

# Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a meeting about the damages caused due to the recent monsoon rains in Naseerabad Division

## Police enters into Parliament house, arrest several MNAs of PTI

National Assembly speaker vows action over PTI leaders' arrests; Summons Islamabad police chief, DIG, SSP with details of cases against assembly members; Says no compromise on dignity of Parliament; PTI vows nationwide protests after leaders arrested in late-night crackdown; ATC grants 8-day physical remand for PTI leaders in Islamabad rally case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Police has entered into parliament house and arrested several MNAs of PTI.

According to sources inside lights of National Assembly (NA) were switched off and police personnel in plain clothes entered into parliament house.

The police personnel took position outside parliament house. Masked men took PTI MNAs into their custody from within parliament house. Nasim Shah too was arrested.

PTI leaders Sheikh Waqas Akram, Aamir Dogar, Zain Qureshi, Ahmad Chatha, Yousuf Khan, Zubair Khan MNA

from south Waziristan and others were arrested.

Sources added the security personnel who were with these PTI leaders were also arrested. Security personnel were there outside parliament service centre.

On the other hand information are there Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has reached KP House.

Naeem Panjutha said he would leave for Peshawar along with KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur.

Meanwhile Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, has taken notice of the late-night raid on the Parliament House, vowing to hold those responsible accountable.

Speaking during Tuesday's session of the National Assembly, Sadiq said that "no one will remain silent about the incident and that decisive action will be taken."

"We will take action on last night's incident and address it seriously," Sadiq said, adding that he had requested all video footage to identify the responsible parties.

He further stated that, if necessary, an FIR will be filed, and those involved will be named. Recalling previous attacks on the Parliament and Parliament Lodges, Sadiq emphasised the need for a firm stance against such violations.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail visiting fire-hit Government Science College

## Imran Khan 'closes doors to negotiations' with all stakeholders

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former prime minister Imran Khan has announced that negotiations with any party, including the Establishment, will be closed. Speaking to journalists at Adiala Jail on Tuesday, the PTI founder said he had authorised six party leaders to talk to the Establishment.

Regarding the Lahore rally, Imran Khan said that whether permission is granted or not, the PTI would hold the rally in Lahore on Sept 21.

When asked about KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's speech in the

Islamabad rally, the PTI founder responded that CM Gandapur represented the sentiments of the nation, and he stood with him.

Replying to another query, the former prime minister responded that those apologising for Gandapur's statement were cowards and should not be in the party.

When asked about Senator Faisal Vawda, Imran Khan stated that everyone knows who Faisal Vawda speaks for, and if the Arshad Sharif murder case is given an open trial, the truth will be revealed.

## Bill to increase number of SC judges tabled in NA

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2024 aimed to increase the number of apex court's judges from 17 to 23, in the National Assembly on Tuesday.

The bill was introduced by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) lawmaker Daniyal Chaudhry.

As per "The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) (Amendment) Bill, 2024", the total number of judges, including the Chief Justice, will increase from 17 to 23. The bill sought amendment in the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1997.

## Climate change big challenge; need sustainable planning: CM directs PDMA to prepare effective and viable strategy for minimizing nature of destructions of floods

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has stated that climate change is a major challenge and as such there is a need to have sustainable development to cope with it.

The Chief Minister directed to the Director General Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) to prepare effective and viable strategy to minimize the nature of destructions of the floods.

He also directed to release funds on an emergent basis for filling breaches in the Pat Feeder canal and drainage of water from there.

The Chief Minister was chairing review meeting about the damages

caused due to the recent monsoon rains in Naseerabad Division, here on Tuesday.

The provincial ministers and members of provincial assembly belonging to different constituencies of Naseerabad Division highlighted the situation of the flood rain affected areas of the Division.

The Provincial Ministers and the members of assembly also presented different suggestions for rehabilitation of the flood affected areas and people.

Present in the meeting were included: Provincial Ministers Mir Shoaib Nausherwani, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Mir Saleem Khosa, Sardarzada Faisal Khan Jamali, Nawabzada Tariq Magsi, Mir Asim Kurd,

Parliamentary Secretaries, Mir Muhammad Khan Lehri, Abdul Majeed Badini, Secretary Irrigation, Hafiz Abdul Majid, Director General PDMA and other concerned high ups.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister said that the flood situation is to face due to extraordinary rains every year and that because of climate changes in majority areas of the province.

The Chief Minister also issued directives to complete the rehabilitation projects of breaches and water drainage in the Pat Feeder within two weeks.

He also directed to prepare complete feasibility study of the Naseerabad Division to cope with the flood situation in future.

## Pak Army gives befitting reply to unprovoked Afghan Taliban aggression at Pak-Afghan border

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Army killed at least 16 Afghan Taliban as they responded strongly to unprovoked aggression along the Pakistan-Afghan border.

As per details, Afghan Taliban opened unprovoked fire at Pak-Afghan border on September 7, which lasted till September 9 evening.

Pakistani Army responded strongly to the unprovoked firing from Afghanistan and killed 16 Taliban fighters, while 27 were injured, according to security sources.

Two Taliban tanks were destroyed during the clash.

Security sources have reiterated Pakistan's stance on border security, emphasizing that any unprovoked aggression will be met with a robust response.

The military's swift and effective retaliation underscores its commitment to defending the nation's borders against external threats.

The growing aggression and border violations from the Afghan side have raised concerns over escalating tensions.

## Service delivery to be improved by making all departments efficient in Balochistan, vows CM

Mir Sarfaraz Bugti takes notice of closure of schools in Pishin; orders to reopen non-functional schools by Dec. 14; assures to develop Pishin as model town

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has categorically stated that service delivery would be improved by making all government departments efficient in the province.

He said that the issues of people can be resolved through good governance.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the tribal elders and elites during his visit to Pishin on Tuesday. Also accompanied him were the Provincial Minister for Revenue, Mir Asim Kurd and other high ups.

Speaking to them, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti assured that Pishin would be developed

as model town by resolving issues and hardships of the people.

He mentioned that a good and most competent civil officer has been deputed as Deputy Commissioner Pishin.

On the occasion took notice of the closure of schools in Pishin district and ordered to reopen all of them by December 14.

The Chief Minister also directed to meet shortage of the teachers by recruiting them on contract.

Earlier, he expressed condolence over the death of uncle of Member Provincial Assembly, Asghar Khan Tareen and offered fateha for the departed soul.



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with President Awami National Party Senator Aimal Wali Khan.

## PTI introduced tradition of vendetta in politics: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership had introduced the tradition of confrontation and vendetta in politics.

Speaking in the National Assembly, the minister strongly condemned the PTI leaders, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, for their abusive

outburst against national institutions, woman political opponents and journalists at the Sangiani meeting.

He said the PTI leaders had been repeatedly asked to be careful in their dealing with other political parties as it was a question of time which ultimately changed.

The minister said that Gandapur vented out his anger against institutions, Maryam Nawaz and the journalist community and used abusive language.

## Governor grieved over post-fire state of Science College, assures it's rehabilitation to best

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that all educational institutions of the province are our national assets.

However, the Governor said that he is grieved over seeing the burnt classrooms of the Government Science College in such a state today. He said that every possible endeavour would be made to rehabilitate the Science College in its previous shape.

These views were expressed by the Governor during his visit to the Science College on Tuesday. The Governor maintained that the fire has destroyed an important portion of the College. However, it is a matter of pleasure that the investigations are continued by the committee formed to determine the real cause

of fire erupted in the Science College.

He directed to the concerned committee to present the report at the earliest. He stressed the need to conduct structure test of the fire-affected parts of the College in order to ensure safety of its students and staff. He also said that Science College is a prestigious educational institution of the province having history. He mentioned that the Science College has produced several prominent personalities in different sectors of life. He said that we are determined to rehabilitate the institution in its previous shape.

Meanwhile, he inspected the ground of Science College and directed to do it's complete renovation and repair besides recycling of water for trees and saplings in the college.



ISLAMABAD: Members of National Assembly Muhammad Siddiqui Khan Baloch and Abdul Rahman Khan Kanju call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## PM, MNAs discuss country's political situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Members of the National Assembly Mohammad Siddiqui Khan Baloch and Abdul Rehman Kanju met Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday to discuss issues concerning their constituencies.

During the meeting, the overall political situation of the country was also discussed, a Prime Minister Office press release stated.

Meanwhile Member of the National Assembly

Rashid Akbar Nawani and Member of the Punjab Assembly Saeed Akbar Nawani called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday to discuss issues pertaining to their constituencies.

During the meeting, overall political situation of the country also came under the discussion. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Political Affairs Rana Sanullah was also present, a Prime Minister's Office press release said.

## Quaid-e-Azam's legacy continues to inspire Pakistanis: CM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti said that the personality and character of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah serve as a guiding light for all Pakistanis. In a message on the occasion of September 11, the Chief Minister said that Quaid-e-Azam's tireless efforts and sacrifices in the struggle for Pakistan's independence cannot be forgotten.

He emphasized the need to adhere to the principles of unity, organization, and faith, as exemplified by Quaid-e-Azam, in order to build a better Pakistan and provide a bright future for generations to come.

Bugti said that Quaid-e-Azam, upon entering practical politics, prioritized the attainment of a separate homeland for Muslims.

## President lauds services of AQ Khan Hospital Trust, assures his support

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday commended the services of Abdul Qadeer Khan Hospital Trust for providing accessible and free medical and healthcare to the needy people and assured of his support to the organisation.

The president expressed these views during a meeting with the delegation of Dr. AQ Khan Hospital Trust, led by Dr. Dina Khan, daughter of Mohsin-e-Pakistan late Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan at Awan-e-Sadr, Member of the National Assembly Aseefa Bhutto Zardari was also present during the meeting, according to a President House press release.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq presiding over the meeting of Treasury & Opposition Members in National Assembly at Parliament House.

## Mehmood Khan Achakzai says: Be he any general or Shehbaz we will not allow any one to take undemocratic step

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief of Tehreek-e-Tahaffuz Constitution of Pakistan (TTCP) Mehmood Khan Achakzai has said he any general or Shehbaz Sharif we will not allow any one to take an undemocratic step.

Speaking in National Assembly (NA) Achakzai said I don't want to say anything emotionally. The democracy was restored after difficulties.

Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto came to Pakistan along with her children.

PPP and PML-N signed an agreement for supremacy of democracy, we all have taken oath of defending the constitution of Pakistan. if there is any price of oath then speak openly on constitutional and non constitutional steps. We all stand with democracy.

Be he general or Shehbaz Sharif we will not allow any one to take unconstitutional step. If you are speaker then deliver the right you owe to chair.

## Interior Minister meets ANP President

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday met with President Awami National Party Senator Aimal Wali Khan.

During the meeting matters of mutual interest and the overall situation of the country were discussed. Both leaders also talked about measures for establishment of peace in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Naqvi said that terrorism is condemnable in all its forms, and the national narrative against terrorism is the voice of Pakistan. He emphasized that everyone needs to be united against the terrorism.



BRC Loralai students Shamraiz & Sharifullah share first position securing 1051 marks; BRC Loralai & BRC Zhob students Sajjad Hussain & Muhammad Zahid share 2nd position with 1050 marks

Inter College Basima's student obtains 3rd position: BRC Loralai's students clinch top position as Balochistan Board announces Inter Exam result

QUETTA: Two students of Balochistan Residential College (BRC) Loralai clinched top position in the Intermediate (F.Sc) examinations 2024 of the Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Quetta.

The BRC students namely Shamraiz Khan bearing Roll No. 250062 and Sharifullah bearing Roll No. 250106 secured 1051 marks to stand first in the Intermediate (F.Sc) examinations. Similarly, another BRC Loralai student Sajjad Hussain bearing Roll No. 250059 shared second position with the BRC Zhob's student namely Muhammad Zahid bearing

Roll No. 650802 obtaining 1050 marks. However, third position went to the female student namely Salma Mehboob from Govt. Inter College, Basima, bearing Roll No. 584249, who got 1049 marks.

This was announced by the Controller Examinations of Balochistan BISE here on Tuesday.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Delayed bailout

Is Pakistan's new bailout deal with the IMF in trouble? Is the Fund's Executive Board deliberately stalling the approval of the \$7bn Extended Fund Facility agreed between Islamabad and the IMF mission on July 15? Are there any geopolitical factors at play?

These are the thoughts that come to mind after Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar's fresh critique of the IMF amid delays in disbursement of the much-needed funds by the lender of last resort. Speaking at a Defence Day function in London, the minister mostly recounted his personal experiences of having worked with the Washington-based agency for the revival of a previous 2019 funding plan as the country's finance czar.

In a way, Mr Dar questioned the intentions of the Fund towards Pakistan as he narrated how the agency had continued to stall its financing for eight months, despite completion of the programme review. The lender had eventually substituted that package with a short-term loan of \$3bn to help Pakistan avert looming sovereign default last year, weeks before a caretaker administration was installed to hold elections.

While the unexpected delay in the new IMF programme's approval is already causing anxiety in the markets, the timing of Mr Dar's tirade against the lender is quite confusing. Whether or not it is linked to the current status of the new bailout, it will likely add to existing uncertainties around the early disbursement of fresh IMF funds. More so because the Fund, going by the information Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has divulged to the public in piecemeal fashion, seems to be consistently changing the goalsposts.

Or should we assume that the government has yet to fully reveal the conditions agreed with it in the staff-level agreement? Apparently, the delays in the confirmation of the debt rollovers by China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, as well as the failure to arrange for fresh funds to cover the external financing gap of \$2bn for the present fiscal year, are the main reasons for the delayed approval of the IMF Board. Nonetheless, if Mr Dar, who was apparently not given his favourite portfolio in the present administration due to the mistrust between him and the IMF, is to be believed, the Fund might deliberately be deferring disbursements to the country owing to geopolitical reasons — even if this appears to be a far-fetched conclusion.

There are already speculations that the Western powers do not want Pakistan to use IMF funds to pay back the Chinese debt, and that the lender has asked Islamabad to, like Sri Lanka, first secure debt relief from Beijing, before it finally releases the promised funds. It is, therefore, crucial for the government and finance minister to clear the confusion rather than let growing uncertainty continue to grip the markets.

## The master key

Gulmina Bilal Ahmad

As both young and old hunt for better employment opportunities, it is worth reflecting on these wise words: "If education is the key, technical-vocational education is the master key." Or, in today's digital age, the master code, too. The job market is constantly in flux, with major changes in skills required for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

Understandably, there is an emphasis on IT skills. However, we must not overlook (a) the consistent demand for traditional trades and (b) the changing nature and skill set of traditional trades. Both domestic and international markets still rely heavily on skilled labour, such as masons, plumbers, carpenters, and electricians. These professions remain vital globally and have been evolving simultaneously. For example, plumbers no longer work exclusively with traditional systems; they must now be familiar with smart home technologies, which demand new skills. Similarly, the job descriptions for carpenters and electricians have expanded, integrating smart technology and energy-efficient practices.

The common perception is that a lot of experience is needed, particularly for overseas jobs. However, data indicates that mid-level experience is in highest demand internationally, with about 52 per cent of employers seeking mid-level experience. Fresh graduates and workers with limited experience follow at 30pc, while only 18pc of the international market demands highly experienced workers. Domestically, the pattern is similar, with 71pc seek-

ing mid-level experience, 29pc entry-level, and less than 1pc high-level expertise.

Interestingly, vocational trades — certified through various trade programmes — are the most sought-after skill sets in both markets. In the national labour market, 65pc of jobs require trade certification, while internationally, this figure rises to 68pc. In contrast, diploma-level qualifications in health services have a smaller but notable demand: 7pc domestically and 16pc internationally. Engineering diplomas are more valued nationally (16pc) than internationally (5pc). Meanwhile, the demand for BTech degrees is 8pc internationally but only 1pc at home. These figures are from 2017, and work is underway to obtain current figures, but the indicative pattern remains the same.

Speaking of patterns, an unsurprising one is that males dominate demand in both domestic and global markets. Internationally, 98pc of skilled labour demand is for men. Domestically, the divide is slightly smaller but still substantial, with 89pc of the demand for male workers, 9pc for both genders and only 2pc specifically for women.

Despite these stark figures, the proportion of women in the annual supply of skilled workers is around 39pc. This raises critical questions about the underutilisation of female workers, especially considering the investments made in their technical and vocational education. Strategies for integrating women into the skilled labour market is a top reform need.

The demand for skilled labour also varies across different sectors. Internationally, the construction sector leads the way, account-

ing for 55pc of demand, followed by maintenance and repair (17pc), services (11pc), and manufacturing (8pc). Domestically, manufacturing is the dominant sector (33pc), followed by services (27pc) and construction (16pc). These discrepancies between national and international markets indicate a skills gap in local economies.

Understanding these trends can help us prioritise the right skills development programmes.

For instance, driving and electricians' work are among the most in-demand trades, yet the supply of qualified workers in these fields lags far behind. Take driving, for example, where there is a demand for 82,015 workers, yet only 5,785 individuals are available to meet this need. Similarly, there are considerable gaps in fields such as mechanics, masonry, welding, and machine operation, many of which are either underrepresented in current vocational training programmes or completely absent from Pakistan's TVET system.

The National Vocational and Technical Training Commission has a critical role in addressing these imbalances and ensuring that the supply of skilled workers matches the demands of the national and international markets. The focus is currently on supply chain adjustments, gender inclusion and adaptation to economic transitions.

More importantly, we need provincial and district-level programmes tailored to meet the specific needs of local economies. The bottom line is to ensure that vocational training is not a one-size-fits-all approach, but is, instead, sensitive to regional demands. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Learning focus

Nazir A. Jozgai

With rapid industrial and technological advancements, the educational landscape has evolved to a great extent. But maximum efforts are being made to align the educational system with the needs and demands of the industrial sector. This industry-education alignment concentrates on skill-based education, a standardised curriculum and assessment, alongside homogeneous or one-size-fits-all global education reform initiatives.

The transformation in industrial trends generates new skills, which leads to new educational goals and learning milestones, making it more of an employment-oriented education system that requires graduates for industrial production. Although job security is the state's responsibility, learning has now become a means to an end — make investment to get returns on investment in the form of a job. Individuals are responsible for both success and failure as well as job attainment.

But the controlled purpose of learning prevents a broader understanding of and participation in a social-ecological framework. Education has fundamentally become a private good, determined by the need and satisfaction of private desires rather than a tool of societal progress and evolution.

Educational researcher Gert Biesta has used the term 'learnification' for marketised learning, which favours data-intensive practices. Learning has also become unidimensional in the areas of policy, research and practice; 'what' is learnt and 'why' it is learnt are obscured as the purpose is limited to excelling in a particular skill set and on being beneficial for in-

dustrial production.

In learnification, the primary focus is on a procedural array of policies and practices, individual learning and measurable outcomes. But the datafication of learning for its development and outcomes is the norm in the post-digital era. The most relevant examples are standardised exams, uniform learning designs and pedagogies with grades or scores being the focal point of parental, societal and industrial goals, which drive the economic success of education providers. Quantification is the only measure of learning and success in the education system.

By categorising learning as an easily quantifiable sphere, we overlook the wider functions of education, such as critical thinking, individual growth, social engagement and societal well-being. Consequently, a large number of exam toppers are hardly a reflection of social advancement, even in basic forms such as abiding by traffic laws and being punctual.

The instructional practices simply transfer a standardised curriculum to passive learners — a monologue-oriented curriculum with stratified capital resources ignores the ground realities of a diverse educational landscape, yet expects all learners to excel equally. Our pedagogies prepare students for exams rather than nurture them as drivers of social change.

In the same learnification landscape, our policies and educational management remain more administrative than academic, trapped in superficial measures of quantification such as staff attendance through biometric attendance systems. Instead, it should analyse and nourish the academic rigour, contribution to

learning improvements and social benefits.

Renowned scholar and cultural critic Henry Giroux, therefore, terms such standardisation and quantification of education as 'neoliberal pedagogical terrorism', as it curtails any collective struggle to preserve education as the process of creating critical citizens who contribute to social advancement. Instead, it has a corporate drive for efficiency through standardisation, rigid testing and accountability methods and privatisation.

While the number of out-of-school children is becoming a national crisis, those in school are left with poor learning.

Moreover, unemployment and the rapid growth in population have become key reasons for the increase in school dropouts.

Societies such as Pakistan, unfortunately, fall into this learnification trap, which is asymmetrical to their societal and structural fabrication. Hence, the country faces mass joblessness. The state offers extensions in the employment age limit as a remedy, which further increases the unemployment rate. What is important is a shift in the purpose of learning; it must move away from corporate or industrial uplift and job-oriented perspective to societal well-being, with bottom-up education for productive learners as opposed to passive ones.

Education should not only produce skilled human capital but also nurture them holistically to address diverse societal needs so that they can contribute to the collective social good. Potential learners need to be sensible human beings, responsible citizens and drivers of social changes. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Over Rs153 billion tax refunds disbursed to exporters, ensuring market liquidity: Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday told the Upper House of the Parliament that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has provided over Rs153 billion tax refunds to the exporters ensuring market liquidity.

He was responding during the Questions and Answers session to a supplementary query of Senator Zeeshan Khanzada amid the seventh meeting of the 342nd Senate Session here with Deputy Chairman Senator, Syedaal Khan Nasar in chair.

Senator Zeeshan Khanzada of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in his

query noted that the trade policy imposed in 2019 had expired in 2024 and no new policy and the government stance was shared so far.

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb responded that the federal government through FBR had expedited refunds and over Rs52 billion were dispersed to the exporters on July 1st, the first day of the fiscal year 2024.

He said the federal government was focussing on diversification of exports into agriculture and information and technology (IT) as these two sectors were real channels and levers of growth and a comprehensive policy was in place.

The Finance Minister

in response to another query, said the question is pertinent and agriculture was the real lever of growth in Pakistan that saved the country economically through its 6% growth rate during the past fiscal year that averted default risk.

He assured the mover that the federal government would increase the financing for agriculture sector with large- and small-scale farmer financing including livestock and dairy financing as the latter comprised 60% of country's agriculture sector GDP.

"We are trying to promote dairy and livestock financing through banks and the point of the Member is well noted," he said.



ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with the K-Electric leadership to discuss energy sector reforms and renewable energy transition.

### Trade Policy 2025 to be announced soon: Kamal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce and Trade Jam Kamal Khan has said the government was working to announce the Trade Policy 2025 which would be presented to the standing committees of the Parliament soon.

Replying to the questions of Senator Zeeshan Khanzada in the 342nd session of the question and answer session of the House, he said the government was committed to facilitating trade and industry and expanding exports.

Kamal said that the

incumbent government was determined to bring institutional and structural reforms, enhance regional connectivity, and diversify exports to ensure sustainable growth and stabilise the economy.

Jam Kamal said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has conducted several meetings with relevant ministries and stakeholders to deliberate upon a range of issues so that a comprehensive strategy could be framed to do away with all the challenges being faced by the business and industry in Pakistan.

He said that the textile sector, which constitutes the major portion of the country's exports, was under stress and we are considering different options for developing the sector.

Kamal informed that the present government had appointed a competent Head of the National Compliance Center on September 1. He told the House that textiles and apparel exports slightly increased by 0.93 per cent in the Financial Year (FY) 2023-24 as compared with FY 2022-23.

### Govt. committed to promote Islamic banking in country: NA told

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik Tuesday informed the National Assembly that the government is committed to promote Islamic banking in the country. In response to a Calling Attention Notice in the House, he said that the government plans to launch new Shariah-compliant certificates worth Rs 50 billion under Islamic Finance this month.

He explained that two schemes under the Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) were launched in July 2023, involving Rs 70 billion in instruments, though these schemes were later suspended.

The minister high-

lighted that Islamic financial instruments are asset-backed, with certificates issued against tangible assets. In 2023, certificates worth Rs 80 billion were issued against assets such as the Lahore-Sialkot Motorway and Islamabad Metro.

He said that the government has identified new assets valued at Rs 1,000 billion and has secured the necessary approvals to proceed. Consequently, Shariah-compliant certificates worth Rs 50 billion will be issued this month.

The minister also reported a 30 per cent increase in Islamic banking accounts and announced plans to issue new certificates based on the recently identified assets.

### Businessmen can make Pakistan an economic power: Dr Gohar Ejaz

LAHORE (APP): While stressing upon the unity of business community, Patron-in-Chief APTMA and former caretaker federal minister Dr Gohar Ejaz has said that the business leadership has the potential to make Pakistan an economic power.

He was speaking at a reception organized in the honour of PIAF Founders LBF Alliance candidates on Tuesday where APTMA North extended all out support to the PIAF Founders LBF Alliance in the upcoming Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) elections 2024-26. Patron-in-Chief United Business Group (UBG) S M Tanveer was also present.

Dr Gohar Ejaz said a country can only be powerful if it has strong army and a strong economy. Pakistan has a strong army and the business community is dreaming of securing a strong economy by forging alliances right from the FPCCI to Chambers and Associations. He said the country's exports would have been US \$60 billion today had the business community decided to forge unity 10 years back. He said the business community has a new leadership in the form of S M Tanveer who has united the business community countrywide and secured two-thirds majority in the FPCCI.

### Sohail Pasha elected chairman PTEA unopposed

FAISALABAD (APP): Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA) has elected Sohail Pasha as unopposed Chairman of PTEA, whereas Mahmood Ahmad and Ameer Ahmed were elected uncontested Senior Vice Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively. Earlier, twenty-four members were also elected unopposed for the Executive Committee seats of PTEA for the next two-year term. Member PTEA Election Commission Rana Javed Akhtar, declaring unofficial results, said here on Tuesday that only three nomination papers were received for the office Chairman, Senior Vice Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Association.

### Chinese delegation from Shandong CCI visits LCCI

LAHORE (APP): A high-level delegation from the Shandong Chamber of Commerce & Industry, China, visited the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) here Tuesday. LCCI Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt presented the address of welcome to the delegation led by Li Chong. Shahbaz Siddique, Convener of the Standing Committee on "Pak-China Business Relations", was also present.

The LCCI Vice President praised the consistent interest of Chinese trade missions in engaging with the LCCI, recognizing it as a pivotal hub for enhancing bilateral trade relations. He

specifically acknowledged the vital role of Li Chong and his delegation in exploring business opportunities that could further strengthen the economic ties between the two nations.

Adnan Khalid Butt underscored the importance of mutual cooperation in various sectors, including Minerals, Steel Structures, Gold Mines, Salt Mines, Construction and Medical Equipment. He emphasized that the Pakistani business community is eager to collaborate with Chinese enterprises in these fields, with the aim of fostering long-term partnerships that could lead to significant economic growth.

### Rupee gains 09 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Tuesday appreciated by 09 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.61 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.70.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 278.85 and Rs 280.45 respectively.

The price of Euro decreased by 70 paise to close at Rs 307.51 against the last day's closing of Rs 308.21, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).



MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Waseem Hamid Sindhu distributes Chief Minister Kisan Cards to farmers by the Provincial government to support and empower the agricultural community.

### CCP enforces 'Competition Law', Rs 27 million in penalties recovered

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has successfully recovered Rs27 million in penalties from Reliance Paints and Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) by exercising its authority under Section 40(2)(a) of the Competition Act, 2010, through the attachment of their bank accounts.

These recoveries are part of the CCP's broader strategy to enforce its mandate of ensuring a level playing field across all sectors, demonstrating its commit-

ment to tackling anti-competitive practices, said a press release issued here on Tuesday.

Over the past year, the CCP has recovered a total of PKR 69 million in penalties, accounting for 25% of the total amount recovered since the Commission's establishment in 2007.

This significant progress underscores the CCP's ongoing vigilance and effectiveness in promoting fair competition and protecting consumer interests.



Asad Isalm Mahni, Additional Secretary Ministry for Industry and Production, Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry, CEO NPO in a group photo with the participants of the International Workshop.

## Maryam seeks five-year vision reports from parliamentary secretaries

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday held a meeting with Provincial Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, and Administrative Secretaries to streamline government affairs.

The CM directed the authorities concerned to invite parliamentary secretaries concerned to the departmental meetings. She also directed parliamentary secretaries to get details of the projects from their respective departments, and sought five-year vision reports from them.

In her address, the CM emphasized the equal status of parliamentary secretaries, acknowledging their pivotal role in implementing government policies. She underscored the necessity of collective effort, stating, "No one person can run this govern-

ment alone; everyone has to work together."

CM Maryam Nawaz highlighted Punjab's potential as noted by Chinese investors and criticized previous administrations for their inefficiency, which she claims undermined development. She remarked on the extensive work achieved during Shehbaz Sharif's tenure, noting that the progress had been significantly disrupted.

The chief minister highlighted recent achievements, including a decline in inflation and improvements in food prices. She said that the price of flour in Punjab is significantly lower compared to other provinces.

She announced several initiatives: the distribution of Kisan Cards, a Rs 10 lakh subsidy for green tractors, and the 'Apni Chhat Apna Ghar Programme,' which

offers loans for home construction. She also mentioned relief measures in electricity bills and the launch of Minority Cards.

The CM stressed the importance of fieldwork to address public issues and the ongoing improvement in bureaucratic performance through a new KPI (key performance indicator) system. She urged her team to embrace their responsibilities in public service and announced plans to distribute sweets for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him).

Senior Provincial Minister Murrum Aurangzeb, Information & Culture Minister Azma Zahid Bukhari, Provincial Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries attended the meeting. Provincial Secretaries and other relevant officers were also present.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi presides over the 14th BoGs meeting of Edwards College at Governor House.

## Kundi chairs BoGs meeting expresses dissatisfaction over delay in minutes

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Tuesday presided over the 14th Board of Governors meeting of Edwards College at the Governor House.

Governor expressed dissatisfaction with the unnecessary delay in the approval of the minutes from the previous meeting, saying that stringent action would be taken in case of further delays in the preparation and approval of minutes from past meetings.

The meeting included a detailed review of the progress on the decisions taken during the last Board of Governors meeting.

A proposal was presented to reduce unnecessary expenses and increase the number of scholarships for students. Under the proposal, 14 students from merged districts will receive 100 percent scholarships. Additionally, the proposal included five scholarships for disabled students, three for Hafiz-e-Quran students, and three for transgender students.

The discussion also covered the appointment of a permanent Principal for the college. The Governor emphasized that relevant rules and procedures should be reviewed for this appointment.

Governor Kundi directed that a proposal be prepared for establishing branches of Edwards College in Abbottabad and Dera Ismail Khan.

He also announced plans to hold a meeting with students and faculty to gather suggestions for the overall improvement of the college.

The Governor instructed to expedite work on meeting minutes and other related matters.

Special guests at the meeting included CEO of Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute Shakil Durrani and renowned educationist Dr. Qibla Ayaz, Bishop Peshawar Sarfraz Humphrey Peter.

## Minister holds PEF 88th BoD meeting

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat chaired the 88th meeting of Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) Board of Directors (BoDs) at the PEF head office, here on Tuesday.

Member Chief Minister's Task Force Muzamil Mehmood participated as a new board member while Secretary Schools Education Khalid Nazir Wattoo, Secretary Literacy and Non-Formal Basic Education Syed Haider Iqbal, Education Expert Asma Waziri, Direc-

tor STEM, University of Education Dr. Intizar Hussain Butt, Assistant Chief, Planning and Development Department Dr. Saima Malik, Deputy Secretary Technical, Social Welfare Department Muhammad Itfikhkar Hussain Bhatti, Additional Finance Secretary Meer Raza and Technocrat Dr. Basit Khan attended the meeting.

During the session, Malik Shoaib Awan was elected as the new Chairman of the Punjab Education Foundation.



LAHORE: Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique, Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat, Vice Chancellor Uzma Qureshi, DG Rescue Dr. Rizwan Naseer inaugurating the Life Saver program on the occasion of World First Aid Day at Lahore College for Women University.

## CM KP's derogatory remarks against journalists, women face widespread criticism

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister's recent disparaging remarks directed at journalists and women, along with attempts to exert undue pressure on the state institutions including judiciary, have been met with broad condemnation across the province. The unjustified and provocative remarks made by CM KP during a public meeting in Islamabad were described as "irrational" by politicians and civil society and demanded of Gandapur tender unconditional apology over his tirade against media professionals and CM Punjab.

Ikhair Wali Khan, the Information Secretary for Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in KP criticized Gandapur's attack on the media, emphasizing that the press had played a crucial role in promoting the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party's popularity during

the 2018 general elections when other political parties were completely sidelined, paving the way for PTI founder to get majority and became the prime minister of Pakistan.

Declaring the PTI's Islamabad rally as a complete failure, the PMLN leader strongly condemned Gandapur's illogical statement pertaining to forceful release of the PTI founder, adding such premature and provocative statements were aimed to place undue pressure on state institutions, including the judiciary.

He urged the Chief Justice of Pakistan to take suo moto notice of Gandapur's derogatory remarks, highlighting PTI's pattern of pressuring institutions when favorable judgments are not secured.

The PML-N leader stressed that legal proceedings cannot be influenced through public rallies or agitation.

## Four killed, two injured in road mishap at Shangla

SHANGLA (APP): Four persons were killed and two injured when a passenger jeep plunged into deep ravine near Leko Kamar area Tehsil Chakaisar, Shangla.

Four persons including Jamshaid Ali, Imran, Izat Sayed and Umar Farooq were killed in the incident and two sustained injuries.

## Mills workers receive financial aid of Rs 4.6m

FAISALABAD (APP): The Labour Welfare Department west region distributed financial aid of Rs 4.6 million among workers of a textile mills from Punjab Workers Welfare Fund, here on Tuesday.

Director Labour West Ghulam Shabir Kalyar gave the cheques to workers by visiting Crescent Textile Mills.

## Minister assures to resolve problems of LG employees on priority basis

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister of Local Government, Elections and Development Arshad Ayub Khan on Tuesday said that the problems being faced by the employees of Local Government Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would be resolved as soon as possible.

Talking to a delegation of Local Government Employees Federation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House in Islamabad, he said that establishing a building control authority was a top priority of the provincial government for improving

## ATC declares 2 PTI leaders as POs in May-9 case

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday declared two leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) as proclaimed offenders (POs) in a case of torching police vehicles in Gulberg during the May 9 violence. The court declared the accused, Mian Aslam Iqbal and Khurram Shahzad, as proclaimed offenders. The investigating officer of Gulberg Police Station had filed the application for declaring the accused proclaimed offenders. The officer stated that extensive efforts were made to arrest the accused, but they could not be apprehended as they had gone into hiding to

## KP to contact Center over financial issues in tribal districts

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to contact the Center and prepared a document with regard to financial problems of the Merged Districts of the province.

According to official sources, the KP government has once again decided to contact the Federal Government for assistance in resolving the financial issues of the tribal districts.

A document written in this regard has demanded establishment of a special 10-year grant with a name of "Pakistan Building Grant" to address the monetary issues of the merged tribal districts.

The document seeking a solution to the financial problems in merged districts urged the Federal Government to include these districts in 7th NFC Award and recalculate and reassess its shares.

The provincial government was also seeking to send this document to the NFC as it was a constitutional forum.

In this document, the KP government has written that after the merger, tribal districts have been nearly deprived of the development projects as these districts were obtaining an amount of Rs865 billion less than the Baluchistan and other provinces of the country.

# International News

## UN chief calls the death and destruction in Gaza the worst he's seen

MONITORING DESK UNITED NATIONS: The U.N. chief said that the United Nations has offered to monitor any cease-fire in Gaza and demanded an end to the worst death and destruction he has seen in his more than seven-year tenure.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in an interview with The Associated Press that it's "unrealistic" to think the U.N. could play a role in Gaza's future, either by administering the territory or providing a peacekeeping force, because Israel is unlikely to accept a U.N. role.

But he said "the U.N. will be available to support any cease-fire." The United Nations has had a military monitoring mission in the Middle East, known as UNTSO, since 1948, and "from our side, this was one of the hypotheses that

we've put on the table," he said.

"Of course, we'll be ready to do whatever the international community asked for us," Guterres said. "The question is whether the parties would accept it, and in particular whether Israel would accept it."

Israel's military assault on Gaza, triggered by Hamas' attacks in southern Israel on Oct. 7, has stretched for 11 months, with recent cease-fire talks failing to reach a breakthrough and violence in the West Bank reaching new highs.

Stressing the urgency of a cease-fire now, Guterres said: "The level of suffering we are witnessing in Gaza is unprecedented in my mandate as secretary-general of the United Nations. I've never seen such a level of death and destruc-

tion as we are seeing in Gaza in the last few months."

The war has killed over 40,900 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The ministry, part of Gaza's Hamas government, does not differentiate between fighters and civilians in its count though it says about half of the dead have been women and children. Israel says at least 17,000 militants are among the dead.

The war has caused vast destruction and displaced around 90% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million people, often multiple times.

Israel's U.N. Ambassador Danny Danon reacted to Guterres' comments saying, "It is disappointing to see the U.N. advocate for a cease-fire without mentioning the hostages and without condemning Hamas."



Palestinians inspect the site following Israeli strikes on a tent camp sheltering displaced people, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, at the Al-Mawasi area in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip.

## China announces joint naval, air drills with Russia

MONITORING DESK BEIJING: China's Defense Ministry on Monday announced joint naval and air drills with Russia starting this month, underscoring the closeness between their militaries as Russia presses its grinding invasion of Ukraine. The ministry said the "Northern United-2024" exercises would take place in the Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk farther north, but gave no details.

It said the naval and air drills aimed to improve strategic cooperation between the two countries and "strengthen their ability to jointly deal with security threats." The notice also said the two navies would cruise together in the Pacific, the fifth time they have done so, and together take part in Russia's "Great Ocean-24" exercise. No details were given. China has refused to criticize Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, now in its third year, and blamed the U.S. and NATO for provoking President Vladimir Putin.

## UN convoy in Gaza released after being detained by Israel

MONITORING DESK UNITED NATIONS: A convoy of United Nations vehicles and staff detained for more than eight hours by Israel in northern Gaza on Monday has been released, the head of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) said.

The Israeli military said on Monday it detained the convoy after receiving intelligence indicating that a number of "Palestinian suspects" were aboard and that it wanted to question them.

## RSF paramilitaries kill 31 in Sudanese city of Sennar, activists say

MONITORING DESK DUBAI: At least 31 people have been killed and 100 wounded since the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces renewed an assault on the city of Sennar in southeastern Sudan on Sunday, a legal activist group said.

Several parts of the city including the main market have been targeted by RSF artillery fire, said Emergency Lawyers, which has monitored civilian deaths and other humanitarian violations.

The progress of the RSF, which already controls

## Bangladesh to seek Hasina's extradition from India

MONITORING DESK DHAKA: Bangladesh's war crimes tribunal is to seek the extradition of ousted leader Sheikh Hasina from neighbouring India, its chief prosecutor has said, accusing her of carrying out "massacres".

Weeks of student-led demonstrations in Bangladesh escalated into mass protests last month, with Hasina quitting as prime minister and fleeing by helicopter to old ally India on August 5, ending her iron-fisted 15-year rule.

## Ukraine attacks Russia with 144 drones, killing one and closing airports

MONITORING DESK MOSCOW: Ukraine on Tuesday struck Moscow and western Russia in one of its biggest ever drone attacks, killing at least one woman, wrecking dozens of homes and forcing the closure of major airports in the capital, Russian officials said.

Ukraine launched swarms of attack drones over the world's biggest nuclear power. Russia said it destroyed at least 20 over the Moscow region, which has a population of over 21 million, and 124 more over eight other regions.

Three of Moscow's four airports were closed for air traffic following the attacks, Russia's aviation authority Rosaviatsia said.

A major road leading to the capital was partially closed. The drone attacks damaged at least two high-rise apartment buildings in the Ramenskoye district of the Moscow region, setting flats on fire, Moscow's governor Andrei Vorobyov said.

A 46-year-old woman died and three people were injured in Ramenskoye, Vorobyov said.

He added that 43 people were evacuated to temporary accommodation centres.

Social media videos showed flames bursting out of windows of a multi-story residential building, saying that dozens of flats were damaged in the Ramenskoye district.

## Israeli defense chief says a temporary truce with Hamas is possible

MONITORING DESK TEL AVIV: Israel's defense minister says the window is closing on an opportunity to reach a temporary cease-fire deal with the Hamas militant group that he believes could also bring calm to the country's volatile northern border with Lebanon.

Speaking to reporters, Yoav Gallant said that conditions are ripe for at least a six-week pause in fighting that would include the release of many of the hostages held in Gaza. However, he would not commit to a permanent end to the fighting, as Hamas has demanded, raising questions about the feasibility of a deal.

"Israel should achieve an agreement that will bring about a pause for six weeks and bring back hostages," he said. After that period, he said, "we maintain the right to operate and achieve our goals—including the destruction of Hamas."

The United States, along with mediators Egypt and Qatar, has been

working for months to broker a cease-fire to end the devastating war between Israel and Hamas. A main area of disagreement has been Hamas' demand for an end to the nearly year-old war and a full withdrawal of all Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has raised a new sticking point in recent weeks, saying that Israel must remain stationed in a strategic corridor along Gaza's border with Egypt indefinitely.

Gallant has been quoted in Israeli media as saying that Israel could withdraw from the corridor for six weeks — to allow hostages to go free without risking Israel's security. The two men reportedly got into a heated shouting match at a recent Cabinet meeting where ministers overwhelmingly sided with Netanyahu.

During Monday's meeting with foreign journalists, Gallant was asked about his relationship with the prime minister.

## US and Britain accuse Iran of sending Russia missiles to use in Ukraine

MONITORING DESK LONDON: The United States and Britain formally accused Iran on Tuesday of supplying short-range ballistic missiles to Russia to use in the war in Ukraine and will take measures to punish those involved.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, speaking alongside British Foreign Secretary David Lammy during a visit to London, said that sanctions would be announced later Tuesday.

"Russia has now received shipments of these ballistic missiles and will likely use them within weeks in Ukraine, against Ukrainians," Blinken said. "The supply of Iranian missiles enables Russia to use more of its arsenal for targets that are further from the front line." It comes as Blinken and Lammy are preparing to make a joint visit

Wednesday to Ukraine, where they will meet President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other senior officials to discuss bolstering the country's defenses. The Kremlin is trying to repel Ukraine's surprise offensive that has claimed hundreds of miles of territory in Russia's Kursk region.

The accusations about Iranian missiles could embolden Zelenskyy to further ramp up pressure on the U.S. and other allies to allow Ukraine to use Western-supplied missiles to strike deep inside Russia and hit sites from which Moscow launches aerial attacks. President Joe Biden has allowed Ukraine to fire U.S.-provided missiles across the border into Russia in self-defense but largely limited the distance over concerns about further escalating the conflict.

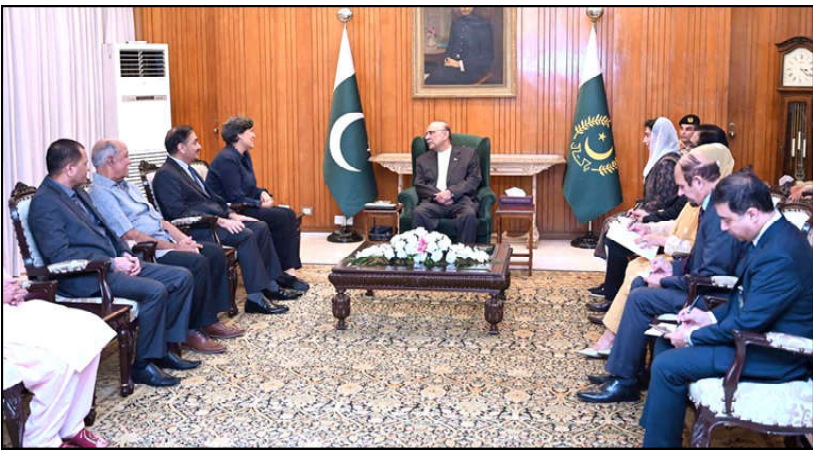
## Nine migrants perish off Senegal's coast

MONITORING DESK MBOUR: At least nine people died after their boat sank off the coast of Senegal, the navy said on Monday, in the latest migration-linked tragedy to occur off West Africa.

The pirogue, which was "involved in irregular emigration", capsized on Sunday off the coast of the western town of Mbour, the navy said in a post on X.

The navy said it had launched a search involving three vessels and a Spanish maritime patrol aircraft. "Nine lifeless bodies were discovered and three survivors identified. An unknown number of people have been rescued by local fishermen", it said, without giving the number of missing.

The search is ongoing along the coast. Onlookers and relatives of the victims gathered on the shore for news of the missing.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Dr. A.Q.Khan Hospital Trust, led by the Chairperson of the Trust, Dr. Dina Khan, call on the President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Pak calls for mechanisms enabling UN peacekeepers to foster peace among conflicting parties

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has called for strengthening the role and capacity of UN peacekeeping in hotspots around the world, proposing that the Security Council should create effective political mechanisms to promote peace agreements among parties to the conflict.

Speaking in the 15-member Council as it reviewed UN peacekeeping operations, Ambassador Munir Akram pointed out that such a mechanism would require greater cooperation among Security Council members, especially the permanent ones, notwithstanding their geopolitical rivalries.

The Pakistani envoy said that peacekeeping missions should also put greater emphasis on promoting local peace arrangements at the community level to reduce violence, citing the successful efforts of the Pakistani peacekeepers in restive Abyei, an area disputed by South Sudan and the Sudan.

Monday's Council meeting was organized by Slovenia as the rotating President of the UN Security Council for the month of September.

At the outset, Ambassador Akram said Pakistan has a long and close involvement with United Nations peace operations. Pakistan, he said, is host to one of the first United Nations missions — the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), which was established in 1949 to monitor the ceasefire along the line of control (LoC) in disputed Jammu and Kashmir.

For its part, Pakistan has also deployed 230,000 peacekeepers in 46 missions and has lost 181 peacekeepers in the service of international peace and security, Ambassador Akram added. In today's day and age, he said, United Nations peacekeeping missions find themselves facing new and growing challenges, including violence and chaos spread by terrorists, involvement of organized criminal networks in illegal extraction of resources and criminal activities; external interventions in local conflicts; limitations imposed on the resources for UN peacekeeping and erosion of unified support from member States, especially the Council's permanent members. The international community, especially the United Nations and the Security Council, must extend full support to those regional organizations — like the African Union — who are prepared to take more robust operations where necessary to enforce peace, Ambassador Akram said.

Opening the debate, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, UN Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, underscored the need for greater political support and resources for UN peacekeeping mission to carry out their duties safely as conflicts grow more complex.



QUETTA: Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

## Ahsan accelerates transfer of PWD Project to province

ISLAMABAD (Online): In a meeting chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal, it was decided to expedite the process of transferring ongoing development projects under the dissolved Public Works Department (PWD) to the provincial governments.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary of Planning and senior officials from various provinces. It was agreed that the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) projects would be transferred to the provincial governments as soon as possible so that work on these projects could continue without any hindrance. Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal said that only the projects are being transferred to the provinces but the funding allocated to these projects under the PSDP will continue. He directed all provinces to inform within a week, the names of the ministries to which these ongoing projects will be transferred.

The ongoing PWD projects in the federal capital will also be transferred to the CDA and the relevant ministries. He clarified that the ongoing projects under the PWD are not being terminated but are merely being transferred to different institutions. Ahsan Iqbal appreciated that Balochistan has completed its work in this regard first and the remaining provinces should also provide complete details within a week. He said that the purpose of this committee was to resolve the difficulties faced according to the law.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary for Transport Abdul Majeed Badini meeting with Provincial Advisor Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi

## Govt eliminates 150,000 vacant regular posts in federal ministries, divisions

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government has formally eliminated 150,000 vacant regular posts across various ministries and divisions.

According to the report, the Establishment Division has issued an official directive to all secretaries of ministries and divisions, following recommendations from the High-Powered Right Sizing Committee, says in media reports.

The decision to abolish these posts aims to streamline government operations and reduce unnecessary expenditures. According to the official letter, the authority to eliminate the posts has been delegated to the principal accounts officers of the respective ministries and divisions.

Each division is responsible for issuing a notification to close the vacancies within their sub-departments, and they must also send comprehensive information, along with the notification, to the Establishment Division by September 13.

The Establishment Division and the Finance Division are tasked with overseeing the implementation of this decision, ensuring that the federal cabinet's directive is effectively carried out.

To facilitate institutional coordination, Shahid Nawaz has been appointed as the focal person by the Establishment Division.

## Gillani challenges NAB jurisdiction in Toshakhana vehicles' case

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani on Tuesday challenged the jurisdiction of the Accountability Court in hearing the Toshakhana vehicles reference filed by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) against him.

Accountability Court Judge Abida Sajjad, who heard the reference, sought comments from NAB.

During the course of proceedings, Gillani's lawyer pleaded that the reference did not fall in the jurisdiction of NAB after restoration of amendments in the NAB law.

At this, the court served notices to the respondents and adjourned the case till September 26.

## Two bills including SC (Amendment) Bill introduced in NA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Two bills including the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) (Amendment) Bill, 2024 and the Pakistan Environmental Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2024 were introduced in the National Assembly on Tuesday. Danyal Chaudhary sought the leave to introduce the bill to further amend the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1997 [The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) (Amendment) Bill, 2024] in the House while Nuzhat Sadiq moved the bill to further amend the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997 [The Pakistan Environmental Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2024].

## Tarar visits residence of Asma Shirazi to condole her brother's death

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday visited the residence of Hum News Senior Anchor Person Asma Shirazi to express his condolences on demise of her brother. The minister extended his heartfelt condolences to the family on the death of Asma Shirazi's brother Mohsin Shirazi and recited Fateha for the departed soul. Prime Minister's Coordinator Badr Shehbaz Waraich, Information Secretary Ambreen Jan, Joint Secretary Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Principal Information Officer also accompanied.

## Following Quaid's guiding principles vital for a strong, prosperous Pakistan: Zardari

### PM calls on nation to renew commitment for building Pakistan as per Quaid's vision

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has urged the nation to follow Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's principles of "unity, faith and discipline" emphasising their significance as a beacon for the country's development. "I am sure that by acting upon his (Quaid-e-Azam) teachings and advice, we can make Pakistan strong and prosperous," the president said in his message to the nation on the occasion of the 76th death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah annually observed on September 11.

Paying tribute to Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the president said that the Pakistani nation was indebted to him for his efforts and contribution to the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the sub-continent where they could live with dignity and exercise their political, cultural, and religious rights.

Calling him a visionary leader, who united the Muslims of India under one banner, the president said the whole nation was proud of Quaid-e-Azam's untiring struggle and unwavering commitment to the right to self-determination that shaped the destiny of millions of Muslims.

"Quaid-e-Azam's vision for Pakistan was fundamentally democratic as he firmly believed in a state where all citizens, irrespective of religion, would be equal before the law. Muhammad Ali Jinnah's struggle not only laid the foundation of Pakistan's democratic system but continues to influence our aspirations for parliamentary democracy and communal harmony," he remarked.

President Zardari said that Quaid-e-Azam successfully steered Indian Muslims through the complex political landscape of India while maintaining an unyielding stance on the rights of Muslims.

He said that Jinnah had envisioned a Pakistan based on Islamic principles of democracy and socio-economic justice. "It was due to his sheer will, hard work and successful advocacy of the cause of Muslims that the partition of India became a reality. On this day, we not only honour his efforts but also recommit ourselves to the values and ideals that he championed," the president added. Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif called on the nation to renew the commitment for building a Pakistan having peace.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary for Social Welfare Department Balochistan, Haji Wali Muhammad Noorzai presenting shield to participants during the seminar on the eve of International Literacy Day held in Quetta.

## Advisor for Women Development emphasizes: Improving transportation facilities inevitable to enhance women's access to education & service

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Advisor to Chief Minister of Balochistan for Women Development, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, emphasized the importance of improving transportation facilities to enhance women's access to education and employment opportunities in the province.

She expressed these views during a meeting with Parliamentary Secretary for Transport, MPA Abdul Majeed Badini, here on Tuesday.

Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi stated that in order to ensure women's education and training in the province, it is essential to provide them with safe, reliable, and convenient transportation services.

She highlighted the need for special buses for women, particularly female students, and called for fare reductions, stressing that such measures would help women achieve greater success in both educational and professional fields.

She further added that to empower women, all relevant institutions must collaborate to effectively promote gender equality and women's rights. Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi assured full cooperation regarding women-specific initiatives in the transport sector and reaffirmed that the Government of Balochistan is taking all possible steps to address women's issues. On this occasion, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi reiterated that Balochistan's development is not possible without ensuring women's inclusion, and the government is committed to providing all necessary resources to help women advance.

## PTI loses another seat in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Pakistani Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lost another seat won in the February 8 general elections after a vote recount.

According to details, PTI's Sarbuland Khan lost to Asif Moosa of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) from Sindh Assembly constituency PS-112 after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) held a vote recount.

After a notification issued by the ECP, PPP's Asif Moosa took oath as a member of the Sindh Assembly. After the revised results, PPP's Asif Moosa secured the seat with 11,724 followed by PTI's Sarbuland Khan who bagged 9,943 votes.

## No decision made to shut down Utility Stores: Rana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain informed the National Assembly on Tuesday that no decision has been made to shut down Utility Stores.

In response to a Calling Attention Notice, he said that restructuring of the organization would be carried out in consultation with all stakeholders, including employee representatives from the union.

Rana Tanveer said that Utility Stores Corporation (USC) is a crucial organization providing essential services, and efforts are underway to improve its operations.

He highlighted that the ordinance concerning state-owned enterprises clearly mandates that essential institutions will not be privatized or shut down.

The minister reiterated that the USC, established by Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was designed to provide relief to the common people.

He said that, alongside programs such as the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), which now has a budget close to Rs 600 billion, the government has approved a Rs 60 billion subsidy for Utility Stores to ensure the provision of affordable and quality goods to the public.

The minister that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is personally committed to provide maximum relief to the masses and is taking steps to improve Utility Stores as well as other public sector institutions.

Regarding the Public Works Department (PWD), the minister said that the government has decided to shut down PWD and transfer repair works to the Capital Development Authority (CDA).



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretaries and MPAs meeting with Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly Ghazala Gola



MPA Asghar Khan Tareen receiving Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti upon arrival in Pishin

## Loss-making SOEs bleeding one trillion rupees of national exchequer, Senate told

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday informed the Upper House of the Parliament that the loss-making state-owned enterprises were bleeding one trillion rupees of the national exchequer.

He was responding to the questions during the question hour session of the seventh meeting of the 342nd Senate session here.

Senator Aurangzeb said the federal government had completed its work on rationalisation of six ministries, whereas under the PWD discussion servants package was on the cards whereas change in legislation was needed as without changing it would not be able to move forward. "The treasury benches need the support of the house to enact this critical legislation for austerity and privatization, whereas pension is a ticking bomb and contributory define contributions are under discussion for public servants that will be proceeded," he said.

Replying another query, he said the debt to GDP ratio scenario in June 2024 was 77% and in June 2023 it was at 67% whereas its gradient was on right track alongwith its rate of growth declining gradually. Moreover, he said in Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) increase in debt percentage was 30% that had reduced to 15% indicating all indicators in positive direction, he added. Commenting on the government's strategy to pull the economy out of debts, the Finance Minister said, "Its road to market and we have to change our DNA of economy from import-led to export-led and the federal government are incorporating FDI and financing into exports that will further strengthen the economy."

## Noorzai vows to take concrete steps to improve literacy rate in province

QUETTA: In a bid to tackle the challenges of education in Balochistan, Parliamentary Secretary for Social Welfare Haji Wali Muhammad Noorzai has vowed to take concrete steps to improve the literacy rate in the province.

Speaking at a ceremony to mark International Literacy Day, Noorzai acknowledged that Balochistan lags behind in education, with 300,000 children out of school. He reiterated the government's commitment to activating non-functional schools and ensuring that education reaches every household.

Noorzai also expressed concern over the exploitation of school children in political rallies and promised swift legal action against such practices. He emphasized the importance of education as the greatest wealth and the key to unlocking the future of Balochistan's youth.

The Balochistan government has already taken steps to send over 3,000 children abroad for education, a move aimed at bridging the education gap in the province.

With a population of 1.5 million, Balochistan faces significant challenges in providing quality education to its citizens. However, with the government's renewed focus on education, hopes are high for a brighter future for the province's youth.

## CM to preside over meeting on judicious distribution of water between Sindh, Balochistan

QUETTA: The Chief Minister, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti is scheduled to preside over meeting on the issue of judicious distribution of water between Sindh and Balochistan today (Wednesday).

The Provincial Minister Irrigation Sindh, Jam Shoro would be participating in the meeting convened on directives of Chairman, Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on the important matter.

The Chairman IRSA, Abdul Hameed Mengal, Secretary Irrigation Balochistan, Hafiz Abdul Majid, Chief Engineer Canals, Nasir Majeed, Secretary Irrigation Sindh, Zarif Khodo, Chief Engineer, Mukhtar Abro and other concerned high ups would also be attending the meeting. The meeting is aimed at adopting same stance on formula of distribution of water by Sindh and Balochistan at IRSA platform following the sincere efforts made by the Chairman PPP.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Mir Barkat Rind and Secretary Hafiz Abdul Majid meeting with Provincial Minister Mir Sadiq Umrani

## Chinese business delegation visit SIFC

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level Chinese business delegation, comprising Xinjiang Iron Brothers Co Ltd with four other prominent Chinese business entities Tuesday visited Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

The delegation was headed by Mr Yuan Jianmin (Senior and renowned Economist) along with members representing various business enterprises, said a press release issued here.

The delegation was warmly received by officials of SIFC and comprehensive briefs were given covering potential and investment opportunities in priority sectors including Agriculture/ Livestock, IT, Energy, Minerals, Tourism, Industry, and policy level measures being undertaken to improve the overall investment climate in the country. The visit of delegation will further catalyze the ongoing engagements between Pakistan and China under Business-to-Business framework.

The delegation was also briefed about salient features of industrial development in Pakistan.

The delegation showed keen interest for investments in key sectors under SIFC and relocation of Chinese industries to Pakistan including Gilgit Baltistan. The visit of delegation will further catalyze the ongoing engagements between Pakistan and China under Business-to-Business framework.