ie, the commodification of personal data, particularly by Big Tech. There is a growing focus on the extent to which individuals are aware of what personal data they are surrendering, to whom, and why.

Concerns about surveillance capitalism mounted when it became clear that customer data collection was enabling not only targeted advertising and improved user experience but also behavioural manipulation, for example, by skewing voting preferences. The regulation of Big Tech and its use of personal data will soon be a key human rights battle.

In this context, old-fashioned state surveillance — in the sense of the state collecting information about its citizens — seems passé. But it continues to be a major concern globally, and certainly in Pakistan.

In an article for Constitutional Political Economy, Alshamy et al argue that state surveillance can either be protective-productive or predatory. In the former case, the state collects personal information to support citizens and im-

prove welfare service delivery. In the latter, state data collection "reduces citizen welfare by violating the rights of citizens or by extracting resources from citizens to benefit a small group of politically connected elites. This harms individual agency, freedom and self-governing democracy."

The authors note that predatory data collection is non-transparent, poorly legislated and regulated, and often in the service of nebulous national security considerations that can be interpreted variously by whichever stakeholder has most power. In this scenario, the courts become helpless to challenge surveillance, as they too become subsumed by the state narrative. The plight of missing persons in Pakistan is the perfect illustration of a predatory surveillance state in action.

Increasing attention is paid to the links between capitalist and state surveillance, in the sense of public understanding that private sector players, such as internet service providers or social media platforms, are required to surrender customer data when the state comes calling.

But what is less considered is the impact of surveillance becoming normalised — the de facto approach to political and social interaction. When power becomes synonymous with the ability to surveil the activities of others — shame them, report them, and so ultimately control them — then it will contaminate society. Those who seek status and control will increasingly use surveillance as a tool to shape public behaviour to their own ends. Meanwhile, self-censorship, the survival tactic of Pakistani media, will become the default mode of all citizens.

Pakistan has already

seen the toxic effect of this kind of social surveillance through the misuse of the blasphemy laws — the fear that someone may perceive something you say, do, or absent-mindedly forward to be profane, and wield that ultimate power of an accusation, resulting in conviction or lynching.

But we are now on the precipice where social control and abuse previously linked to state monitoring of 'anti-establishment' activities is becoming more pervasive. We are moving from the realm of state and capitalist surveillance to one of social surveillance, one in which citizens, taking a cue from the state itself, are willing to police each other's clothing, artistic output and sense of humour.

The powers that be may be pleased by this ripple effect. But they should tread with caution as no good comes of surveillance states. The most obvious toll is economic. We have heard all week about the millions lost to internet disruptions while the state installs its 'web management system', but that may not be the extent of it. Academic research on the Stasi in East Germany (admittedly an extreme example) has documented economic losses from lack of innovation, less self-employment, widespread unemployment and brain drain. More material is the social toll of less inclusive, more predatory societies. In our highly weaponised and already conflict-prone context this would manifest as surveillance as a trigger for violence. The ultimate problem with surveillance is that its parameters are necessarily non-transparent and ever-shifting, meaning everyone is vulnerable. Who knows who already has eyes on your data? -- Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**Govt taking measures to facilitate investments into country: FM**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Reiterating government's commitment to provide a stable and conducive business environment, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said here Monday that all necessary measures were being taken to facilitate investments.

The minister was talking to President and Group Chief Executive Officer (GCEO) Mashreq

Bank, Ahmed Abdelaal, who virtually called on him to discuss the economic outlook and explore investment opportunities in Pakistan, according to press release issued by finance ministry. The meeting was also attended by Minister of State, Ali Parvez Malik, and senior officers from the Finance Division and State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) the press release added. The Finance Minister underscored the

significant potential of Pakistan's IT and Agriculture sectors, calling for increased investment from both local and international stakeholders to drive economic growth. He expressed appreciation for Mashreq Bank's interest in Pakistan's financial landscape and expressed keen interest of the government to re-engage with Mashreq Bank. The Minister

provided an overview of the economic outlook of the country and mentioned the recent improvements in the macroeconomic indicators and stability of the currency and financial markets. He also mentioned the economic policies and initiatives of the government, emphasizing the ongoing efforts to stabilize the macroeconomic environment and enhance investor's confidence.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a virtual meeting with Mr. Ahmed Abdelaal, President / GCEO of Mashreq Bank to discuss the economic outlook and explore investment opportunities in Pakistan.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh unveiling the plaque during the one-day conference titled 'COLMAB 24' on Logistics, Maritime Affairs and Blue Economy.

**Pakistan's earns \$297m from IT services' export during July 2024**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan earned US \$297 million by providing different Information Technology (IT) services in various countries during the first month of the current fiscal year 2024-25.

This shows a growth of 32.46 per cent as compared with the US \$ 224.950 million earned through the provision of services during the corresponding month of the last fiscal year 2023-24, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

During the month under review, the computer services grew by 23.09 per cent as it surged from US \$187.470 million last year to US \$230.750 million

during July 2024. Among the computer services, the exports of software consultancy services witnessed an increase of 24.53 per cent, from US \$62.780 million to US \$77.262 million this year while the export of hardware consultancy services also surged by 189.32 per cent, from US \$0.067 million to US \$0.677 million.

The export of repair and maintenance services however decreased by 6.06 per cent from US \$0.033 million to US \$0.031 million whereas the export and imports of computer software services also dipped by 13.36 per cent.

**Shipping activity at Port Qasim**

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity remained active at the port where four ships namely One Reliability, Suzy, Ullswater and Marangas Kalymnos scheduled to load/offload Containers, Iron ore, LPG and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Engro Terminal and Gasport Terminal respectively on Sunday.

Meanwhile three more ships, Agios Dimitrios, Two million Ways and Fairchem Mako carrying Containers, Mogas and Palm oil also arrived at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim during the last 24 hours. A total of eight ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships.

**SECP roundtable on 'Insured Pak through promoting Takaful'**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The SECP organized a roundtable discussion to support its 'Insured Pakistan 5-year strategic plan' by promoting the development of the takaful sector in Pakistan with the CEOs and heads of takaful operations of all insurance companies. The session titled "Takaful: Unlocking the Growth Potential" was a half day event, held at Karachi.

The aim of the roundtable was aimed at exploring avenues for the growth and development of

the takaful sector in Pakistan in the Journey towards an insured Pakistan, said a press release issued here Monday.

SECP Chairman, Mr. Akif Saeed in his welcome address highlighted Takaful's acceptability among masses, and that SECP placed specific focus on takaful as a strategic priority in the 5-year plan for the insurance sector. He assured the takaful sector of SECP's support to work together for the sector's advancement.

**JazzCash transforms 350,000 businesses' smartphones into POS machines**

ISLAMABAD (APP): JazzCash, Pakistan's leading fintech platform has launched its latest feature, 'Tap-Pay for Businesses', enabling over 350,000 businesses across the country to accept payments through their Android smartphones.

This cutting-edge feature allows businesses to seamlessly receive payments from any contactless debit or credit card or another smartphone with a simple tap on the businesses' NFC-enabled device, said a news release.

The launch closely

follows JazzCash's recent introduction of the 'Tap-Pay' feature for customers, which allows customers to make payments directly from their phones. Together, these features will help establish an end-to-end contactless payment ecosystem in Pakistan.

Murtaza Ali, President of JazzCash, said, "Our goal is to empower both customers and businesses. With Tap-Pay, we aim to enhance Pakistan's payment ecosystem with innovative solutions."

**9<sup>th</sup> Colour & Chem Expo to open on 24<sup>th</sup>**

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan's leading and dedicated exhibition for dyes, chemicals, and allied sectors, the 9<sup>th</sup> Colour & Chem Expo is being organized from 24<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at Lahore International Expo Centre.

The event will host more than 300 exhibitors representing the forefront of innovation in Dyes, Chemicals, and allied industries. Companies and their representatives from China, Malaysia, Turkey and Iran are also participating in the expo.

Exhibition is being organized by the Event and Conference International, Rainbow Group and Punjab Dyes & Chemicals Merchants Association.

**PSX loses 214 points**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) shed 214.97 points on Monday, showing a negative change of 0.28 percent, closing at 77,830.34 points against 78,045.31 points on the last working day.

A total of 471,749.071 shares were traded during the day as compared to 600,719,724 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 16.915 billion against Rs 17.071 billion on the last trading day.

**ICT exports remittances surges to US\$286 mln in July: Shaza**

ISLAMABAD (APP): ICT exports remittances reached US\$286 million in the first month of Financial Year 2024-25 (July).

ICT exports increased 33.64% over the US\$214 million remitted during corresponding period last year FY2023-24 (July), said Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja.

She in a statement said that the present government is committed

for increase in IT exports. Minister of State for IT said that the Prime Minister of Pakistan is fully focused upon uplift of the IT sector.

She said that on the directives of the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the full support of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), Ministry of IT and Telecommunication, and Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) are taking steps to increase country's IT exports.

**Internet disruption adversely affecting the business activities: CAP**

LAHORE (INP): The Chainstore Association of Pakistan (CAP) has expressed serious concerns over the recent internet disruptions, primarily affecting mobile internet and Whatsapp, warning of significant impact to export-oriented and domestic commercial activity across the country.

Chairman CAP Mr Tariq Mehboob, along with CAP Co-Founder and National E-Commerce Council Member Mr Asfandyar Farrukh, highlighted the far-reaching consequences of these disruptions, stressing the urgent need for permanent

resolution. They were of the view that Pakistani businesses were already grappling with multiple challenges, including high taxes, soaring electricity costs, and increasing liquidity challenges. Amidst these difficulties, inconsistent and unreliable internet services were creating additional hurdles, severely affecting revenue streams and service quality.

Chairman CAP Mr Tariq Mehboob said, "These internet disruptions not only impact large-scale businesses but also individuals running small enterprises who rely on stable connections."



## Governor KP acknowledges tribal people services to nation

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Monday acknowledged the valuable services of the tribal people to the nation and measures will be taken to redress undertaken their problems and grievances. The Governor expressed these views during a meeting with a representative delegation of the Koki Khel tribes from the merged district of Khyber at the Governor House in Peshawar. The delegation included Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) candidate Malik Naheed Shah, Khan Muhammad, and Sanaullah, among other tribal elders. They informed the Governor about the difficulties faced by the Koki Khel tribes' displaced persons. The delegation highlighted that they have been living as temporary displaced persons (TDPs) since 2012. Although approximately 60 percent of the area has been cleared since 2017, they are still forced to live as TDPs. They also mentioned that the provincial government has not shown serious commitment to resolving their issues, including the compensation for completely destroyed homes, which remains unimplemented. The delegation requested the Governor to raise their issues before the federal government and seek cooperation for resolving their problems. Governor Kundi assured the delegation that, since taking office, he has been engaging with the federal government to address the issues faced by both the province and the merged districts. He committed to continuing to advocate for the resolution of these problems at all relevant forums.



PESHAWAR: A delegation of District Bar Association Peshawar meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi.

## Punjab leads in modern technology usage: Marriyum

LAHORE (APP): Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb announced that under the visionary leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the province has taken the lead in utilising cutting-edge technology across Pakistan. Punjab has embraced a new era of modern technology to safeguard wildlife and protect endangered species, she added. In a groundbreaking initiative, Punjab has begun using advanced thermal

technology to detect blackbucks and houbara bustards, both of which are facing threats to their survival. Following the guidance of CM, the senior minister spearheaded the deployment of thermal drone technology. She said that with the expertise of modern specialists, the Punjab Wildlife Department has successfully implemented the technology, which identifies animals by detecting the heat they emit.

## ANF recovers 85 kg drugs in 11 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 11 operations across the country managed to recover 85 kg drugs worth Rs 25 million and arrested 11 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that 1 kg ice was recovered from a parcel sent to Qatar at a courier office in Rawalpindi. In second operation, 250 grams ice was recovered from a passenger going to Bahrain at Faisalabad Airport. In third operation, 189 grams ice was recovered from a passenger going to Bahrain from Lahore Airport. 40 kg hashish and 14.4 kg ice were recovered from a vehicle intercepted near RCD Road Lasbela and an accused was arrested during the operation.

Man gunned down by rivals

SARGODHA (APP): A man was gunned down by his rivals over old enmity here at Kacha Tari Khail area on Monday. Rescue 1122 sources told that Nusrullah Khan (45) r/o Tari Khail had an old enmity over domestic issues with Hameed-ullah and Muhammad Nawaz. On the day of incident, they killed him after opening fire at him. The body was shifted to hospital whereas Musa Khail police.

## Bail of Cheema confirmed in 12 May 9 related cases

LAHORE (Online): Bail of PTI leader Musarrat Jamsheed Cheema has been confirmed in 12 cases related to May 9. Musarrat Jamsheed Cheema appeared in Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) along with lawyers team of Insaf Lawyers Forum. The court confirmed bail of Musarrat Jamsheed Cheema after lawyers arguments. Talking to media men later Musarrat Jamsheed Cheema said "I refute it strongly what allegation has been leveled by a journalist. I swear that PTI founder has never asked me to contact General (Retd) Faiz Hameed. What has been said

about using name of Azam Swati as code word for making contact with Faiz Hameed or Atta Bandial is only presumption. The day Imran Khan was arrested he did not ask me to contact Faiz Hameed at all. She indicated the journalist evolved presumption that PTI founder Imran Khan made me call and asked me to contact Azam Swati. In code word Azam Swati meant Justice (Retd) Bandial or Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed. On that day I would have contacted any one with whom Imran Khan asked me to contact because that was most trying time.

## Minister Ramesh Arora extends greetings to Hindu community

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora has extended heartfelt greetings to the Hindu community in Pakistan on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan. In his message, he stated that Raksha Bandhan is a symbol of love, protection, and brotherhood, reminding us of the values of sacrifice and safeguarding one another. He highlighted that Raksha Bandhan reflects the eternal bond between brothers and sisters, where a sister prays for her brother's long life and prosperity, and in return, the brother vows to protect and ensure his sister's happiness. This festival promotes love and unity within families, which is the foundation of any strong society. The Provincial Minister further emphasized that all religious and cultural minorities in Pakistan have complete freedom to celebrate their customs and traditions. The Government of Punjab is committed to protecting the rights of minorities and is taking all possible measures for their welfare, he added.



MULTAN: Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani offering feteiha on the death of Makhdoom Syed Hamad Raza with his brothers and other relatives.

## Minister for public-private partnership to improve education's quality

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Education Faisal Khan Tarakai on Monday directed the management of eight selected schools under the Public-Private Partnership for the current academic year to improve the quality of education in the province. He was chairing a meeting regarding Public-Private Partnership (PPP) where significant measures to enhance the quality of education in the province were discussed. The meeting was attended by Additional Secretary Reforms Jahangir Azam, Additional Director Dr. Iqbal, and the Public-Private Partnership team. The provincial minister further directed that a case be prepared for management of eight more schools in the next phase-2. During the meeting, a list of over 100 newly established primary schools for boys and girls in various districts of the province was also presented. It was decided to make these schools functional as soon as possible under the PPP to provide quality and modern education to children in underprivileged areas.

## Health minister chairs provincial outbreak committee meeting

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Health Minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah presided over a crucial meeting of the Provincial Outbreak Committee in Peshawar, emphasizing the importance of public precautions and social distancing to prevent the spread of diseases. He urged the media to collaborate with the Health Department in raising awareness about monkey pox virus, vaccination and other vital health measures. In response to potential outbreaks, the Health Department has established Rapid Response Teams and is setting up isolation wards across districts. The current patient, who arrived in Pakistan on August 10, has been isolated at the Hayatabad Medical Complex. Genetic sequencing revealed that the patient had contracted the virus, prevalent in West Africa. A Provincial Control Room has been established at the Directorate General of Health Services, with additional district-level control rooms in the works.

## 3 children die of measles in Ahmadpur East

BAHAWALPUR (APP): According to the report issued from the Chief Executive Officer of Bahawalpur, the deaths of three children from a single household in the neighboring union council of Rajroho, Ahmadpur East were not due to any mysterious illness. Medical reports indicated that the three children of Mahboob Ahmed, a resident of Rajroho, were afflicted with measles. Their parents opted for home treatment, but two of the children passed away on August 3 and August 5, respectively.

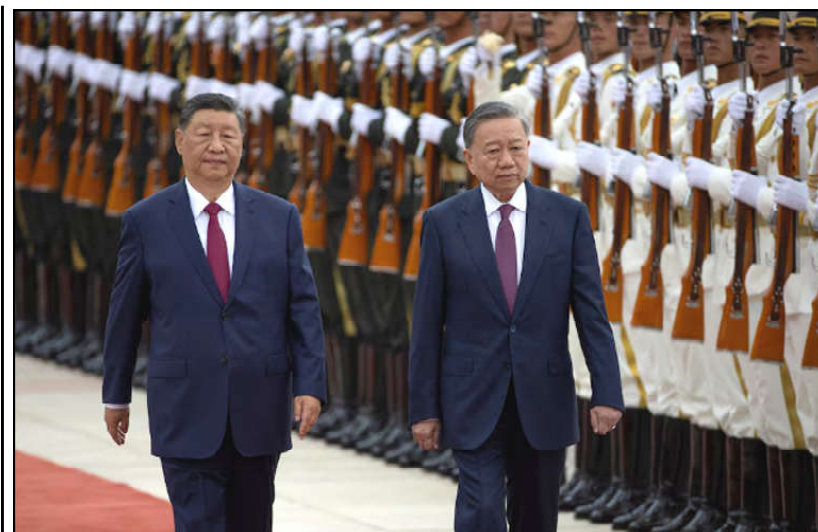


LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Communication and Works Malik Sohaib Ahmed addressing the ceremony organized in the honour of officers of Excise Department those who made best recovery.

# International News

## Blinken, in Israel, says now is 'maybe the last' chance for a Gaza cease-fire deal

Monitoring Desk TEL AVIV: U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Monday the time is now to conclude a Gaza cease-fire agreement that would return hostages held by Hamas and bring relief to Palestinian suffering after 10 months of devastating fighting in Gaza. Blinken's ninth urgent mission to the Middle East since the conflict began came days after mediators, including the United States, expressed renewed optimism a deal was near. But Hamas has expressed deep dissatisfaction with the latest proposal and Israel has said there were areas it was unwilling to compromise. The trip, days ahead of new talks expected this week in Egypt, comes amid fears the conflict could widen into a deeper regional war following the killings of top militant commanders in Lebanon that Iran blamed on Israel. "This is a decisive moment, probably the best, maybe the last, opportunity to get the hostages home, to get a cease-fire and to put everyone on a better path to enduring peace and security," Blinken said as he opened talks with Israeli President Isaac Herzog in Tel Aviv. "It's also time to make sure that no one takes any steps that could derail this process," he said in a veiled reference to Iran. "And so we're working to make sure that there is no escalation, that there are no provocations, that there are no actions that in any way move us away from getting this deal over the line, or for that matter, escalating the conflict to other places and to greater intensity." Herzog thanked Blinken for the Biden administration's support for Israel and lamented a spate of recent attacks against Israelis in the past 24 hours. "This is the way we are living these days," Herzog said. "We are surrounded by terrorism from all four corners of the earth and we are fighting back as a resilient and strong nation." Mediators are to meet again this week in Cairo to try to cement a cease-fire. Blinken will travel to Egypt on Tuesday after he wraps up his Israel stop in meetings with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant later Monday. The war began Oct. 7 when Hamas-led militants broke into Israel, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250.



Chinese President Xi Jinping walks next to Vietnam's President To Lam as they pass by the honour guard during a welcome ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China.

## China and Vietnam's top leaders meet in Beijing

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: China's President Xi Jinping held talks on Monday with Vietnam's new leader To Lam in Beijing on his first state visit since he took office. Chinese official media Xinhua said. The meeting signals the close ties between the two communist-run neighbours, which have well-developed economic and trade relations despite the occasional boundary clashes in the energy-rich South China Sea. China, displaying exuberance over Lam's choosing China for his first official trip, said last week it "fully reflects the great importance he attaches to the development of ties between both parties and countries". Lam arrived in China's southern province Guangzhou on Sunday for a three-day visit that would include meetings with Chinese Premier Li Qiang and other Chinese top officials. While in Guangzhou, he visited some Chinese locations where former President Ho Chi Minh conducted revolutionary activities. Last December, China and Vietnam signed more than a dozen agreements when Xi visited Vietnam. The agreements, specifics of which were not announced, covered strengthening railway cooperation and development, investments in various fields and establishing communication to handle unexpected incidents in the South China Sea. In a lengthy joint declaration, both countries said they would work on cross-border railway connectivity, naming three rail projects that included one connecting through mountainous Lao Cai in the Vietnam's northwest to the port city Haiphong.

## Putin arrives in Azerbaijan for state visit

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in Azerbaijan's capital Baku on Sunday for a two-day state visit, Russian news agencies reported. Russian television broadcast images of the Russian president's plane as it arrived in Baku in the evening. His visit to the Caucasus country, a close partner of both Moscow and Turkey but also a major energy supplier to Western countries, comes against the backdrop of an unprecedented Ukrainian military offensive on Russian soil. Putin is due to hold talks with his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev on bilateral relations and "international and regional problems", the Kremlin said. The two leaders are dining Sunday evening at the Azerbaijani president's official residence, local official news agency Aser-tac said. On Monday, Aliyev and Putin will sign joint documents and make statements to the press, said Russian agency Ria Novosti. Putin will also lay a wreath on the tomb of Heydar Aliyev, father of the current leader, who was president from 1993 to 2003. Earlier, the Kremlin said they would also discuss "the question of settling (the conflict) between Azerbaijan and Armenia". Azerbaijan reconquered the mountainous enclave in September 2023 from the Armenian separatists who had held it for three decades.

## Kamala Harris labels Donald Trump as cowardly in campaign speech

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: U.S. Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris has labeled her Republican opponent, Donald Trump, as "cowardly." During a campaign speech in Pennsylvania, Harris criticised Trump, stating that the upcoming presidential election on November 5 would be a contest against a cowardly candidate whose political strategy revolved solely around undermining opponents. Harris pointed out a troubling trend in recent years, where a leader's power and capability were judged by their ability to bring others down.

## Ukraine destroys second key bridge in Russia's Kursk region

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Ukraine said on Sunday it had struck a second key bridge in the Kursk region, seeking to disrupt Moscow's supply routes as Kyiv's unprecedented incursion on Russian soil stretched through its second week. Russia meanwhile ramped up pressure in east Ukraine, claiming to capture another village just a few kilometres from the Ukrainian-held logistics hub of Pokrovsk. "Minus one more bridge," Ukrainian Air Force Commander Mykola Oleshchuk said on Telegram, publishing an aerial video of a blast tearing through a bridge near the Russian town of Zvanoye. "The Air Force aviation continues to deprive the enemy of logistical capabilities with precision air strikes," he said.

## Yemen flood toll climbs to 60

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Flooding caused by torrential rainfall in war-torn Yemen has led to at least 60 deaths since July, with 13 others still missing and a total of 268,000 people affected, the United Nations said Monday. Yemen, already grappling with an almost decade-long war, suffers from severe floods on a near-annual basis that are triggered by torrential rainfall, while climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of precipitation. Since July, flash floods have caused 36 deaths in Hodeida province, nine in Ibb, eight in Marib, and seven in Taiz.

## Bangladesh leader Yunus reassures on Rohingya refugees, garment exports

Monitoring Desk DHAKA: Bangladesh will maintain support both for its immense Rohingya refugee population and its vital garment trade, Nobel laureate and new leader Muhammad Yunus said on Sunday in his first major policy address. Yunus, 84, returned from Europe this month after a student-led revolution to take up the monumental task of steering democratic reforms in a country riven by institutional decay. His predecessor Sheikh Hasina, 76, had suddenly fled the country days earlier by helicopter after 15 years of iron-fisted rule. Setting out his priorities in front of diplomats and UN representatives, Yunus vowed continuity on two of the biggest policy challenges of his caretaker administration. "Our government will continue to support the million-plus Rohingya people sheltered in Bangladesh," Yunus said. "We need the sustained efforts of the international community for Rohingya humanitarian operations."

## Russian forces capture town of Zalizne in Ukraine's east, defence ministry says

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russia's Defence Ministry said on Monday that its forces had captured the town of Zalizne in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region, as its offensive against the nearby city of Toretsk gains steam. Zalizne, which Russia calls by its Soviet-era name of Artyomovo, adjoins Toretsk, a mining town and longtime bastion of Ukrainian forces operating in the Donbas region.

## Thousands of activists expected in Chicago for Democratic convention to call for Gaza cease-fire

Monitoring Desk CHICAGO: Thousands of activists are expected to converge on Chicago this week for the Democratic National Convention, hoping to call attention to abortion rights, economic injustice and the war in Gaza. While Vice President Kamala Harris has energized crowds of supporters as she prepares to accept the Democratic nomination, progressive activists maintain their mission remains the same. Activists say they learned lessons from last month's Republican National Convention in Milwaukee and are predicting bigger crowds and more robust demonstrations in Chicago, a city with deep social activism roots. Demonstrations are expected every day of the convention and while their agendas vary, many activists agree an immediate cease-fire in the Israel-Hamas war is the priority. Police lined the march route and there were no signs of major conflict. At one point, anti-abortion activists staged a small counter-protest. Police did not immediately respond to an email asking if there had been arrests more than three hours into the march. Organizer Linda Loew said even though Democrats have pushed to safeguard reproductive rights at home, the issue is international. They marched in solidarity with people everywhere who struggle for the right to control what happens to their bodies, as well as to protest the money the U.S. spends to back wars that could be used for healthcare, she said. "We believe that the billions of dollars that continue to flow to the state of Israel and the flow of weapons are having an inordinate and horrific impact, but in particular on women, children and the unborn," she said. "All of these things are tied together." The largest group, the Coalition to March on the DNC, has planned demonstrations on the first and last days of the convention.



## Political stability, continuous policies must to overcome economic challenges: Ahsan

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has stressed upon the need of political stability and sustainable policy framework to overcome the prevailing challenges to the economy including the food security and climate change.

He stated this while addressing the 2nd National Conference on Food Security organized under the auspices of the National School of Public Policy (NSPP) here on Monday.

The Minister termed the food security, water scarcity and unplanned population growth as the biggest problems being faced by the country. He said that the rapid increase in population was a serious threat that hinders the progress and development of the country. He added that Pakistan became the major victim of climate change in the world and the heavy floods in 2022 damaged the national economy up to billions of dollars.

He said that Pakistan was blessed with multiple

resources and there was a dire need to utilize these resources amicably and effectively. Referring to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor introduced during PML-N previous tenure 2013-18, he deplored the neglecting of this game changer project which led to the shifting of Chinese investment to other global destinations. He was of the opinion that policies must need more than 10 years.

The Minister also urged the provincial governments to come forward and play their due role to eliminate poverty by adopting effective policies in consultation with the researchers.

Ahsan Iqbal said that through 5Es i.e., Export-Led Growth, Environment, Equity and Empowerment, Energy Efficiency and Affordability, the country could progress. He added that youth empowerment and the role of women in the national economy were vital for the progress of the country.



ISLAMABAD: PM's Coordinator on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam holds meeting with UNDP delegation to discuss ongoing projects.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal addressing the conference on food security SPP (National School of Public Policy) during the opening ceremony.

## Bilawal highlights enduring relevance of Hazrat Shah Latif Bhattai's teachings

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, on Monday, emphasized the enduring relevance of Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhattai's teachings.

He said that the great Sufi saint and poet's message of love, harmony, and universal brotherhood transcends time and continues to inspire the quest for a just and peaceful society.

In a statement released by the Media Cell Bilawal House on the occasion of the annual Urs of Shah Bhattai, Chairman PPP high-

lighted that Bhattai's poetry not only captures the spiritual and cultural essence of Sindh but also serves as a guiding light, steering society toward the values of tolerance, inclusivity, and compassion. He noted that Bhattai's teachings stand as a timeless reminder of the need to resist oppression, champion social justice, and foster unity across all communities.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said, "On this revered occasion, I encourage everyone to delve into the teachings of Shah Abdul Latif Bhattai and aspire to

embody the principles of love, humility, and selflessness that he so profoundly articulated. Together, let us strive to cultivate a society that embodies the ideals of tolerance, inclusivity, and compassion. He noted that Bhattai's teachings stand as a timeless reminder of the need to resist oppression, champion social justice, and foster unity across all communities.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said, "On this revered occasion, I encourage everyone to delve into the teachings of Shah Abdul Latif Bhattai and aspire to

## KP Governor condemns terrorist attacks, pays tribute to martyred security personnel

**Independent Report**

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has strongly condemned the terrorist attacks on security forces and police in DI Khan, Kalaachi, South Waziristan, and Lakki Marwat, resulting in the martyrdom of 2 security forces personnel and 1 police officer. The Governor expressed deep condolences to the families of the martyred personnel and prayed for the elevation of their ranks.

He also praised the sacrifices of the security forces and police in the fight

against terrorism, saying that their sacrifices will not go in vain.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said that the entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with the security forces and police in the fight against terrorism. He vowed to continue the fight against terrorism until peace is restored in the province.

The Governor expressed heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyred security forces personnel and police officer, and assured them of full support and solidarity in their time of grief.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor is displaying decorative sculptures and fancy plant pots attraction for customers at his local nursery along a road in the Federal Capital.

## ANF continues crackdown on drug trafficking

**Independent desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has conducted 11 operations across the country, resulting in the seizure of over 85 kilograms of narcotics worth Rs. 2.5 crore and the arrest of 11 suspects.

The operations were carried out in various cities, including Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Lahore, and Attock. The seized narcotics include ice, charas, and heroin. 1 kilogram of ice was recovered from a parcel destined for Qatar at a courier office in Rawalpindi. 50 grams of ice was recovered from a passenger traveling to Bahrain at Faisalabad Airport.

189 grams of ice was recovered from a passenger traveling to Bahrain at Lahore Airport.

40 kilograms of charas and 14.4 kilograms of ice were recovered from a car on RC D Road, Lasbela; one suspect was

arrested. 9.6 kilograms of charas was recovered from a woman on M-1 near Islamabad.

7.2 kilograms of charas was recovered from a motorcyclist on GT Road, Attock.

7.4 kilograms of charas and 900 grams of ice were recovered in two operations at Torkham.

3 kilograms of heroin was recovered from three suspects near UET Gate 3, Lahore.

1 kilogram of ice was recovered from a suspect at Sher Shah Toll Plaza.

300 grams of ice was recovered from a woman on Diska Sital Road. Cases have been registered against the arrested suspects under the Anti-Narcotics Act, and investigations are underway.

The Anti-Narcotics Force will continue to take action against drug trafficking and smuggling, and those involved will be brought to justice.

## AJK PM says: Govt committed to serve people indiscriminately

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister, Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq Monday said that the government was working with a missionary spirit to provide all possible reliefs to masses without any discrimination.

He stated this while talking to different delegations that called on him in his home town of Bhimbher.

Anwar-ul-Haq said that financial assistance would be provided to the poor and needy under the Social Protection Program.

He said that the

people would get economic benefits soon from different mega projects, the incumbent government had launched during the past couple of years.

The AJK PM said that addressing public grievances was the government's top priority.

He said that the governance system in the region had improved significantly.

On this occasion, the prime minister listening to the people's grievances, issued orders to the concerned authorities for effective redressal of their problems.

## Youth's role vital for addressing climate challenge: Mashhood

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan said that young people can play a vital role in addressing the global challenge of climate change.

Talking to the media, he said that innovative ideas and unique perspectives that the youth bring to the table were crucial components in the development of effective and inclusive climate policies.

"Supporting young people and ensuring their inclusion in the policy-making process to combat climate change is not just a

matter of importance; it is an absolute necessity."

The Chairman PMYP added that the government was educating the youth to create awareness in their localities and advocate for it, adding the Green Youth Movement (GYM) an initiative of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme was creating awareness and sensitizing Youth about the effects of climate change.

"By harnessing the creativity, energy, and commitment of the youth, we can drive meaningful change and create a legacy of sustainability for future generations," he added.

## 250 E-Rozgar centers to be established nationwide to empower youth

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government has announced the establishment of over 250 E-Rozgar centers across the country in collaboration with provincial governments and private institutions.

These centers aim to provide essential facilities to hardworking and skilled youth in smaller cities, helping them access digital opportunities, according to an official from the Ministry of IT.

The E-Rozgar centers will be established in every

district of the country. The distribution of these centers is based on the population of each province, as well as data from 1.2 million freelancers registered with Ignite.

Punjab leads the initiative with 149 centers, followed by Sindh with 51, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 28, and significant representation in other regions, including the federal capital Islamabad with 11 centers, Balochistan with 6, Azad Kashmir with 3, and Gilgit-Baltistan with 2.

Originally launched by Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Punjab, the E-Rozgar centers have proven to be highly valuable, benefiting millions of young people.

These centers are particularly designed for those who cannot afford expensive office spaces, offering them a chance to leverage IT skills and enter the digital workforce.

The initiative is expected to enable even more young people to benefit from the growing IT sector.

## Muqam urges KP govt to prioritize public service over politics

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for States and Frontier Region and Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs Engr. Ameer Muqam on Monday urged the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government to prioritize public service over politics after learning examples set by other provinces.

The KP government's focus on alleged corruption has hindered its ability to address the needs of its citizens, he said this while addressing a press conference here.



ISLAMABAD: During the expansion work of Club Road, heavy machinery is being utilized to carry out the construction and development tasks.

## New Toshakhana reference Court orders to send Imran, Bushra Bibi in jail on judicial remand

RAWALPINDI (Online): Judge Nasir Javed Rana of Accountability Court (AC) Islamabad has ordered to send PTI founder and Bushra Bibi to jail on 14 days judicial remand in new reference of receiving invaluable jewelries of Balghari company from Toshakhana.

The court has ordered to present both of the accused before it on September 02.

Both of the accused were presented in the court Monday on completion of their 11 days physical remand.

Barrister Suleman Safdar counsel for the accused and NAB Prosecutor General Sardar Muzaffar

Abbasi were also present in the court.

NAB did not request for further physical remand of the accused persons.

Former Chairman PTI and Bushra Bibi filed written reply in the court to NAB questionnaire.

Upon it the court sent both the accused to jail on judicial remand besides directing them to be presented before it on September 2.

It is alleged in new toshakhana reference that PTI founder and his wife Bushra Bibi received jewelries of Balghari company from toshakhana on low price and they sold them in the market. The cost of jewelry set was Rs 7 crore 50 lac.

## USAID celebrates Int'l Youth Day 2024 with launch of 'Dil Dil Mein Pak' song

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on Monday announced the launch of song 'Dil Dil Mein Pakistan' in celebration of International Youth Day 2024.

This song is the culmination of a youth talent hunt 'Voices of Pakistan' a campaign dedicated to empowering and celebrating the vibrant youth of Pakistan.

The song launch ceremony, held at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), was attended by USAID/Pakistan Mission Director Kate Somvongsiri, Director General Ayoub Jamali, Music

Composer Ali Ashraf, and the six talented young singers who emerged as winners from the five provinces, Azad Kashmir and Islamabad.

Congratulating the singers, Mission Director Somvongsiri said, "USAID believes in fostering opportunities for all, especially the youth. By engaging with young people, we hope to promote a message of growth, cooperation, and inclusivity."

The 'Dil Dil Mein Pakistan' campaign highlights the incredible potential of Pakistan's youth while preserving the nation's rich cultural heritage. By showcasing local talent and diverse cultures.

## NBF publishes book on 'Data Analysis in Pakistan'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Book Foundation (NBF) has published a unique book on the topic of data analysis in Pakistan titled "Making Sense of Statistical Analysis: A Researcher's Handbook for Data Analysis using IBM SPSS."

This comprehensive work is a joint effort by renowned educational experts, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood and Dr. Muhammad Yousuf, and it thoroughly explores both the theoretical and practical aspects of SPSS, according to a news release.

Comprising ten sec-

tions and twenty-eight chapters, this book is being regarded as a significant advancement in the field of research.

It is the first book of its kind written by local authors in Pakistan, incorporating local examples to make data analysis more accessible and understandable.

The book covers a wide range of topics, from selecting research designs, choosing appropriate scales, preparing code books, data entry, data editing, data screening, and evaluating scales' reliability and validity.



ISLAMABAD: Members of Human Rights Council of Pakistan are light candles to pay tribute to the victim Dr. Moumita Debnath, on the eve of World Humanitarian Day, in front of National Press Club, in the Federal Capital.

## ICT police nab car theft duo in major crackdown; stolen laptops, cash recovered

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant breakthrough, the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police's Industrial Area team arrested two members of a notorious car theft gang. The suspects, identified as Roman and Ikramullah, were apprehended following a targeted operation that resulted in the recovery of valuable laptops and cash.

A Public Relations Officer from the ICT Police talking to this scribe on Monday said, under the specific instructions of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Syed Ali Raza, a crackdown on criminal elements has been launched to protect citizens' lives and property. Acting on these directives, the Industrial Area Police utilized both technical and human resources to successfully capture the accused.

The arrested individu-

als have confessed to a series of thefts involving laptops, cash, and mobile phones, committed by breaking vehicle windows. Their criminal activities spanned various locations, including Shifa Parking, Blue Area, Sector G-9, and Faisal Masjid. Malik Zahoor, the owner of Rajgan Motors and a vehicle dealer, praised the police for their recent success in apprehending the duo of car lifters who have been causing significant distress in the community. "This successful operation marks a notable step forward in combating vehicle theft and restoring a sense of security among residents," he remarked. However, a citizen Akram Ali also highlighted the ongoing issue of high-value thefts from parked vehicles, citing his own experience where thieves stole equipment worth around 1.1 million.

## Petition for recounting votes in NA-97, SC adjourns hearing till Aug 27

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has adjourned till August 21 hearing of the petition for re-counting votes in NA-97 Faisalabad on request for adjournment by Latif Khosa counsel for PTI candidate Saad Ullah Baloch.

The case related to recounting of votes in NA-97 Faisalabad came up for hearing in SC Monday.

Latif Khosa counsel for PTI candidate Saad Ullah Baloch sought adjournment.

Counsel Ali Gohar Baloch said over 9000 votes were rejected in NA-97 during February 8 elections. Application was given to Returning Officer (RO) for recounting votes before finalizing the result.

Counsel Hassan Raza said RO did not do recounting of votes.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Science and Technology presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament Lodges.