

# Independent

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ISLAMABAD: MNAs, MPAs and Senators belong to Balochistan attending a dinner hosted by Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

## Constitutional package in limbo as Fazal opposes judges' extension, retirement age hike

NA session to be postponed till today as govt, opposition fail to reach consensus on constitutional amendments

### Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Amid the government's efforts to introduce a 'constitutional package' that reportedly gives it greater control over judicial procedures, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has taken centre stage, with both the ruling coalition and the opposition vying for his support in Parliament.

"We haven't received the draft amendment bill yet [...] How can we vote before analysing it?" JUI-F General Secretary Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri said speaking to journalists outside Fazl's residence.

He said that the government delegation had been

asked not to rush in tabling the bill. "We will participate in the [special parliamentary] committee's meeting and present our stance," he added.

Haideri stressed that the opposition parties should also review the amendment bill, saying they have sought "some time" before making a decision.

After a slew of meetings with the ruling coalition and opposition, Maulana Fazlur Rehman arrived at the Parliament House to attend the special parliamentary committee meeting. "Stay tuned," the veteran politician responded to a journalist's question in the parliament corridor.

Both sessions of the National Assembly (NA) and the Senate — originally scheduled for earlier in the day — have been delayed multiple times as both the government and the opposition were holding consultations.

However, sources told that the federal cabinet meeting — summoned for the approval of the draft amendment — has been postponed until tomorrow.

The government has been tight-lipped on the proposed amendments to the Constitution, but clarified that the package will not be a person-specific and would give the authorities ingress in the judicial procedure.

## Mengal demands release of missing persons in return of supporting bill

### Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Balochistan National Party Mengal (BNP-M) chief Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal has demanded the release of missing persons in return of supporting the ruling coalition in passing the constitutional amendment bill.

Mengal got much importance in the current political landscape as the ruling coalition is desperate to pass the constitutional amendment bill at any cost.

He was approached by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and former Senate chairman Sadiq Sanjrani on Sunday. The sources said that the Baloch veteran has refused to vote till the recovery of missing persons.

The ruling coalition is struggling to meet the required numbers in both houses of the parliament to pass the legislation and BNP-M has two votes in the Senate.

The sources said that Mengal has sought the draft of proposed legislation from Sadiq Sanjrani.

## Govt slashes petrol price by Rs10 per litre

### Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD — The federal government slashed the petrol price by Rs10 per litre for the next fortnight.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif approved the new prices of petroleum projects.

The federal government reduced the price of petrol by Rs10 per liter. Additionally, the price of high-speed diesel has been decreased by Rs13.06, kerosene by Rs11.15, and light diesel oil by Rs12.12 per liter.

Following the Rs10 reduction, the price of petrol is now set at Rs 249.10 per liter. The price of high-speed diesel, after a Rs 13.06 cut, is now Rs 249.69 per liter.

Similarly, the price of light diesel oil has been lowered by Rs12.12 per liter to Rs141.93, and kerosene has dropped by Rs11.15 to Rs158.47 per liter.

## CM pays homage to martyrs of democracy including Shaheed BB on Democracy Day

Independent Report  
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has paid homage to all martyrs of democracy including Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto on eve of the World Democracy Day.

In a message issued on the World Democracy Day observed on Sunday, 15th October all over globe including Pakistan, the Chief Minister said that there is a long history of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) for stability of the country.

He said that from the party leaders to a common worker have rendered sacrifice of their lives for nurturing democracy.

The Chief Minister said that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto had termed the democratic form of system as best revenge in political perspective. Mir Sarfaraz Bugti said that strengthening democracy is our aim and the coalition government in the province is best combination of democratic process, he maintained.

He also said that taking all political parties with their respective ideologies for public service is democracy.

He said that strengthening democracy is necessary for sustainable stability and development of the country.

He also said that democracy is the only way of stability and bright future of the country. He said that democratic system allows common men the mandate to elect their representatives. The elected public representatives can serve the masses in best manner in democratic system.

It may be mentioned here that the International Day of Democracy is observed on 15th October all over the world.



ISLAMABAD: Balochistan Minister Mir Asim Kurd Gailo meeting with Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan Nassar

## PM actively working to address challenges facing Pakistan: Syedaal Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman of the Senate, Syedaal Khan Sunday said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is actively working to address the challenges facing Pakistan and is committed to fostering prosperity and development in the country.

He urged all coalition parties to fully support Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in the current political scenario.

Syedaal expressed these views during a meeting with key political figures, including Parliamentary Leader of PML-N Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee

Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Senator Mir Aslam Abro, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Federal Education Senator Bushra Anjum Butt, Provincial Minister for Revenue of Balochistan Asim Khan Kurd Gailo, JUI Parliamentary Leader in the Senate Senator Maulana Atta-ur-Rehman, and Senator Haji Shakoor Ahmed Achakzai.

He also expressed gratitude to the political leaders and coalition partners standing in solidarity with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and former Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, working together to resolve the nation's issues.

## Three more cases of monkeypox virus detected at Karachi Airport

KARACHI (INP): The signs of the monkeypox virus were detected in three passengers who arrived from Jeddah and Dubai at Jinnah International Airport (JIAP) Karachi in a single day, reported on Sunday.

Sources said that monkeypox was detected in a woman who reached Karachi from Jeddah while another man aged 18 arrived from Dubai.

Sources further said that monkeypox was also found in a 44-year-old passenger who touched Karachi airport via Saudi Airlines Flight SV-708.

After the detection of the monkeypox virus, all these patients were immediately shifted to the Infection Diseases Centre Hospital for further treatment.

## Reforms imperative to provide speedy justice to masses: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Sunday that reforms were essential to provide speedy justice to the people.

Talking to the journalists here, the minister assured that any legislation to be done in the collective interest of the nation.

The minister remarked that many decades were passed to solve the cases in the judiciary and it was imperative to take measures for providing speedy justice to the people.

He said that all coalition parties had representation in the special committee constituted for this purpose.

He said that Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar had talked about the Charter of Democracy to reform judicial system.

"Any amendment in matters of national concern should benefit the entire Pakistani nation," he opined. He maintained that due to legal lacunae, many times the cause list was not issued, notices were not served and orders were issued.

## Democratic parties consider masses and parliament as source of power: CM Bugti

### Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that it is priority of all of us to resolve issues of the province.

He said that the democratic parties consider masses and parliament as the source of power.

The Chief Minister was speaking on occasion of the dinner hosted by him for the members of national and provincial assemblies and Senators in Islamabad on Sunday.

The members of national and provincial assemblies, Senators and provincial ministers belonging to Pakistan Peoples Party, Pakistan Muslim League, National Party and Balochistan Awami Party

participated in the dinner.

The Chief Minister said that joint stance on the national and regional interests reflects the sustainable democratic thinking.

APP adds The Executive Director of the Inter Boards Coordination Commission (IBCC) Dr Ghulam Ali Mallah met with the Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti on Sunday to discuss the latest educational reforms introduced by the Federal Ministry of Education and the exam reforms proposed by IBCC.

During the meeting, the ED IBCC also presented a copy of the IBCC Annual Report and a commemorative shield to the Chief Minister as a gesture of partnership and

mutual commitment to education. The Chief Minister appreciated the wide-ranging efforts by IBCC and expressed his support for enhancing the education system and exam processes in the province. As part of the meeting, the Chief Minister agreed to hand over a government building to the IBCC, aimed at providing improved public access to IBCC services. This new facility will offer easier access for students and educational institutions across Balochistan.

This collaboration reflects a shared vision between the federal and provincial governments to uplift educational opportunities and streamline examination systems, ultimately benefiting the youth of Balochistan.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi leaving Mulana Fazulrehman residence after the meeting with JUI(F) chief Mulana Fazul Rehman

## PM reaffirms Pak commitment to ozone layer protection

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has reiterated Pakistan's strong commitment to the preservation of the ozone layer, marking World Ozone Day.

In his message, the prime minister emphasized the crucial role of global collaboration in addressing ozone depletion and highlighted Pakistan's significant contributions to international efforts.

Acknowledging the damage caused by human activities, the prime minister expressed concerns over the depletion of the ozone layer, which resulted in the formation of the ozone hole, posing severe risks to life on Earth.

However, he praised the positive impact of global initiatives such as the United Nations Vienna

Convention and the Montreal Protocol, which had facilitated the recovery of the ozone layer.

"Pakistan has been an active participant in these UN agreements," PM Shehbaz Sharif noted, pointing out that the country ratified the Montreal Protocol in 1992 and has since made considerable progress in phasing out ozone-depleting substances (ODS).

The establishment of the National Ozone Unit (NOU) in 1996 has played a pivotal role in driving these efforts, working in collaboration with customs officials, the refrigeration and air conditioning industry, and other key stakeholders.

He highlighted that Pakistan successfully phased out the first generation of ODS by 2009 and achieved

a 50% reduction in HCFCs by 2020.

"The country is on track to meet its target of a 67.5% reduction by 2025, with many industries having already transitioned to ozone-friendly technologies."

The prime minister also stressed Pakistan's preparedness for the phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the Kigali Amendment.

Additionally, he also reaffirmed his government's commitment to climate action and environmental sustainability.

He urged for continued global cooperation, in line with this year's theme, "Montreal Protocol - Advancing Climate Actions", to ensure a safer and more sustainable planet for future generations.

## Friendly nations to invest \$27b in Pakistan in coming years: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has said the government is committed to bringing socio-economic and judicial reforms to put the country on the fast track economic development.

In his televised remarks today, he categorically stated that nobody will be allowed to play with the peace and stability of the country. Strongly criticizing the politics of PTI, he said the party should play its role in the parliament instead of taking to the streets.

Ahsan Iqbal said friendly countries have extended assurance of invest-

ing twenty seven billion dollars in Pakistan in the next five years. He said Saudi Arabia has announced to invest five billion dollars, while the UAE and Kuwait will each invest ten billion dollars and Azerbaijan will invest two billion dollars.

He said these are the external opportunities that are knocking at our doors. He said it is our responsibility to take full advantage of these opportunities through continuity of policies and reforms.

Ahsan Iqbal said China has also shown willingness for the second phase of CPEC. He said China has given assurance for the es-

establishment of five new corridors including that of growth, livelihood, innovation, green economy and open regional inclusive development.

The Minister for Planning said that a Danish company has announced to invest two billion dollars in Pakistan's Port Infrastructure. He regretted that PTI is trying to create impediments in the way of this investment. He recalled that the party had also tried to sabotage IMF deal.

Ahsan Iqbal said it is important to bring reforms in the judicial system as well to attract the foreign investment.

## Pakistan to secure fresh IMF bailout package on September 25

ISLAMABAD (INP): Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has said that the country will secure an extended International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme on September 25.

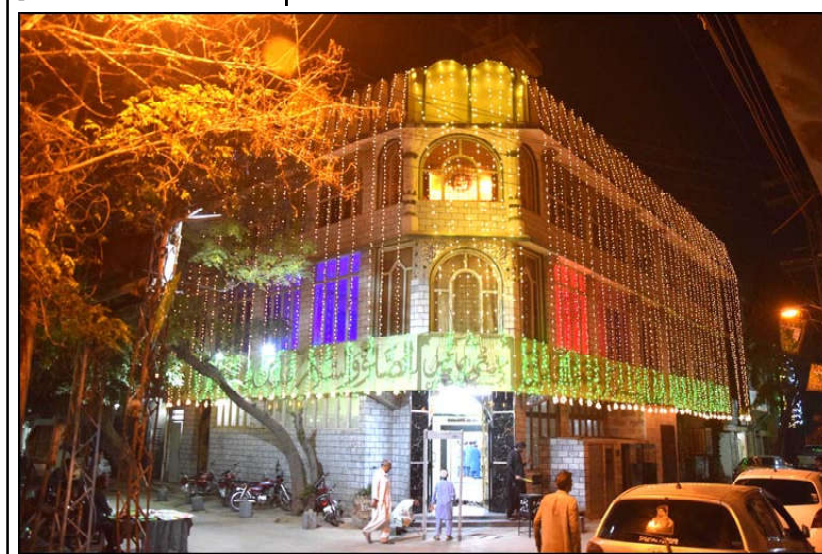
Speaking at the CFA Society of Pakistan's 21st Annual Excellence Awards, Aurangzeb expressed hope that it will be the country's

final IMF programme. However, he warned that failure to sustain reforms might lead to a 25th programme.

His remarks come as Islamabad reached an agreement with the Washington-based lender on a \$7 billion 37-month loan programme in July earlier this year. However, the future of the bailout package is subject

to the approval of the Fund's executive board which is set to convene on September 25 with Pakistan included in its meeting agenda.

The country was required to secure external financing of \$2 billion from bilateral and commercial lenders as a pre-requisite for the IMF board's approval.



QUETTA: A beautiful view of Mian Ismail Masjid decorated on eve of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW)

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Amendment furore

The inter- and intra-institutional battles continue apace. With rumours and speculation at fever pitch, the National Assembly and Senate convened late Saturday afternoon, ostensibly to debate amendments to the Constitution.

However, soon after sessions commenced in the two Houses, it became clear that nothing dramatic was planned for the day. The opposition and treasury benches seemed more interested in trading barbs and attacking each other's democratic credentials, while there was little discussion on the 'constitutional package' that was supposed to be tabled. As the day wore on, speculation picked up that the government had failed to lock down the votes it needed. Even with its allies, it seems to be short of the required two-thirds majority in both Houses. Furthermore, a Supreme Court judgment in the field on Article 63-A ensures that even if opposition legislators are induced to vote against their party lines, their votes will not count.

While these debates and discussions were playing out in parliament and on television talk shows, a bolt landed from the blue. The Supreme Court issued a long-awaited clarification in connection with its earlier ruling in the reserved seats case, directing the Election Commission of Pakistan to immediately notify all remaining PTI lawmakers as members of its parliamentary party. This gave finality to the status of 41 lawmakers that the government had been describing as 'independents', whose votes were up for grabs.

As things now stand, making constitutional amendments while remaining within the bounds of propriety and the law seems like an increasingly difficult task. The government should be asked why it set about attempting to change the Constitution in such a furtive manner. Few seem to know what is in its legislative package, and with the opposition accusing it of pressuring lawmakers to vote for it, it seems like a thoroughly undemocratic exercise overall.

Lastly, a word too on the ECP, one of the primary actors responsible for the growing political mess in Pakistan. Yet again, its actions have been found to be in bad faith and violative of the law. Not only that, the Supreme Court has also slammed its attempt to delay implementation of the July reserved seats verdict by seeking 'clarification' on the PTI's organisational structure. The "attempt by the ECP to confuse and cloud what is otherwise absolutely clear as a matter of the Constitution and the law must [...] be strongly deprecated," the court has noted, warning it of consequences if it tries to delay issuing the notifications any longer.

Perhaps it is time that the institutions propping up the current regime realised that the state is sinking deeper in crisis not just because of the PTI, but also because their own actions are gradually robbing it of all legitimacy.

## Women in trouble

Muna Khan

Every day is a terrible day for women everywhere in the world. I'm loath to rank crimes from most horrendous to least because there's no such thing, so I'm writing about some especially horrific stories in no particular order. Although I have been covering gruesome acts against women for at least two decades and consider myself desensitised, I was stunned by the following.

Dominique Pelicot is on trial in France for the mass rape of his wife, the 72-year-old Gisele, whom he drugged; he enlisted 80 men to rape her in her own bed for a decade. Gisele only found out about these unimaginable crimes when her husband was arrested for inappropriate filming of young girls and police confiscated his computer. There he had kept meticulous records of the repeated sexual abuse of his wife, which he organised and filmed. Police say it is not possible the men did not know she was unconscious. One man charged with the crime told police he thought she was asleep and it was "part of the play".

Dominique has admitted to drugging his wife with sleeping pills before inviting men he met on an online platform to abuse her. "I put her to sleep, I offered her, and I filmed," he told the police when he was arrested, according to French media.

I salute Gisele for her bravery in waiving her right to anonymity, attending the trial which she asked be made public and sitting through the images and videos.

Dominique and 18 men are in custody while 32 are attending the trial as free men while one man, who remains at large, will be judged in absentia. He and the 50

men could face up to 20 years in prison if found guilty. Thirty men, however, are still at large.

Gisele told the court she was worried she had Alzheimer's because her memory and concentration were poor. The toughest part was telling her adult children what their father had done. Their daughter, who published *And I Stopped Calling You Dad* in French in 2022, described him as "one of the worst sexual criminals in the last 20 years".

Gisele has been hailed for her calm demeanour during the trial but she was quoted in the BBC as saying her face "masked a field of devastation". The Guardian reported her saying "I no longer have an identity ... I don't know if I'll ever rebuild myself."

While Gisele has the support of her children and European social services, what can we expect for the woman scrap collector in Madhya Pradesh who was raped on a busy street last week as bystanders watched and filmed the incident. It was uploaded on social media and went viral. A man has been arrested for luring the woman and plying her with alcohol before raping her in broad daylight. He has admitted to the crime. Police say they are looking for those who filmed the incident.

Her case will not get the attention it deserves perhaps because Indian media is numb or this woman's rape did not receive the outrage the rape of the trainee doctor in Kolkata did. It is a reminder of the challenges India faces with high rape cases and low conviction rates — 27 per cent between 2018 to 2022 according to official figures.

A criminal lawyer told Reuters rapists still think they can get away

with the crime.

We've made getting away with crimes an art form in Pakistan.

You can say the most odious of things about women — on TV (dramas and news), in parliament or political rallies — and not face serious consequences. Women journalists are especially vulnerable. We saw it on Sunday when KP's Chief Minister Ali Gandapur launched into a diatribe against women journalists using highly objectionable language. Reporters at this rally said they felt the crowd's hostility turn towards them. This is so dangerous as increasingly people are being whipped into a frenzy and turn violent. Who would be held responsible if women journalists were attacked that night?

At the time of writing Gandapur had not apologised for those comments and after condoning them, Imran Khan told journalists in prison that Gandapur went too far. But it is because journalists protested. This is what we need to see more of: collective action like refusing to cover events where women are targeted. There must be consequences for dragging women down.

Earlier this year the World Health Organisation published a report showing that "globally about one in three ... women worldwide have been subjected to either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or sexual violence by a non-partner in their lifetime." It is a major public health problem. I don't know how policymakers can redress this issue but I know our attitudes — especially certain politicians — need a major overhaul. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Bangladesh renewal

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Forty days after Sheikh Hasina Wajed fled Dhaka, Bangladesh is slowly recovering from the after-effects of her government's violent crackdown on the students-led protests, that reportedly cost over 1,000 lives. The intellectual community worldwide is curious to understand why Hasina, who cultivated her image as the 'iron lady', lost her grip on power so rapidly, as well as the nature of the change in Bangladesh. Since 2009, Hasina ruled Bangladesh like an autocrat, crushing all opposition ruthlessly. She also built a cult around the figure of her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Her ouster pacified widespread concerns in the country regarding the erosion of multiparty democracy under her and the attempt to impose one-party rule.

It has certainly been a peoples' moment in Bangladesh, with terms such as 'Monsoon Revolution' being used to describe the change. However, it is not clear if this change is permanent and if political stability will return to the country soon. Hasina's party, the Awami League, has lost considerable ground, but will endeavour to make a comeback, arguing that it represented the country's secular ethos. Her 15-year rule enabled the party to spread its tentacles to every aspect of national life. Under her, the country saw notable economic development, though this was not inclusive and inequalities sharpened amidst unemployment and inflation.

In foreign policy, Hasina chose to capitulate to Indian dominance, which for the freedom-loving Bangladeshis was suffocating. For now, India's space in Bangladesh has been squeezed, but it is evi-

dent that it will make every effort to preserve its influence. Of crucial interest to India is border security, given the 4,000-kilometre-long porous border and active insurgencies in India's north-eastern states. However, the immediate challenge for India's leaders is how to handle the presence of Hasina in their country.

As long as she is in Delhi, the latter's relations with Dhaka are not likely to improve. Given that the two countries signed an extradition treaty in 2013, many in Bangladesh have called for seeking her return to stand trial for the over 900 criminal cases lodged against her and her aides.

India is trying to manipulate the narrative that brought about the change in Bangladesh. Indian researchers and media are advancing a narrative that the change would nudge Bangladesh towards Muslim fundamentalism, and that the Hindus in Bangladesh were being targeted, which according to the BBC were mostly rumours. Ironically, it is India where religious persecution has risen to alarming levels. India is also desperately projecting the possible involvement of a foreign hand in the change, which appears to be totally indigenous. This is intended to discredit the change brought about by the sacrifice of the students who stood up to Hasina's tyranny.

Meanwhile, the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus is struggling to address the politically charged environment and reboot the economy, which was slowing down even before the protests began. The country's garment industry has taken a particular hit due to the weeks-long protests. The government has set up a task force called 'Re-strategising the economy and mobilising

resources for equitable and sustainable development'.

Politically, a healing touch is required. The student leadership wants fundamental reforms in the judiciary, police, and election commission before the polls. It appears that elections may be delayed for some time.

As for the regional setting, Muhammad Yunus has underscored the need to revive Saarc, which was established in Dhaka in 1985. He wants Bangladesh to be-co-me a member of Asean and then serve as a bridge between Saarc and Asean.

How should Pakis-tan respond to this change? Pakistanis care for the people of Bangladesh, and should fully respect their right to determine their political destiny in whatever way they want. However, Pakistan can take satisfaction from the fact that Hasina will no longer be able to falsely accuse it or manipulate the sad events of 1971. The poisonous propaganda against Pakistan might also stop.

Hasina's exit from power provides an opportunity for Pakistan and Bangladesh to reset bilateral ties. However, Pakistan must have realistic expectations of what the new interim government can do at a time when it is endeavouring to set matters right internally. Pakistan has done well by expressing solidarity with the people of Bangladesh in the face of the devastating floods that recently hit the country's eastern region.

The two countries could also encourage people-to-people contacts and youth exchanges that Hasina had blocked. It would be appropriate for both countries to move towards each other at a measured pace with realistic expectations. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### CIFTIS 2024:

## Global enterprises showcase interest in China's expanding market as UAE, Pak debut national pavilions

ISLAMABAD (APP): The China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) 2024 has once again demonstrated China's high level of openness by fostering international cooperation and mutual benefits.

According to the information, over 450 Fortune 500 enterprises and leading companies, along with representatives from 85 countries and international organizations, are participating in the event.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) debuted its National Pavilion at CIFTIS this year, showcasing a keen interest in exploring the vast Chinese market.

The pavilion, featuring a completely open design, prominently

displays the national brand 'Halawah', one of the best Marathi sweets. "We are really excited to introduce our products here in China. Our sweets, representing a unique flavor from the Middle East, will bring a whole new taste for Chinese consumers," Marilou Malacaste, staff of Halawah, told China Economic Net.

Business Development Manager Amer Tolba added, "In just two days, several companies have expressed interest in cooperation. We are optimistic about finding distributors in China to expand our presence in this expansive market." Pakistan, having inaugurated its National Pavilion, seeks

collaborations in various sectors, including textiles, chemicals, and agriculture.

Swiss company IQAir, which has sold air purification systems in China since 1998, views China as a crucial market.

Muhammad Barbar Khan, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Multinational Export Bureau, a knitted garment manufacturer and exporter, attended the fair to seek potential buyers and investors. "Our company has operated successfully for 30 years, serving clients globally. This platform offers a great opportunity to expand our business in China," he said. Barbar emphasized the cost-effectiveness of doing business in Pakistan, which could attract Chinese investment and technology transfer, benefiting both economies.

Swiss company IQAir, which has sold air purification systems in China since 1998, views China as a crucial market.

### CIFTIS opens new avenues to boost China-Pak banking ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Shaikh Muhammad Shariq, Vice President of National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) and Chief Representative in China Sunday said that China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) had emerged as a pivotal platform, fostering enhanced financial cooperation between Chinese banks and their international counterparts. Addressing a seminar titled "Investment in Pakistan", he said, "This year's fair not only showcases innovative financial services but also facilitates meaningful dialogues and partnerships to strengthen global financial ties, particularly for NBP." As the National Bank of Pakistan seeks to navigate an increasingly interconnected world, CIFTIS offers a unique opportunity to explore collaborative ventures that can drive mutual growth and stability in the financial sector," he added.

He emphasized to the investors of Chitral that they should invest in Chitral instead of Islamabad and other cities to set the wheel of progress and prosperity to rotate.

He explained the economic policy of the PTI government and said that it has given priority to make maximum use of local resources, while partnership is the main element in this regard and the provincial government will welcome any proposal that the basis is commercial cooperation.

Regarding the economic development in Chitral, he said that the fruits, vegetables, minerals and other products here can be made more expensive and increase their demands in the market through value addition.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister AJK Chaudhry Anwarul Haq along with Intiaz Naseem in a group photo with a delegation of Chinese companies led by Vice President China-Pakistan Commerce Alliance International Bilal Janjua.

### MPA visits Kisan card distribution centre Dunyapur

LODHRAN (APP): The Agriculture Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) Punjab Shazia Hayat Tareen paid a visit to Kisan card distribution centre in Dunyapur to review arrangements.

She inspected the Kisan card delivery centre and distributed Kisan cards among farmers. Nasrullah Khan Tareen, Deputy Director Agriculture Extension Lodhran, Muhammad Zafar Malik, Assistant Director Agriculture Dunyapur, Shahid Iqbal Cheema and others were present.

### Channar for resolving farmers' problems

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Zaheer Iqbal Channar urged all departments concerned and stakeholders to play due role for resolving issues confronting the farming community. He stated this while talking to several delegations which visited his residence here, says a news release issued here on Sunday.

The Deputy Speaker told the delegations that the provincial government had been taking practical measures to resolve the problems of common people. He said that agriculture was backbone of

### MPA visits Kisan card distribution centre Dunyapur

The Agriculture deputy director briefed the MPA about the Kisan card distribution centre. He informed her about the process of information desk, biometric verification and the Kisan card delivery desks. As part of the "Plant a Tree for Pakistan" campaign, she also planted a sapling.

She stated that over 850,000 farmers across the province have got registration for Punjab CM Kisan card so far, and 250,000 cards were being distributed after printing.

national economy, and added that special steps were being taken to boost agro-economy, especially in Punjab province. "Punjab is an agro-economy province which has been contributing a lot in the national economy by producing agri products," he said. He said the Punjab government had also introduced several schemes for the development of agriculture sector and to support local farmers. "The Punjab government has introduced and implemented schemes for farmers of the province including green tractor, solar tube-wells, agricultural machinery.

### Iftikhar Ali Malik urges SCO members to enhance trade cooperation, regional integration

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik called on Sunday for enhanced cooperation among Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) members to boost trade facilitation, reduce tariffs, and eliminate non-tariff barriers, aiming to deepen regional economic integration.

Hailing here today holding of 23<sup>rd</sup> SCO ministerial meeting successfully in Islamabad, he said recognizing the

### Significant reduction in solar panels prices

LAHORE (APP): The rates of solar panels have shown a decline lately, as the price of five to fifteen kilowatt systems has recorded a decrease of Rs 200,000, to 300,000. Sources told APP that for five kilowatt system, the price has been fixed at Rs. 650,000, while for the seven kilowatt system, the price has been fixed at Rs. 725,000. Similarly, the price has been set at Rs 950,000 for 10 kW system, Rs 1,100,000 for 12 kW system, and Rs 1,250,000 for 15 kW system. Sources said these prices have been fixed for the on-grid system, but for the hybrid system, additional cost of batteries would have to be paid.

challenges posed by unilateral trade barriers, SCO ministers emphasized that collaboration through multilateral platforms is essential to addressing these issues. He said meeting emphasized the urgent need to counter rising protectionist trade measures globally and they stressed that such practices hinder international trade and undermine global economic growth, calling instead for a strengthened, inclusive, and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system

based on the World Trade Organisation (WTO) framework. The meeting also highlighted the importance of upholding the core principles of the WTO, particularly in ensuring free, fair, and predictable trade rules that apply equally to all member states.

### Punjab to launch modern, innovative fruit & vegetable market

LAHORE (APP): A groundbreaking initiative is underway in Punjab with the launch of the country's first modern and innovative fruit and vegetable market in Lahore.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif is set to lay the foundation stone for this project in Lahore soon, said a handout issued here on Sunday. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz directed that the new market be developed into the best market in Asia and has mandated its completion within 18

months. The project will be built on 300 acres of land and will feature infrastructure meeting international standards. The market is envisioned as an export zone and a major hub for exports. It will be strategically located to ensure accessibility from various routes, including GT Road Gujranwala and the Lahore-Sialkot Motorway, allowing trucks and vehicles to directly access the market. Additionally, metro and speedo bus routes will be introduced to facilitate easy transport for workers and vendors.

## Journalist problems to be solved on priority: Azma Bukhari

Provincial Minister orders tight security on Eid Milad

FAISALABAD (APP): Provincial Minister for Information & Culture Azma Bukhari visited Faisalabad Press Club (FPC) here on Sunday and promised to redress the problems being confronted by the journalist community on top priority basis.

During her visit to Faisalabad, she also went to FPC where she accorded a rousing reception.

She said that journalism was a noble profession and the government would resolve problems of this sector on urgent basis. She also assured an annual grant of Rs.2.5 million for FPC in

addition to addressing the issue residential colony for local journalists.

President FPC Abdur Rehman briefed the information minister about role of press club and highlighted various issues. Parliamentary Secretary for Information & Culture MPA Shazia Rizwan and others were also present on the occasion.

Meanwhile Provincial Minister for Information & Culture Azma Bukhari directed the police and local administration to ensure tight security and administrative arrangements on Eid Milad-un-Nabi.



FAISALABAD: Punjab Information and Culture Minister Ms. Uzma Bukhari inaugurates the Islamic calligraphy exhibition for Rabi' Al-Awwal at the Arts Council.

## Ashra Rehmat-ul-Alameen competition to be held today in Peshawar

**Independent Report** PESHAWAR: On the instructions of the provincial government, the Auqaf Department is organizing the Ashra Rehmat-ul-Alameen Competition, which will take place today, Monday, at the Auqaf, Hajj, and Religious Affairs Department on Charsada Road, Peshawar.

The event will be presided over by Provincial Minister Sahibzada Adnan Qadri. Participants include

divisional-level position holders in speech, recitation, and Naat Khwani competitions, along with religious scholars. These participants will now compete at the provincial level, with winners in each category set to receive cash prizes, certificates, and shields. The Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, along with Provincial Minister Auqaf Sahibzada Adnan Qadri and other dignitaries.



MIRPUR: Prime Minister A.J.K. Chaudhry Anwarul Haq presiding over a meeting regarding AJK University.

## AJK PM assures all possible financial resources for uplift of state-run AJK University

**Independent Report**

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that the government would provide all possible resources to solve the problems faced by the state-run university of Azad Jammu Kashmir.

The PM made this assurance while addressing an extraordinary meeting held with him in the chair to

discuss the ensuing financial challenges faced by the varsity at the Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis on Sunday.

The meeting was attended among others by Minister of Higher Education Malik Zafar Iqbal, Chief Secretary Dawood Muhammad Barich, Secretary to the President Muhammad Idrees Abbasi, Secretary of

Higher Education Chaudhry Muhammad Tayyab, Vice Chancellor Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, and others.

Stressing the need for strengthening the institutions, the PM said that the financial problems of the university would be addressed on a priority basis.

The Prime Minister directed the concerned

authorities to submit a comprehensive report regarding the problems of the university so that comprehensive measures could be taken to solve them.

Earlier, Secretary Higher Education of AJK Muhammad Tayyeb Chaudhry briefed the Prime Minister of the financial challenges being faced by the university.

## Info. minister inaugurates calligraphy exhibition

FAISALABAD (APP): Provincial Minister for Information Azma Bukhari has said the government is concentrating to protect the Islamic culture and historic values in order to disseminate it in the coming generations for promoting healthy and noble society.

She was talking to media persons on the occasion of inaugurating calligraphy exhibition at Faisalabad Arts Council in connection with the celebrations of Rabi-ul-Awwal here on Sunday.

She said that a comprehensive strategy has been chalked out to utilise social media for promotion of soft image of Punjab. In this connection, arts councils were also directed to prepare out-of-box programs whereas the universities would arrange various events.

## Minister announces upgradation of Ahmad Wala Agricultural Research Station Karak

**Independent Report**

PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Agriculture Major Retired Sajjad Barkwal announced upgradation of Ahmed Wala Agricultural Research Station of Karak District and the cultivation of saffron on an experimental basis in Karak district.

He expressed these views as a special guest at the closing ceremony of the Honey Project at Ahmed Wala, Agricultural Research Station in Karak district.

Director General Agriculture Extension Abdul Qayyum Khan, Senior Director Dr. Dil Fayyaz Khan, Project Director Muhammad Younis Khan, Station Director Tahir Sajjad,

Research Officers Dr. Muhammad Ejaz Khan and Ashfaq Khan participated in the ceremony.

The Provincial Minister for Agriculture was briefed regarding the ongoing activities of the agriculture department and especially honey training and production. Speaking at the closing ceremony, Provincial Minister for Agriculture Major Retired Sajjad Barkwal said that a new agricultural policy is being prepared at the provincial level to increase agricultural production per hectare.

From Chitral to Khyber and from Khyber to DI Khan, full attention will be paid to increasing the production of local crops.

## CPO directs beefing up security at Iqbal Stadium

FAISALABAD (APP):

City Police Officer (CPO) Kamran Adil visited the Iqbal Stadium Faisalabad here on Sunday and directed officials to beef up security in the stadium to provide fully secured atmosphere to cricket lovers and teams of the Champions Cup Tournament.

He also checked the presence of security personnel at all gates, inside and outside the stadium and directed them to ensure a thorough search of people before their entry into the stadium.

He also directed the police officials to deal the public politely and perform their duties vigilantly by keeping an eye on the movement of suspected elements.

## Khawaja Imran announces evening OPDs at THQ, DHQ hospitals

LAHORE (APP):

Punjab Health Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare, Khawaja Imran Nazir, has announced the initiation of evening outpatient departments (OPDs) at Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) and District Headquarters (DHQ) hospitals in Lahore starting from next month.

This decision comes following directives from Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif as part of the government's ongoing efforts to improve healthcare services in the province. The announcement was made

during a meeting held on Sunday at the Health Department, where the minister discussed the enhancement of healthcare facilities at Raiwind and Ghaziabad THQ hospitals. Several key decisions were taken to ensure the performance of these hospitals is improved. Imran Nazir also revealed plans to implement a Queue Management System (QMS) in all hospitals across the province, starting in phases, to streamline patient management. He instructed that all beds at Raiwind Hospital be replaced immediately with new ones.



SARGODHA: A beautifully decorated Rescue 1122 building in celebration of 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal.

## 13 dead, 1,366 injured in Punjab road accidents

**Independent Report**

LAHORE: At least 13 people were killed and 1,366 others injured in 1,294 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

As many as 585 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 781 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams. The data analysis showed that 738 drivers, 43 underage drivers, 168 pedestrians and 473 passengers were among victims of road accidents.

The statistics showed that 246 accident were reported in Lahore, which affected 258 people, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by Faisalabad with 105 accidents and 106 victims, and at third Multan with 83 accidents and 92 victims.

According to the data, 1,185 motorbikes, 66 auto-rickshaws, 119 motorcars, 23 vans, nine passenger buses, 27 trucks and 111 other types of vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in the road traffic accidents.

## International News

## Russia threatens Ukraine, West as long-range strikes decision looms

**Monitoring Desk**

MOSCOW: Russian officials threatened the West with an uncontrolled escalation of war and Ukraine with the destruction of Kyiv as Western leaders discussed whether to allow Ukraine to use their weapons for strikes deep into Russian territory.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said late on Friday that his plan to achieve victory depended on Washington's decision, a clear reference to the authorisation for long-range strikes that Kyiv has long sought from NATO allies.

Andriy Yermak, head of Zelenskyy's office, said on the Telegram messaging app on Saturday: "Strong decisions are needed. Terror can be stopped by destroying the military facilities where it originates."

Kyiv has said such strikes are critical for its efforts to restrict Moscow's ability to attack Ukraine, but allies have so far been reluctant to permit them, citing fears Moscow will treat them as an escalation and doubting their efficiency.

While no official decision on the matter has been announced so far, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov alleged it had already been made and communicated to Kyiv, and that Moscow would have to respond with actions of its own.

"The decision has been made, the carte blanche and all indulgences have been given (to Kyiv), so we are ready for everything," the RIA news agency quoted Ryabkov as saying. "And we will react in a way that will not be pretty."

Former Russian President Dmitry

Medvedev, who now serves as deputy chairman of the country's security council, said the West was testing Russia's patience but it was not limitless.

Medvedev said Ukraine's incursion into Russia's Kursk region, which Zelenskyy described as a successful operation slowing Russia's advance, already gave Russia formal grounds to use its nuclear arsenal.

He said that Moscow could either resort to nuclear weapons in the end, or use some of its non-nuclear but still deadly novel weapons for a large-scale attack.

"And that would be it. A giant, grey, melted spot instead of 'the mother of Russian cities,'" he wrote on the Telegram messaging app, referring to Kyiv.



Haiti Prime Minister Garry Conille looks on, as an injured victim who was evacuated to receive medical care following a fuel truck explosion exits a helicopter, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

## Haiti confirms 24 killed in 'horrible' gas truck blast

**Monitoring Desk**

PORT-AU-PRINCE: A fuel truck explosion on a road in Haiti's southern peninsula on Saturday killed 24 people and left half of the 40 injured survivors with third-degree burns, the government said.

Haiti Prime Minister Garry Conille visited the site, near the coastal city of Miragoane in the department of Nippes, and said some of the most seriously injured victims were evacuated by helicopter to receive

specialized care. Ambulances were also being sent as quickly as possible to attend to others with severe burns and to relieve overcrowded local hospitals.

"It's a horrible scene we've just lived through. Many dozens of victims, wounded, severely burned," Conille said in a video distributed by the government.

The injured were mostly men, as well as three women and a child, according to a report from Haiti's emergency services.

## North Korea's Kim meets Russia's Shoigu, vows more cooperation, KCNA says

**Monitoring Desk**

SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met with top Russian security official Sergei Shoigu and discussed deepening strategic dialogue between the two countries, state media KCNA said on Saturday.

They had a "wide exchange of views on regional and international situations", and reached a satisfactory consensus on issues including more "cooperation to defend mutual safety interests," KCNA said. Kim said North Korea will continue to expand cooperation with Russia in

accordance with the strategic partnership between the two countries, KCNA said. The United States and Ukraine among other countries, as well as independent analysts, say that Kim is helping Russia in its invasion of Ukraine by supplying rockets and missiles in return for economic and other military assistance from Moscow.

Moscow and Pyongyang have denied the accusations, but pledged to boost military cooperation and signed a comprehensive strategic partnership at a summit in June.

## Israeli strike kills 11 from one family in Gaza City

**Monitoring Desk**

GAZA CITY: An Israeli air strike hit a house in Gaza City and killed 11 members of a single family, including women and children, according to the civil defence agency.

"We have recovered the bodies of 11 martyrs, including four children and three women, after an Israeli air strike hit the house of the Bustan family in eastern Gaza City," agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal said.

The strike took place near the Shujaiya school in the Al Tuffah neighbourhood of Gaza City, he said.

"Rescuers are continuing to search for the

missing."

The Israeli military had no immediate comment on the strike.

Mahmud Bassal, the spokesman, said Israeli forces carried out similar strikes in some other parts of the Hamas-run territory, killing 10 people.

Five people were killed in north-western Gaza City when an air strike hit a group of people near Dar Al Arqam school, he said.

Three others were killed in a strike in the Al Mawawi area of the southern Khan Yunis region, where tens of thousands of displaced Palestinians have sought refuge, Bassal added.

## Trump sharpens anti-migrant attacks as both candidates visit key states

**Monitoring Desk**

RANCHO VERDES: Donald Trump doubled down on Friday on his anti-migrant attacks despite facing criticism for amplifying a conspiracy theory targeting Haitian immigrants, as he and election rival Kamala Harris took their presidential campaigns to swing states on opposite sides of the United States.

Trump, 78, promised "large deportations" from the Ohio town at the centre of the racially charged row, as the Republican former president prepared to head to a rally in the western battleground of Nevada.

Democratic Vice President Harris, 59, meanwhile hit the stump in Pennsylvania — arguably the most crucial of the half dozen states that are set to decide a desperately close election on Nov 5.

Pope Francis weighed into the issue on Friday — equating Harris's support of abortion to Trump's "sin" of turning away migrants. "One has to choose the lesser of two evils," Pope Francis told report-

ers. Coming off a strong performance in Tuesday's televised debate against Trump, Harris gave her first solo sit-down interview since her nomination to an ABC television affiliate in Philadelphia, the state's largest city.

"I offer a new generation of leadership," Harris said in the interview, as she spelled out her policies on tax cuts and credits for new parents, homeowners and businesses. Harris also appealed to moderate American voters, telling them she herself is a gun-owner who wants to preserve the right to bear arms while maintaining common-sense gun safety laws.

Later at a raucous rally in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, she again pushed her economic plans and bashed Trump on his debate performance.

Polls show a near dead heat with only seven weeks until election day, in an incredibly dramatic campaign that has seen Harris suddenly replace the aging Joe Biden and Trump survive an assassination attempt.



LAHORE: Participants of the Eid Milad-ul-Nabi rally passing through Queen Mary Road.

### 18.39 percent households undernourished with majority in urban areas of Pakistan: Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): Head of Policy and Advocacy, The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Faiz Rasool has said that the increasing population of undernourished households is driving the nutritional and health crises in the country amid policy gaps and the absence of proactive legislation in line with rapidly changing environment. He was addressing a media session jointly organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and GAIN to explore critical aspects around communicating food security, healthy diet and food system and its impact on public health and sustaining the food systems. Faiz Rasool said almost of the country's population is persistently facing a threat to their health due to poor access to healthy diet, whereas 18.5% of them were undernourished. "Malnutrition and obesity as health risks are simultaneously existing in the country, as Pakistan is facing a double burden of malnutrition resulting in all four provinces of the country, whereas food safety was the most serious issue after nutrition in the country. "Food security policy lacks gender aspect to counter food safety challenges faced by women, whereas no youth the largest part of the country's population is addressed in the policy which is contributing in almost every sector," he said. Faiz Rasool mentioned that food security is a provincial subject after devolution, whereas the input of the provinces.

### 67 road accidents occurred in Balochistan on single day; 6 dies, 149 injured: MERC

Independent Report QUETTA: As many as 67 road accidents were occurred on different national highways in Balochistan in the single day, revealed in a report shared by the Medical Emergency Response Center (MERC) on Sunday. According to the MERC's report, in all six persons died while 149 injured were brought and provided treatment in different trauma centers located on the highways fall in the province. As per the report, highest number of road accidents were reported on the N-50, Quetta-Zhob-Dera Ismail Khan highway. Four passengers lost their lives while 77 persons got injured in 33 accidents occurred on the N-50 highway. The bodies of deceased and injured passengers were shifted to different trauma centers located along the highway that connects Quetta to Dera Ismail Khan via Killa Saifullah and Zhob. Similarly, in all 23 road accidents were occurred on the N-25, Quetta-Khuzdar-Karachi. In all two persons died and 56 got injured in the road accidents.



GWADAR: Director General GDA Shafqat Anwar Shahwani alongwith Assistant Commissioner Mir Jawad Ahmed Zehri inspecting under construction sewerage line project under Master Plan

### Chairman Senate nominates members for special committee

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, on Sunday, approved the nominations from both government and opposition benches for the members of the Special Committee. According to the Senate Secretariat, the nominated members include the leader of the Opposition Senator Syed Shibli Faraz, Parliamentary leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party Senator Sherry Rehman, Parliamentary leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-N Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui, Parliamentary leader of PTI Senator Ali Zafar, Parliamentary leader of BAP Senator Manzoor Ahmed, Parliamentary leader of JUIP Senator Atta Ur Rehman, Parliamentary leader of ANP Senator Ajmal Wali Khan, Parliamentary leader of MQM-P Senator Syed Faisal Subzwari, Parliamentary leader of PML Senator Kamil Ali Agha, and Parliamentary leader of SIC Senator Hamid Khan.

### Atmosphere of talks between PTI, establishment developing: Raouf Hassan

ATTOCK (INP): PTI spokesperson Raouf Hassan has said a breakthrough is likely with regard to holding talks between the PTI and the establishment, adding an atmosphere of negotiation is developing. He expressed this in a private TV program. PTI leader said he always supported negotiations between the party and the establishment, adding, "I am among those party members who always advocated for holding negotiations between the PTI and the establishment. "We want our mandate to be returned to us. The government has not taken us on board in connection with the constitutional amendment bill. "This is not the appropriate time for the bill. I hope Maulana Fazlur Rahman will remain firm on his stance." Commenting on the constitutional amendment bill, Raouf Hassan said all amendments by the government are only for benefiting individuals. To a question pertaining to the bill, the PTI leader said, "We are sure that none of our party members will leave, we will accept whatever decision comes but we will not fight. No fear, our planning is complete."

### Hidayatullah elected as chairman of Senate body on Narcotics Control

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Hidayatullah Khan was elected unopposed as the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Narcotics Control. Senator Hidayatullah Khan was nominated for the position by Senator Ashraf Ali Jatoi and seconded by Senator Bilal Ahmed Khan. In his remarks, the newly elected Chairman thanked the committee members for their confidence in him and assured them of his commitment to work as a team to combat the growing menace of narcotics in the country.

### Pak Army establishes freelancing hub for school students in GB

GILGIT (INP): Pakistan Army established a freelancing hub in district Shagar for school students and the people of Gilgit-Baltistan on Sunday. Gilgit-Baltistan, rich in natural beauty, was given a rare gift by the Pakistan Army. The Mini Freelancing Hub at Shagar by the Pakistan Army was established under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). This freelancing hub was established in Govt Boys High School Shagar.

### PTI leaders voice concerns over threats to PTI MPs, their families

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Asad Qaiser has raised alarms over potential threats to the lives of PTI parliamentarians and their families in the current volatile political environment, where the government is attempting to pass specific constitutional amendments. Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) Chairman and Member of National Assembly (MNA) Sahibzada Hamid Raza echoed these concerns, stating that PTI MNAs' families are at risk of being taken hostage.

### Parliamentarians mark 'World Democracy Day' with pledge to uphold democratic values

ISLAMABAD (APP): On World Democracy day, parliamentarians reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to the fundamental pillars of democracy, including respect for institutions, transparency, accountability and the recognition that democratic norms which are vital for fostering trust among citizens and ensuring the efficient operation of governments. MNA Aftab Ahmad Sheikh stressed that a robust democracy is essential for addressing the challenges facing the nation, driving social and economic progress and upholding the principles of justice, equality, and human rights. By reinforcing democracy, he believes that Pakistan can unlock its full potential and create a brighter future for generations to come.

"Democracy is the backbone of a progressive society and we must work tirelessly to nurture and strengthen it," said Senator Rubina Khalid. Shehla Raza, a prominent parliamentarian also paid a heartfelt tribute to the iconic leaders Benazir Bhutto and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, recognizing their unwavering struggle for democracy in Pakistan. She acknowledged the significant sacrifices made by the Bhutto family, highlighting their unrelenting commitment to democratic values and principles. Raza praised Benazir Bhutto's courage and resilience in the face of adversity, noting her pioneering role as the first female Prime Minister of Pakistan. She also honoured Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's vision and leadership which laid the foundation for democratic reforms in the country.

By paying tribute to the Bhutto legacy, Shehla Raza reaffirmed her dedication to upholding democratic ideals and continuing the fight for a more just and equitable society. Her words served as a poignant reminder of the importance of learning from the past and honouring the sacrifices of those who have shaped Pakistan's democratic journey. "We must continue to uphold the principles of democracy, ensuring that every citizen has an equal voice and opportunity to participate in the democratic process," stressed MNA Syeda Shehla Raza. These parliamentarians also reiterated their commitment to protecting and promoting democratic norms, recognizing the importance of democracy in driving positive change and progress in Pakistan.

Member of the National Assembly Mirza Ikhtiar Baig emphasized that democracy is not merely a system of governance but a way of life that fosters inclusivity, diversity and equal opportunities for all citizens. Baig urged continued efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, promote democratic values and ensure the active participation of citizens in the democratic process.



QUETTA: Mama Qadeer and Sultana Baloch leading a rally for recovery of Zaher Baloch organized by Voice for Baloch Missing Persons

### Report exposes surge in arrests under draconian laws in IIOJK

MIRPUR (APP): A disturbing trend of arrests and legal actions against journalists, students, lawyers, and civilians in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir has raised serious concerns about fundamental rights and democratic norms. According to a report by the Forum for Human Rights, over 2,700 Kashmiris were booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Public Safety Act (PSA) between 2020 and December 2023. The report highlights the particularly harsh treatment of journalists, with four out of seven journalists jailed in India hailing from IIOJK. Notable cases include the cases of Majid Hyderi, detained under the PSA on charges of criminal conspiracy and defamation, Irfan Mehraj, arrested under the UAPA in March 2023, Sajad Gul, arrested in January 2022 under the PSA and Fahad Shah, owner and editor of the banned 'Kashmir Walla', released on bail after 600 days in prison.

The report also notes the broad application of UAPA and PSA against students, lawyers, and religious procession participants, suggesting a pattern of suppressing dissent and controlling the narrative in the disputed region. Experts warn that this trend undermines democratic norms, human rights, and freedom of the press in IIOJK, creating a chilling effect on independent journalism and civil society. The report concludes that the international community must take notice of these alarming developments and press for the protection of fundamental rights in the disputed territory.

"We have to take some chance," MQM-Pakistan's MNA said. Farooq Sattar said that usually such legislation could not be said agreeable. He said the government has to give guarantee of resolving the issues of price hike and unemployment in the country. "We have in principle said, we will not oppose such constitutional amendment, which is meant for the stability of the country", he added.

### PTI frustration over Bilawal's question reveals its desperation: PPP

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is showing signs of mental desperation in response to Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's critical questioning, according to Shehzad Saeed Cheema, Secretary Information of PPP Central Punjab. In a statement issued on Sunday, Cheema lauded Bilawal for his impactful speech in parliament, which, he said, had effectively cornered PTI and its leadership. He further highlighted the role of PPP Central Punjab President and former Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, stating that he has brought the PTI founder and his party into a difficult position, scrutinizing their actions and rhetoric. "The PPP will not allow institutions to be made controversial, nor will we let anyone benefit from tweets," Cheema said, referencing the PTI's reliance on social media for political narratives. He asserted that the PTI founder is now entangled in his own tweets and must decide whether his political ambitions or the state are more important. Cheema warned that failure to choose wisely would result in consequences.

Speeding tractor trolley claims 3 lives in Layyah LAYYAH (APP): A tragic accident at Adda 217 area of Fatehpur in district Layyah on Sunday afternoon left a woman and her two children dead on the spot when their motorcycle was crushed by a speeding tractor trolley. According to eyewitnesses, the woman, her son and daughter died on the spot when the motorcycle was struck by a speeding tractor trolley and crushed the vehicle, private news channel reported. Rescue teams rushed to the scene, but unfortunately the woman and her two children succumbed to their injuries on the spot. The deceased were the residents of Jarri Swag area. Local authorities have initiated an investigation into the accident.



QUETTA: Officer of Health And Rural Development (HARD) Balochistan Ambreen Zameer awarding certificate to a participants of two day training workshop of Young Women Councilors.

### ADB President observes BISP initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): The President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Masatsugu Asakawa, visited the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) office to observe its initiatives aimed at providing cash assistance to the deserving families, supporting enrolment in schools and maternal and child health in Pakistan. During the visit to the BISP Tehsil Office in Taxila and the Benazir Nashonuma Centre at Wah General Hospital, the ADB President was briefed on BISP's programs and their impact on the education, health and well-being of the poorest households. Accompanied by an ADB delegation, including Haruto Takimura, Chief Advisor to the President, Yevgeny Zhukov, Director General, Yong Ye, Country Director PRM, Ms. Azusa Sato, Senior Advisor to the President and others, President Asakawa received a briefing from BISP Director General Naveed Akbar. The briefing covered BISP's key initiatives, such as Benazir Kafalaat, Taleemi Wazaif, Nashonuma, and the Undergraduate Scholarship Program. DG Akbar also discussed new measures being implemented, including the New Payment Model, Mobile Registration Vans, Digital and Financial Literacy programs, and the extension of the Nasonuma Program to include adolescent girls.

At the Tehsil office, Taxila and Nasonuma Facilitation Center in Wah General Hospital, the ADB delegation interacted with beneficiaries and observed the registration process for the National Socio Economic Registry, the Taleemi Wazaif and Nasonuma Programs. The visit also provided insight into the operational procedures of the BISP office and the facilitation center.



BISP's Director General acknowledged the role of international partners, including the ADB, in supporting various social protection programs in Pakistan.

### BCPC concerned about use of children as human shields in political protests

Independent Report QUETTA: The Balochistan Child Protection Commission (BCPC) expresses its profound concern regarding the troubling trend of using children as human shields in political protests and sit-ins. This practice is a grave violation of children's rights and poses significant threats to their safety and well-being. The Commission condemns these actions by irresponsible elements who manipulate minors for political purposes. Such exploitation directly undermines the fundamental rights of children as enshrined in national legislation and Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. In light of these serious concerns, the Commission strongly recommends that the Government take decisive action against those responsible, in accordance with relevant laws. It also calls for the implementation of stringent measures to safeguard children's rights, ensuring their protection and well-being. Furthermore, the BCPC urges all political and social organizations to desist from involving minors in any activities or protests that jeopardize their safety and integrity. The focus must remain on protecting and nurturing children, ensuring they are provided with a safe and supportive environment.

941 patients so far provided free treatment in CENAR through Health Card Program official press release issued by the administration of BMC Hospital here on Sunday. In the press release, the video gone viral on the social media was contradicted and explained terming it baseless. According to the press release, allegation of non-provision of treatment and anti-cancer treatment has been levelled in the BMC Hospital under the Health Card Programme. The treatment of the cancer patients costs around Rs. 6 crore. This was stated in an

### 741 patients so far provided free treatment in CENAR through Health Card Program

QUETTA: The free of cost treatment of the cancer patients is being provided in CENAR under the Balochistan Health Card Programme. In all 941 patients have so far been provided free treatment in CENAR since November 3, 2023 through Health Card Programme. The treatment of the cancer patients costs around Rs. 6 crore. This was stated in an



QUETTA: A group photo presidential candidate of High Court Bar Mir Attaullah Lango, Zafar Mulazai and others

### ECP has no other option but to implement apex court order: Kanwar

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a significant development, former Secretary of the Election Commission, Kanwar Dilshad, has emphasized that the Election Commission must adhere strictly to the Supreme Court's recent decision concerning specific seats. The Supreme Court's explanatory ruling on September 12 clarifies its stance and demands immediate compliance. He stated this while addressing a private TV channel. Dilshad asserted that the Election Commission's prior request for clarification was an attempt to delay the implementation of the court's ruling. According to the Supreme Court, the Election Commission's stance that PTI (Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf) is not a registered party was erroneous. The court's explanatory decision has underscored that PTI's legal status as a registered party has already been established, and the Commission's previous admission of Barrister Gauhar as the party chairman reinforces this. The Supreme Court's ruling addresses the allocation of reserved seats, specifying that these seats should be distributed between PTI and the Sunni Ethad Council. The Commission, therefore, faces the imperative to execute this decision without further delay. The court's explanatory decision has criticized the Commission's request for clarification as a deliberate attempt to obstruct the execution of judicial ruling.