

# Independent

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## Core inflation decreases to 6.9% PM vows further relief as inflation slows at lowest in last four years in Sept

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday expressed his satisfaction at the slowing down of price-hike which now clocked in at the lowest 6.9 percent when compared with run-away digits in the last 44 months. The prime minister lauded the government's economic team for capping the headline inflation which now clocked in at 6.9 percent on a year-on-year basis in September 2024.

The price hike had nosedived in the month of August this year at one digit 9.6pc for the first time in the last 34 months, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) index reading remained at the lowest in

September this year bringing the spiraling inflation to record low in the last 44 months.

"With the grace of Allah Almighty, the promises made with the public have started yielding results. With inflation rate at 6.9pc, the common man will get relief," the press release quoted the prime minister as saying.

The prime minister further observed that with continuous reduction in the petroleum prices, the public was getting relief, whereas after interest rate slide, the business activities would get a spur.

He also expressed his satisfaction at the achievement of target of bringing the inflation rate to 7pc in 2024 ahead of next year.



QUETTA: Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses the Balochistan High Court Bar Association, focusing on key legal and political issues in the provincial capital.

## Pakistan needs reforms in judicial system: Our struggle for constitutional amendment not for current CJ, asserts Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

Chairman PPP pledges to fulfil mission of martyr Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto regarding judicial reforms and constitutional courts; says have no problem about who sits in constitutional court

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Chairman Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has categorically stated that so far, his party had agreed to the government's proposal for the formation of a federal constitutional court.

The Chairman PPP said that he has to fulfil the mission of his martyr mother, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto regarding the judicial reforms and constitutional courts that otherwise part of the charter of democracy (CoD) signed then.

He said that we restored the constitution through CoD and it was the objective behind the struggle waged by his martyr mother.

He said that we just want implementation of the CoD. He said that we would accept what the constitution says. He said that it is responsibility of the judiciary to follow the constitution and law. He said that over the time and experience, he learnt that how difficult is to get justice in the country. He said that the country needs reforms in its judicial system.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was addressing the Balochistan High Court (BHC) Bar in Quetta on Tuesday. Also present on the occasion was the Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti and other senior leaders of the party besides a large number of lawyers.

The Chairman PPP maintained that his party had no problem if anyone of the top two judges of the country chaired the constitutional court.

"After the struggle of 30 years, we have decided to form a constitutional court," he said, adding his struggle for the constitutional amendment was not for the current chief justice, Qazi Faez Isa. "Your agenda could be a person-specific, not mine," he added.

## Iran launches ballistic missiles at Tel Aviv, warns of crushing response to any Israeli retaliation

Says attack in retaliation to killing of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah as well as that of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh.

**Monitoring Desk**  
TEHRAN: Iran fired a salvo of ballistic missiles at Tel Aviv on Tuesday in retaliation to the Israeli campaign against Tehran's Hezbollah allies in Lebanon and the killing of its chief and that of Hamas.

Alarms sounded across Israel and explosions could be heard in Jerusalem and the Jordan River valley after Israeli missiles hit bomb shelters. Reporters on state television lay flat on the ground during live broadcasts. Reuters journalists saw missiles intercepted in the airspace of neighbouring Jordan. Israeli media reports said as many as 100 missiles had been launched.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said the missile attack under way was in response to the killing of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah last week as well as that of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh. "In response to the martyrdom of [Hamas leader] Ismail Haniyeh, Hassan Nasrallah and [Guards commander] Nilforoshan, we targeted the heart of the occupied territories (Israel)," the Guards said in a statement reported by the Fars news agency.

The Guards threatened to carry out "crushing attacks" against regional Israel if it retaliated after the missile attack.

"If the Zionist regime reacts to Iranian operations, it will face crushing attacks," the Guard said.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei gave the order to launch missiles at Israel, a senior Iranian official told Reuters, adding that Tehran "is fully ready for any retaliation".

Iran's mission to the United Nations in New York posted on X that the attack on Israel is a "legal, rational, and legitimate response to the terrorist acts." "Should the Zionist regime dare to respond or commit further acts of malevolence, a subsequent and crushing response will ensue."



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti in a group photo with officials of Kachhi Canal Project

## Repair work on Phase-I to be completed by November 15: Kachhi canal project has backbone status in agricultural economy of Balochistan, says CM

Mir Sarfraz Bugti asserts no further delay tolerable in important project; emphasizes upon ending disappointment of zamindars concerning Kachhi canal project; assigns task of monitoring of project to Chief Secretary; work on Kachhi canal project Phase-II to be started after approval and release of funds from competent authority

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stated that the Kachhi canal project has the backbone status in agricultural economy of the province.

He noted with concern that the supply of water is suspended for agricultural purposes to Balochistan due to destruction caused to the Phase-I during 2022 floods. As a result of non-supply of water, the zamindars and farmers are in mess and disappointed. Even the dwellers are also forced to migrate from the uncultivated command area of Kachhi canal due to the agricultural water, he regretfully pointed out adding he warned that no further delay would be tolerated in completion of the necessary work.

The Chief Minister was chairing a high level review meeting on the repair of Kachhi canal phase-I and construction work of the Phase-II here on Tuesday.

The Provincial Ministers Mir Zahoore Ahmed Buledi and Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Development, Hafiz Abdul Basit, administrative secretaries of different line departments, Project Directors and other concerned high ups were in attendance at the meeting.

The Irrigation Department authorities briefed the meeting about the Kachhi canal project in detail.

It was informed that the work is continued on repair of the Kachhi canal Phase-I, which otherwise was affected due to the 2022 floods.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohnsin Naqvi meets with JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazal ur Rehman in Federal Capital.

## Naqvi meets Maulana Fazal, seeks cooperation on constitutional amendment

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD (Online): Inside story of meeting between Maulana Fazlur Rehman and interior minister Mohnsin Naqvi has come to open.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman has sought time on the matter of constitutional amendments.

According to sources interior minister appealed to Maulana Fazlur Rehman to cooperate with government. Mohnsin Naqvi requested Maulana Fazlur Rehman to sit with government and listen government stance on the matter of constitutional amendment.

Interior minister conveyed the message of President Asif Ali Zardari to Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

Sources disclosed Maulana Fazlur Rehman has sought time for consideration and consultation with party. Meeting is likely to take place again in the next few days.

## Two security personnel injured in blast at FC check post in Turbat

**Independent Report**  
TURBAT: A blast occurred at the FC check post located at Educational Chowk in Turbat, injuring two personnel, including a junior officer.

According to police, the explosion targeted the FC 168 Wing post, leaving Naik Ashraf and Shahi Tahir wounded. The injured were rushed to the hospital for medical treatment.

Police and law enforcement agencies immediately reached the scene, launched an investigation, and initiated a search operation to apprehend the perpetrators.



ISLAMABAD: The Head of Mission of World Health Organisation in Pakistan Dr. Lou Dapeng presenting a certificate of elimination of TRACHOMA as a public health problem from Pakistan to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## PM Shehbaz effectively pleaded Palestinians case as leader of Ummah: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Tuesday that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif effectively pleaded the case of Palestinians during his historic speech at the United Nations General Assembly as the leader of Muslim Ummah.

Addressing a press conference, the minister said that PM Shehbaz's address to the UNGA was highly appreciated all over the world, which was an honour for Pakistan.

The prime minister championed the causes of Muslim Ummah, including Palestine and Kashmir, he added.

His bilateral meetings with heads of state and gov-



LAHORE (INP): President Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and former prime minister, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has said that his party has never left the people nor will leave them at mercy of fate.

## Have never left, nor will leave masses on mercy of fate: Nawaz

**LAHORE (INP):** President Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and former prime minister, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has said that his party has never left the people nor will leave them at mercy of fate.

This was stated by him while speaking during a meeting held at Chief Minister House on Tuesday under the chair of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. During the meeting, strategy regarding the development projects of the province came under discussion.

Nawaz Sharif has directed the Punjab government to focus on public relief projects for providing maximum relief and facilities to the people.

The PML-N President further stated that he has never left the people alone during difficult times and will not leave them now.

## GoB decides to open 3,700 closed schools in Balochistan

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has decided to open 3,700 closed schools in the province.

According to the Provincial Education Department, the schools were closed due to non-availability of the teachers in different districts of the province. The Education Department would recruit the teachers on contract so as to post them in the schools going to be opened.

The committee would make recruitment of the teachers on contract under supervision of Deputy Commissioners in their respective districts. The sources informed that at least 40 closed schools have been reopened in Pishin and Awaran districts.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

## All know what is happening in SC, nothing is happening behind the scene: CJP

**ISLAMABAD (Online):** Review appeal regarding interpretation of article 63 A was heard in the Supreme Court (SC).

A larger bench of SC headed over by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa took up the case for hearing.

CJP remarked at the inception of hearing Justice Munib Akhtar was requested to join the bench but he maintained his old stance.

The CJP remarked every one knows at present what is happening in SC. Nothing is going in behind the closed door in SC.

PPP counsel Farooq H Naik said we have appeared voluntarily. Our roll be also got signed.

At the inception of hearing advocate Ali Zafar requested he wants to raise objections over bench.

The CJP remarked you should return to your seat. We will hear you later.

After hearing Shahzad Shaukat, Barrister Ali Zafar and Farooq H Naek, the chief justice remarked that the court would hear the remaining lawyers tomorrow and adjourned the hearing.

## Active participation of youth necessary for our collective development: Governor

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that voice of youth has immense importance in the society and their character and actions leave their impacts.

Therefore, youngsters should play their due part for sustainable solution to the public issues and hardships.

They should also take wholehearted part in all welfare, political and social activities for the sake of economic and social comfort just because their active participation is necessary for our collective development.

The Governor was speaking to a delegation who called on him under leadership of provincial General Secretary of PML-N, Sajjad Raisani, here on Tuesday. The Governor exhorted youth to inform the great majority of the society about their democratic rights and values so as to pave the way for ensuring the comprehensive participation and transparent decision making.

He said that we can get dignity together and form such a healthy society which is justified, equal and prosperous for all.



QUETTA: Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar enquiring about health of a patient during his visit to Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Institute of Cardiology

## Justice Naeem Afghan replaces Justice Munib in Article 63-A case

**ISLAMABAD (INP):** Supreme Court (SC) Tuesday formed a 'new larger bench' to hear review petition regarding interpretation of Article 63-A of the Constitution of Pakistan.

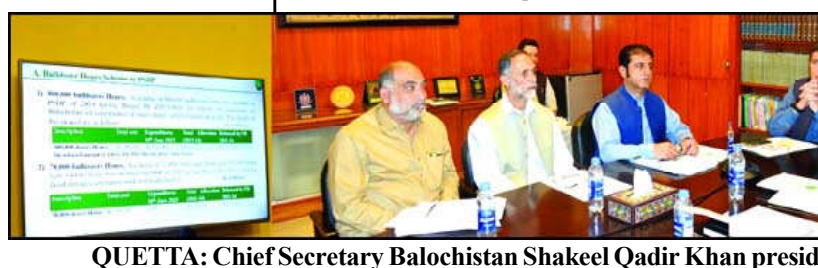
The decision was reportedly taken during a meeting of Practice and Procedure Committee headed by CJP Justice Qazi Faez Isa.

The new bench will be led by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and it includes Justices Ameenuddin, Jamal Mandokhel, Mazhar Alam Miankhalil, and Justice Naeem Afghan. The formation of the new bench comes after Justice Munib Akhtar did not attend the proceedings.

Justice Munib earlier penned a letter to Court Registrar, saying he could not participate in the five-member bench, arguing that it was inappropriate for only four judges to hear the case.

His second letter prompted the adjournment of the hearing, as he expressed that while he did not formally recuse himself, he felt unable to join a bench constituted by the Practice and Procedure Committee.

The apex court's hearing is crucial as it addresses critical interpretation of Article 63-A, which relates to disqualification of lawmakers for defection.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting



## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Punitive tax plan

The government is desperate to increase its abysmally low tax collection to meet the stringent revenue conditions of the new \$7bn funding programme approved by the IMF recently.

In order to meet the tax target, the FBR has worked out a new compliance and enforcement plan, which primarily relies on punitive actions against tax evaders and cheaters. The authorities hope that it will compel existing taxpayers to stop underreporting their taxable incomes and incentivise non-filers to become taxpayers in order to avoid restrictions on their use of cash for travel, and the purchase of property, cars and financial instruments. The political and financial leadership appears to be enthusiastic about the new strategy, owing to its promise of achieving the desired results in the near term by narrowing the tax gap of Rs7.1tr — representing tax evasion and corruption — without the need to pursue tedious reforms. On the basis of this plan, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb announced on Sunday the government's "war on cash" as part of the strategy to tap into over the Rs9.3tr in circulation and maximise revenue potential. According to him, non-filers and under-filers are evading taxes amounting to around Rs1.3tr at the individual level. When it comes to circumventing real tax reforms to broaden the tax base, the new 'transformation plan' does not deviate from previous strategies.

There is a broad consensus among tax experts and economists that Pakistan's tax system is complicated, unfair, inequitable, corrupt, and inefficient — enough to discourage people from filing. The experience of other countries has established that broad-based, low-rate taxes provide the least incentives for people to evade, avoid and underreport taxable incomes. India, for example, has significantly increased its direct income tax collection as a ratio of the economy by streamlining its tax regime, offering reduced rates, and curbing exemptions. In addition to increased monitoring and compliance, and the expansion of the formalisation of the economy through technology, initiatives such as incentivised lower tax rates for corporations and individuals who forgo exemptions have been implemented, aligning with the agenda to simplify taxation. It is no wonder that India's direct tax-to-GDP ratio reached a record high of 6.5pc in the fiscal year 2023-24. This increase is attributed to growth in income tax collections rather than corporate tax collections. The Indian experience shows that tax compliance can be ensured only through a combination of incentives and the fear of punishment. However, the strategy developed by the FBR to boost compliance rates appears to rely solely on enforcement through punitive actions against tax evaders and cheaters, without actually reforming the complicated tax regime.

Hence, most tax experts — unlike the minister — have little confidence in the plan as a viable strategy that will help Pakistan overcome its tax woes.

## Burying democracy

Dr Niaz Murtaza

Pakistan's democracy is an endangered species now, long hunted by uniformed elements. But it seems that now a deal has been struck to make it an extinct species, after which it may be buried at sea so that those who love it can't find its remains and erect a tomb as that may spark its 'reincarnation' later.

Arguably, no civilian era has witnessed greater assaults on democracy than this one: delayed, then badly rigged polls; large-scale politicisation of key state entities; open disregard of Supreme Court verdicts; domination by the establishment; and now, a no-holds-barred assault on both the Constitution and the judiciary.

It is widely acknowledged that the primary entity behind this state of affairs is the deep state. However, as unabashed implementers, the PML-N and PPP are now widely criticised as perhaps the most culpable parties with dubious intent in our history. In fact, many observers would go so far as to argue that they aren't so much political entities now as extensions of the security apparatus.

We have long seen the assault on democracy. Oddly, what we are now seeing is virtual suicide by democracy. Both the PML-N and PPP say they are swallowing all this as bitter pills to cure the nation of the PTI's ills. However, the prescribed pills may contain ingredients injurious not only to democracy but to these parties as well. In the end, only Sherlock Holmes may then deduce if it was suicide or murder that eliminated democ-

racy.

The cure is undeniably worse than the ills. I was a strong critic of the PTI when it ruled at the centre. I am ready to critique it if it rules like it did again as well as the powers that be if they target the PML-N or PPP again. It is evident that the 2018-22 period damaged democracy more than 2008-18. It is even clearer that the current era's damage far exceeds that inflicted under the PTI. But many anchors still talk more of the out-of-power PTI's ills than the bigger ones of the incumbents.

The PML-N acts servile fearing that higher powers may dump it for the PPP. The latter does so hoping they do. It's a race to the bottom among them and some judicial elements. At this point, it is hard to see who is ahead. But no one wins a race to the bottom: everyone loses. Nature has its own way of nixing plots. It would be sweet justice if no unjust elements get unjust extensions.

But even this may be small sanction for moves against democracy. To keep a rigged regime from falling fairly under a new judicial command, the PPP and PML-N, which gave us some sterling laws such as the 1973 Constitution and the 18<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment, are now, ironically, willing to maim their own creation.

This goes beyond violating one clause as they did in delaying the polls. The no-trust vote against the PTI was also carried out for petty gains against public gains.

However, few appear to be actively opposing these anti-democratic moves. In fact, it would seem that certain sections of the

media and the legal community, who have fought past assaults, are also toeing the line of those responsible for the current assault on democracy. Many in civil society are muted, seeing it as intra-elite wars. But it is possible that once they succeed in nixing the PTI, they will use their enhanced control to nix progressive periphery causes as well. One must proactively resist any attempt to subdue the judiciary, even if it is not championing many progressive causes at present.

A lawyer's movement is not yet here. But will we see a movement in the judiciary that triggers it, as in 2007? Supreme Court judges had blocked Gen Pervez Musharraf's illegal emergency, leading to their house arrest and dismissal, only to be reinstated later. If we reach a point where judges feel that they have no choice but to write joint letters, recuse themselves from benches made under controversial new procedures, etc, the blame for all of this will fall on the establishment and the political rulers of the day.

Legitimacy is the glue that binds states and ensures progress. It was never allowed to grow much here and is being further eroded now. Such state-led lawlessness can only undermine state foundations and have a severe impact on security and the rule of law via increased terrorism, crime, extremism and external threats.

But do our rulers understand this truth? For decades, our ability to become a normal, progressive nation has been stifled. Can a hapless victim gasping desperately break the state's chokehold? -- Courtesy Dawn

## Power is knowledge?

Nazir A. Jomezai

Knowledge empowers individuals, but societal and educational power structures shape what knowledge is accessible and valued. A complex relationship exists between power and knowledge, encompassing curriculum design, assessment, and teaching. We must understand the dichotomy between 'knowledge is power' — where knowledge grants power — and 'power is knowledge,' where power produces knowledge. Thus, knowledge is both a means to acquire power and a medium to sustain it, shaped by the societal power dynamics.

The curriculum serves as a powerful medium for both expressing and reinforcing power. The knowledge embedded in curricula primarily reflects the perspectives, priorities, and values of those in power. This knowledge may emphasise certain historical narratives while excluding others.

Even after independence, many post-colonial countries' educational curricula still reflect the colonial powers' cultural, historical, and linguistic heritage of colonial powers. In some African countries, the curricula emphasise European literature and history, while ignoring local knowledge systems, languages, and cultural practices. This perpetuates cultural hegemony by elevating the knowledge and values of the dominant culture above local ones, thereby marginalising local knowledge and sustaining colonial power relations.

Similarly, in Pakistan, the focus on certain sects or ethnic groups marginalises others, including non-Muslims, the poor, girls, and women.

This control over knowledge directly influences what students learn, how they think, and ultimately how they perceive their

place in society.

Learning design and assessment can become powerful tools for reinforcing dominant societal values and power structures. In a competitive education system, children may learn that success lies in surpassing others and that individual achievement takes precedence over teamwork or collective well-being. This mindset can foster a preference for individualism and wealth over community and social responsibility.

Given its central role in the power-knowledge nexus, curriculum reform often becomes a battleground where various groups compete to define what knowledge is legitimate and valuable. These struggles reveal the power dynamics of education, as well as the potential for curricula to be a tool for social justice or otherwise.

Assessment practices further determine the value of knowledge. High-stake tests are examples of coerced standards. Assessment often prioritises memorisation over creativity, critical thinking, and emotional intelligence, perpetuating a narrow definition of intelligence and success. This marginalises students' intellectual potential and reinforces social stratification, as wealthier students typically have access to more resources that better prepare them for such tests.

Assessments frequently act as gatekeepers to further educational opportunities, professional careers, and social mobility.

Entrance exams for prestigious institutes serve as critical gatekeeping tools.

They typically demand specific knowledge and skills, more accessible to students from affluent backgrounds who can afford private tutoring and test preparation resources. Such assess-

ments reinforce social stratification by offering greater opportunities to those already in positions of power, thereby perpetuating existing inequalities.

Teachers act as intermediaries between curricula, assessment, and students. They wield power in shaping the delivery, interpretation, and internalisation of knowledge by students. However, teachers themselves operate within a broader power structure defined by educational policies, standards, and societal expectations.

A teacher's ability to either challenge or reinforce dominant narratives in the classroom can greatly influence students' critical thinking and worldview. For instance, a teacher who encourages students to question and critically analyse the dominant social values can empower students to recognise and challenge inequities.

Conversely, a teacher who rigidly follows the prescribed curriculum without encouraging critical discussion may unintentionally uphold existing power dynamics. These examples illustrate a complex and multifaceted relationship between knowledge and power. The societal landscape defines power as either a means to liberty or suppression.

It is crucial to acknowledge that knowledge is neither neutral nor apolitical; it is shaped by power relations.

Therefore, those who control knowledge — whether through curriculum design, assessment, or pedagogical practices — wield significant power over individuals and society. The challenge is to craft educational systems that are more equitable and inclusive and allow a diverse range of knowledge to be recognised and valued, thereby democratising power and education. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### ADB delegation meets Ahsan to discuss transport infrastructure

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Transport Sector Group, Chen Chen, on Tuesday met Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal to discuss Pakistan's transport infrastructure development.

The ADB delegation comprised senior officers and specialists from the Transport Sector Group, while the Ministry of Planning was represented by Member for Infrastructure Waqas Anwar and senior infrastructure department officials, said a news release.

The meeting focused on the ADB's ongoing support for Pakistan's transport sector, future development plans, and the challenges facing the sector.

During the meeting, the minister emphasized the importance of road and rail connectivity projects, noting that the country was in the process of finalizing a comprehensive regional connectivity multi-modal plan.

He welcomed the ADB's input in this regard, stating that it would greatly enhance the capacity of Pakistan.

While discussing the 2022 floods, the minister highlighted that Pakistan suffered \$30 billion in damages.

Ahsan Iqbal lamented the inadequate international response, noting that critical programmes in education, health, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) had to be repurposed to address flood

relief efforts.

The minister stressed that Pakistan should not bear the brunt of conventional financing losses due to the disasters, particularly as it did not receive sufficient support from nations responsible for exacerbating climate change.

Ahsan Iqbal expressed Pakistan's strong interest in enhancing the capacity of its railways through modern technology and emphasized the need for prioritizing connectivity projects that align with the National Agenda Reforms.

He also urged the revival and review of several key projects related to railways, transport, and maritime infrastructure that had been approved in 2018 but were stalled under the previous government.

### BISP, SBP to develop new banking model for payment disbursement

ISLAMABAD (APP): Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) are jointly working on the development of a new banking model for the disbursement of payments to over 9.3 million BISP beneficiaries.

In a Zoom meeting, Secretary BISP, Amer Ali Ahmed and Deputy Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Saleemullah discussed the progress of the new banking model.

The Deputy Governor SBP assured full cooperation to streamline and improve the payment process.

He informed that SBP was ready to develop a pilot and BISP has to finalize the internal mechanics of the implementation strategy.



MOSCOW: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization and Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan addressing Pakistan-Russia Trade and Investment Forum, in Moscow.

### Senate body on Petroleum rejects PMDC privatization

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Petroleum on Tuesday rejected the proposed privatization of the Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation (PMDC), voicing concerns over potential job losses.

Chaired by Senator Umer Farooq, the committee warned of the risk to 5,000 jobs if privatization proceeds. Senator Manzoor Ahmed questioned the need for privatization, asserting that PMDC has been profitable over the past three years and urging the government to prioritize local employees. He argued that

the corporation should not be privatized if it is not incurring losses.

In response, the Petroleum Authority clarified that PMDC's inclusion in the privatization list aligns with the SOES Act 2023, and the decision was made by the cabinet. The PMDC remains fully owned by the Federation, although concerns were raised by Senator Ahmed, who pointed out that the land was leased rather than owned outright by the Federation.

He also highlighted the need for modernization of PMDC's outdated machinery, which has contributed

to 80 fatalities over five years. Senator Qurat-ul-Ain Marri raised the issue of provincial consultation, questioning how the Federation could privatize land belonging to the provinces without their input. The Secretary of Petroleum clarified that only the corporate entity, not the leased land, was being privatized, and that further clarity would emerge once a financial advisor was appointed.

The committee also reviewed delays in the gas supply project for Gulistan Tehsil in Qilla Abdullah, which was inaugurated in 2015.

### Secy for expediting construction of new model bazaars in 13 districts

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Industries Secretary Ehsan Bhutta has instructed the Punjab Model Bazaars Management Company (PMBMC) to expedite the construction of new model bazaars in 13 districts, including Muzaffargarh, Chinot and Jhelum. The land for these projects has already been transferred free of cost by the government, the Secretary said and stressed the need to fast-track all remaining formalities to initiate construction without delay.

Model Bazaars CEO Naveed Rafiqat Ahmad said that Model Bazaars are a key source of relief for the general public, providing essential goods at prices lower than government-notified rates. The secretary directed the CEO to personally oversee the process, ensuring that all necessary steps are completed as per the government's instructions. "This project is a priority for the government, and we aim to establish these Model Bazaars at the earliest to benefit the public."

### Kamran elected as chairman APTMA

MULTAN (APP): Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) congratulated Mian Kamran Arshad on his election as Chairman of All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA). Dr Yusuf Zafar, vice president of the PCCC, expressed hope for Arshad's leadership.

He highlighted that Arshad's experience was crucial for the cotton and textile sectors. Dr Zafar also stressed the importance of setting Rs 3.5 billion owed in cotton cess.

### NA body urges IT Ministry to accelerate 5G spectrum auction

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Information Technology & Telecommunication Tuesday expressed serious concerns over the slow progress of the 5G spectrum auction and directed the Ministry of IT to expedite the hiring of consultants.

The meeting, chaired by Syed Amin ul Haque, MNA, emphasized the need for swift action to meet the 2025 target for launching 5G services.

Recognizing the necessity for comprehensive reforms in the telecom sector, the committee stressed the importance of involving all stakeholders in the design of the auction, spec-

trum valuation, and the development of appropriate 5G models. "The timely completion of the auction is seen as critical to Pakistan's technological advancement," it added.

The committee also raised concerns about the unresolved property dispute between PTCL and Etisalat, which had lingered for 18 years.

The ministry informed the committee that a special task force, led by the Finance Minister, had been established by the Prime Minister to address the issue, with progress being made towards a resolution, and its detailed report on any final decisions was awaited.



ISLAMABAD: An elderly vendor patiently awaits customers, offering eco-friendly shopping bags at the weekly Bazaar in Federal Capital.

### LCCI President vows to resolve traders' issues, unveils action plan

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Mian Abuzar Shad here Tuesday chaired a detailed meeting with the delegations of traders and assured to help resolve their concerns while outlining a strategic roadmap to foster a more favorable business environment in the region.

The meeting was attended by the LCCI Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman, Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry, representatives from various market associations. This interaction marks a significant

step in the new LCCI leadership's efforts to build trust and strengthen the Chamber's role as a mediator between traders and government authorities. The LCCI President assured them that resolving their issues would be at the forefront on his agenda. He acknowledged the challenges that traders have been facing. Mian Abuzar Shad added that he fully understands the gravity of the challenges traders face on a daily basis. He said that Lahore Chamber would actively work to create a more enabling environment for traders.



KARACHI: Technician busy in repairing work of batteries to earn his livelihood for support his family, as demand of batteries in city during hot weather of summer season and high tariff of electricity bills, at his workplace located on Garden area in Karachi.

### Objections raised on big consignment of rice exported to EU

ISLAMABAD (Online): Objections have been raised on a big consignment of rice exported to Europe this year. The consignment of rice valued Rs over 120 billion is feared to be returned to Pakistan.

Sources said the rice which have been objected were exported from January to June this year.

It is feared that export of Pakistani rice can be banned. In 45 varieties of exported basmati rice, dangerous pesticide was found.

Minister Economic EU wrote several letters regarding objections to Pakistani authorities. Prime Minister constituted high level committee to probe into the matter.



## Governor Punjab says: Role of youth imperative for country's development

RAWALPINDI (APP): The challenges being faced by the country can be countered by inculcating youth in national affairs. The young graduates must contribute their role in practical fields for the country's prosperity and stability.

This was remarked by the Governor Punjab, Sadar Saleem Haider Khan while delivering his speech at the 1st Convocation of the Rawalpindi Woman University (RWU), which was held here on Tuesday. He said that everyone should value the country which has the honor of being the sole nuclear country in the Islamic world.

"Our enemy wants to create division among us on the basis of ethnicity, but together we will not allow anyone to succeed in such a malicious conspiracy against the country", he said.

The governor while congratulating the graduating students highlighted the responsibilities they would have to render in their future. He underlined the need for collaborative efforts by all the stakeholders towards improvement in diverse fields including the national economy.

The governor stressed

for further enhancing the women's role in national development and said "The majority position holders in the university education are our daughters which is encouraging towards creating gender equity in the society".

He extended his felicitations to the parents of the graduating students saying it was a special day for them.

"Parents have surely faced the difficulties and sacrificed to get their daughters graduated today. I salute and present my tribute to them", he said and urged the students to generously respond to their parents in the days to come. He further urged the parents to allow and encourage their daughters to contribute their efforts for the country's peace and stability.

The governor also expressed his pleasure of attending the event for being the first chancellor on the university's first convocation. He hoped for the further flourishing of the university in future.

In his address, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) informed the audience that HEC's journey to take higher educa-

tion at new heights since 2002 has been successful. He said that are 265 universities in Pakistan with 13% students' access rate as compared to that of in 2002 having 51 universities with an access rate of 2.1%. He further highlighted that presently 48% of the total students in the universities were female students which was 32% in 2002. Moreover, 40,000 research papers are published each year, which were only 865 per year in 2002, he added.

Dr. Mukhtar highlighted that financial crisis, reduced funds to the universities and provincial devolution of the higher education were the main challenging areas to be redressed to further explore the young talent.

"The total budget of all universities of Pak is less than that of a single university of any other country", he said.

The chairman further underlined the need to start a special period in the university classes regarding ethics and social norms.

"Misuse of technologies like mobiles has contributed much in wrongdoing instead of fruitful results", he said and urged the teachers to produce virtue professionals.



PESHAWAR: Advisor to Chief Minister Information & Public Relations of KP Barrister Dr. Muhammad Ali Saif and Administrator China Window Amjad Aziz, along with other officials cutting cake during China 75th National Day Celebration at China Window.

## Salman chairs emergency meeting to address rising dengue cases in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique on Tuesday chaired an emergency meeting of the Technical Working Group in the Department of Primary and Secondary Health Care in response to the increasing cases of dengue. Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique participated in meeting via video link, while Health Advisor Major General (Retired) Azhar Mehmood Kayani attended the meeting in person at the

Health Department. During the meeting, Khawaja Salman Rafique reviewed the latest dengue situation across the province. Experts presented their suggestions to control the spread of dengue.

Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique emphasized that the Technical Working Group should immediately determine the causes of death due to dengue in Rawalpindi and assess the severity of the disease in treated patients.

## PPP decides launching protest movement against KP Govt

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has decided to launch a protest movement against the provincial government of Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) in the province.

Addressing a press conference here at Peshawar Press Club (PPC) on Tuesday, President PPP KP chapter Syed Mohammad Ali Shah Bacha said that in first instance, a protest demonstration would be staged in front of the provincial assembly.

## CM message on International Day for Older Persons

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said on Tuesday the Punjab government was improving old homes for senior citizens. In her message on International Day for Older Persons, she said that elderly people living in old home have also had the blessing of Hajj.

The CM said elders were a reflection of our past, a light for the present and a lesson for the future, adding that elders were the lamps in whose light generations grow.

"Elders have made our present possible by giving their youthful energies. Elderly people of Pakistan are our true asset. I pay them rich tribute", she added.

The CM said the life experiences and observations of elders were like a treasure for us. Respecting elders is a part of our beliefs and civilization, she said and added, "It is our duty to take care of rights of elderly and to create facilities for them that they deserve."

The chief minister appealed to the citizens that never forget your elders, rather give them the respect and status they deserve. Only those societies rise that value their elders.



GUJRANWALA: Chief Minister Directorate for Evaluation, Feedback, Inspection and Monitoring (DEFIM) Chairperson, Brigadier (Retd) Babar Ala Uddin addresses to media persons during press conference, in Gujranwala.

## Mir Murtaza Bhutto murder case: SHC criticizes Police for delays in report submission

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court (SHC) has once again adjourned the hearing on appeals in the Mir Murtaza Bhutto murder case, expressing dissatisfaction with delays in submitting reports.

During the session, the court issued a show-cause notice to SSP East for failing to provide a report on deceased accused individuals. The defense lawyers informed the court that Wajid Durrani and Rai Tahir, key accused in the case, could not appear due to illness. The court, however, questioned whether illness or Supreme Court assignments could excuse their absence.

The court was also informed that four other accused—Shahid Hayat, Shabbir Qaimkhan, Agha Jameel, and Masood Sharif—had passed away, further complicating the case.

Justice Nimat Phalputo expressed frustration, noting that the appeals have been pending since 2010. The court has now adjourned the hearing until November 7.

## Pakistani devotee of patriotic songs has collected 5,000 recordings

KARACHI (INP): Absar Ahmed placed the large vinyl disc on a vintage Dansette phonograph and lowered the stylus onto the record as the sound of a decades-old Pakistani patriotic song began to fill the room.

Ahmed, a 36-year-old broadcaster and researcher, was three years old when he fell in love with the iconic 1987 song "Dil Dil Pakistan," becoming a devotee and going on to collect more than 5,000 patriotic songs, or "milli naghmas" as they are called in Urdu. The songs span decades, and Ahmed's collection has them in dozens of languages and formats, including cassette tapes, CDs, and vinyl

records. Ahmed has also authored two books on national songs, "Yeh Naghma Pakistan Kay" and "Har Taan Pakistan."

"I started collecting cassettes in 1996 when I bought my first cassette," Ahmed told Arab News. "By 1999, I properly began gathering milli naghmas and at that time." Many recordings have fallen into Ahmed's lap as his reputation as a collector has spread. Others he has had to research, find and buy, traveling across Pakistan just to get his hands on a particular vinyl disc or a set of spool tapes. But many hundreds of songs he has recorded directly from

radio or TV. "I would record every national song that was broadcasted on radio or television. I always kept a cassette in my tape recorder, ready to record any milli naghma that played on Radio Pakistan," Ahmed said, referring to the country's state broadcaster. "This treasure, this collection of sounds from Pakistan, has been safely preserved and it is now part of my record collection."

A significant part of Ahmed's collection is in the Bengali language as many Pakistani patriotic songs were sung by Bengali artists when present-day Bangladesh used to be a

part of Pakistan before it seceded after the 1971 war. Mufeez Rahman, an official who worked at Radio Pakistan's Dhaka Station, had protected the records from rioters in 1971, Ahmed said. In 2014, he contacted the Pakistani collector after learning about his collection through the Internet. "I can't even imagine how I found these," Ahmed said. "They were no longer available anywhere else but before his death, he [Rahman] made sure to pass them on to me."

One of Ahmed's most notable finds is the first Indian national song recorded in 1911, "Tarana-e-Milli," based on a poem by the legendary Allama Muhammad Iqbal, widely regarded as having animated the impulse for the Pakistan Movement and who would go on to become the national poet of Pakistan after the country's creation out of India in 1947.

The 1911 version was sung by Ustad Pyare Sahib, a revered singer from the Indian city of Kolkata, who migrated to Karachi after the partition of the subcontinent.

"I was able to obtain the audio of this song in a digital format, which was given to me by someone who had the gramophone record although it later broke."

## Jacobabad police foil motorcycle theft ring, arrest ringleader

JACOBABAD: In a successful operation, Jacobabad police apprehended the leader of a notorious motorcycle theft ring, Intiaz alias Kararu, following a police encounter near Chacho Shah Bilawal.

The ringleader, along with his accomplices, was involved in various motorcycle theft and snatching incidents. Police recovered five stolen motorcycles and a TT pistol from Police Encounter.

## International News

## Israel launches ground invasion of Lebanon, saying 'targeted raids' aimed at Hezbollah

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Israel said its troops had launched raids inside Lebanon on Tuesday, starting its widely expected ground operations after two weeks of devastating airstrikes against Hezbollah's command structure and weapons sites.

The Israeli military said the operations in Lebanon began on Monday night and involved paratroopers and commandos from the elite 98th division, which was deployed to the northern front two weeks ago from Gaza where they had been fighting for months.

It claimed its air force and artillery supported ground troops engaged in "limited, localised, and targeted ground raids" against Hezbollah in southern Lebanon villages that it insisted posed "an immediate threat to Israeli communities in northern Israel".

In the past 24 hours, at least 95 people had been killed and 172 wounded in Israeli strikes on Lebanon's southern regions, the eastern Bekaa Valley, and Beirut, Lebanon's health ministry said early on Tuesday.

Israel has dealt heavy blows to Hezbollah, allegedly Iran's most powerful Middle East proxy, assassinating its leader Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut last week, eliminating a towering figure who turned it into Lebanon's top military and political force.

Despite its biggest successes against Hezbollah in decades, Israel has indicated it is primed for a full-fledged invasion of Lebanon with the stated aim of enabling thousands of its citizens who fled Hezbollah rockets to safely return to their communities near the northern border.

A Lebanese security source told Reuters that Is-

raeli units had crossed into Lebanon overnight for reconnaissance and probing operations.

Lebanese troops also pulled back from positions along the border, the source added. Lebanese army spokesperson did not confirm or deny the movement.

Lebanon's army has historically stayed on the sidelines of major conflicts with Israel, and in the last year of hostilities has not fired on the Israeli military.

The operation into Lebanon represents an escalation of the conflict in the Middle East between Israel and allegedly Iran-backed fighters that now threatens to suck in the US and Iran. Local residents in the Lebanese border town of Aita al-Shaab reported heavy shelling and the sound of helicopters and drones overhead.

## Indian doctors resume strike over colleague's rape and murder

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: Indian doctors in Kolkata said on Tuesday they had resumed a strike to protest against the brutal rape and murder of a colleague because their demands for hospital safety improvements had not been met.

The discovery of the 31-year-old's bloodied body at a state-run hospital in the eastern city in August rekindled nationwide anger at the chronic issue of violence against women. Doctors briefly returned to limited work in emergency departments last month but decided at a union meeting to cease work again. Union spokesman Aniket Mahato said the West Bengal state government had failed to deliver on its promises to upgrade lighting, CCTV cameras, and other security measures in hospitals.



President Xi Jinping and ex-premier Wen Jiabao attend the national day reception at the Great Hall of People.

## School bus fire in Thailand kills at least 23

Monitoring Desk BANGKOK: At least 23 people died in Thailand when a school bus carrying more than 40 students and teachers on a field trip caught fire on the outskirts of the capital Bangkok, police said on Tuesday.

Twenty-three bodies have been identified, Trairong Phiwpan, forensic science commissioner told reporters, with an investigation on the causes underway.

Sixteen students and three teachers were sent to a hospital for treatment, Transport Minister Suriya Juangroongruangkit said.

Images posted on social media and carried by local news outlets showed thick grey smoke pouring out of the bus, parts of which were still on fire. The blaze was later extinguished. A Reuters photographer saw fire trucks, police, and rescue vehicles parked around the blackened vehicle, with a cluster of firefighters at the entrance.

"Teachers told us that the fire ignited very quickly," acting police chief Kittirat Phamphet told a press conference.

## Russia calls on Israel to withdraw troops from Lebanon

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russia on Tuesday called on Israel to withdraw troops from Lebanon, warning that the attack would lead to a further escalation of violence in the Middle East. Israel said commando and paratroop units launched raids into Lebanon on Tuesday as part of a "limited" ground incursion, while Iran-backed Hezbollah said it had fired a barrage of missiles into Israel, including at its spy agency near Tel Aviv.

## Putin orders conscription of 133,000 servicemen in Russia's autumn draft

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the conscription of 133,000 new servicemen in Russia's autumn draft that starts Oct. 1 and goes until the end of the year, according to a Kremlin decree published on Monday. The decree, published in Russian state-run newspaper Rossiyskaya Gazeta, calls for carrying out the draft of citizens "aged 18 to 30 years, who are not in the reserve and are subject to conscription in accordance with the Federal Law.

## China's Xi calls for Taiwan reunification in national day speech

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: On the eve of the 75th Foundation Day of the Republic of China, President Xi Jinping has reiterated his call for China to "reunite" with Taiwan, saying that achieving complete national reunification is the common aspiration of the Chinese people. "It is an irreversible trend, a matter of justice, and it is in accordance with the popular will. No one can stop the march of history," President Xi said during his address to thousands of people who had gathered for a banquet celebrating 75 years of the People's Republic.

The People's Republic of China was founded on October 1, 1949, after the

Communist army defeated nationalist Kuomintang for-c-es at the end of a civil war lasting two decades. The defeated nationalists fled to Taiwan. "Taiwan is sacred territory for China. People on both sides of the Taiwan Strait have blood ties, and these family ties will always be stronger than others," Xi said. Xi also used his speech to call for opposition to the "separatist activities". Earlier, US President Joe Biden approved \$567 million in military assistance for Taiwan. The United States does not officially recognize Taiwan diplomatically, it is Taipei's key partner and major provider of weapons.

## Gaza children 'extremely impacted' by war: UNICEF

Monitoring Desk JERUSALEM: Nearly a year of devastating war has left Gaza's 2.4 million people enduring a humanitarian tragedy, with children in the besieged territory the most vulnerable, a UNICEF official told AFP in an interview.

Jonathan Crickx, the UN agency's spokesman for the Palestinian territories, has returned this month from a week-long mission to Gaza, still heavily impacted even as Israel shifts its military focus to Lebanon.

He talked to AFP about the plight of Gaza's children, who have not had a single day of education since the Israel-Hamas war broke out on October 7.

"You see children who are not allowed to have the life of normal children, no education, no play, no joy," Crickx said.

"The faces of these children are... so sad." Most children he saw in the war-battered Palestinian territory were helping their family as they no longer had classes to attend. "So, you see a lot of

children carrying these dirty yellow plastic jerrycans" with up to 25 litres of water, he said.

"I've seen children pushing these jerrycans with a broken wheelchairs, trying to bring water, which is one of the major issues... in the Gaza Strip."

Crickx said it was heartbreaking to see children, some as young as five or six, trying to find food for their families.

They are "walking in huge piles of garbage and trying to get whatever they can," he said. "These children are extremely impacted by the violence and the bombings and insecurity they have been through for a year." Crickx vividly remembers his conversation with Ahmad, a 10-year-old Gazan boy who lived with his family in a displacement camp in southern Gaza.

The boy's uncle had died a horrific death, Crickx said. Ahmad "was saying things that a 10-year-old should not tell you, how the body was in pieces, how the head was far away".



## Pakistan, Oman agree on MoU to facilitate enhancement of workforce

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Oman agreed on the early finalization of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on labor and manpower exchange which would facilitate the enhancement of Pakistan's workforce and its smooth movement from Pakistan to Oman. This was decided in a recent meeting held in Muscat between Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain and Minister of Labour of Oman Dr. Mahad bin Said bin Ali Baowain, said a press release issued here.

Chaudhry Salik Hussain is on a three-day visit to the Sultanate where he will meet several ministers of Oman and will inaugurate a new branch of Pakistan International School in Muscat.

During the meeting, Chaudhry Salik Hussain apprised the Omani side of the major reforms the government was undertaking to improve the emigration process of Pakistani workers, their professional capacity enhancement, and the marketing of the Pakistani workforce abroad.

He said that the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis was upgrading the technical training centers in Pakistan on modern lines which would train the workforce according to the certification requirement of each country or region. Chaudhry Salik Hussain informed that the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis was going to start a compulsory pre-departure orientation program for all the workers going abroad which would educate them about the labor laws of the host country.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti coming to airport to see off PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to Islamabad.

### CEO Health Card says:

## Govt utilizing resources to provide health facilities

QUETTA (APP): Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Health Card Balochistan Dr. Samiullah Kakar on Tuesday said that the government is utilizing all available resources to provide health facilities to the people. He expressed these views while chairing a meeting with MS Dr. Sultan Lahri of Helper Eye Hospital, MS Dr. Ishaq Panizai of Civil Hospital Quetta, consultants of the medical faculty, cardiology, gynecology and surgery departments.

Dr. Samiullah Kakar said that the process of treating patients through health card in Helper Eye Hospital Quetta was stalled for the last 8 months which has been started.

He said that Cardiac Department and other 11 specialties in Civil Hospital Quetta have committed to continue providing quality health services to the poor and deserving people of Balochistan through Health Card Program.

He also assured the consultants that the health card program would provide full support to the consultants saying that collective efforts are very important for the success of the health card program.

Dr. Sami said that the mismanagement regarding the health card have been removed in Bolan Medical Hospital and treatment of patients through health card has been formally started. Soon 24/7 services at BMCH will be fully available for patients on health card, he noted. He said that health services would be provided absolutely free through the health card so that every individual, especially the poor and needy could easily access the best treatment.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Asghar Rind and Senator Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo holding a meeting

### NAB amendment law

## Shahbaz, Hamza files petition in AC to seek relief in Ramzan Sugar Mills

LAHORE (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif and his son Hamza Shehbaz Sharif have sought relief in Ramzan Sugar Mills reference under NAB amendment law.

The counsel for PM Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shehbaz Sharif has filed petition in accountability court regarding jurisdiction powers of the court.

The petition said AC has no jurisdiction powers to hear the reference under new NAB laws. The court should send back the reference to chairman NAB.

Later the court sought reply from NAB till October 11 with regard to petition.

The court accepted exemption plea of Shehbaz Sharif for one day. Anwar Hussain representative of Shehbaz Sharif appeared in the court and got completed the attendance.

### PCG seizes arms, narcotics in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Pakistan Coast Guards (PCG) jawans seized arms and narcotics in respective areas of Balochistan including Gwadar, general area Musa Goth, Winder and Uthal.

According to PCG's spokesman, on a tip off, PCG's personnel conducted raids at places and recovered arms including 226 Glock pistols with magazines, 34 Beretta pistols with magazines, 145 30-bore pistols, 140 Sapiere magazine 30-bore pistols and 324 Sapiere magazine Gulag pistols.

The Pakistan Coast Guards also seized drugs including alcohol, hashish and heroin during the past few days.

According to details, 959 bottles of high quality foreign liquor and 2203

cans of beer were recovered from Gadani area.

In a similar operation, 332 kg of high quality hashish was recovered from Gwadar in the last few days.

Apart from this, 44.5 kg of high quality heroin hidden in a suspicious house and bushes were seized from Winder and Uthal and two persons were arrested.

The seized liquor and heroin are worth around Rs 60 million in the international market.

It should be noted that Pakistan Coast Guard is always engaged in preventing drug and all kinds of smuggling and will continue to play its role in cleaning the society from the scourge of drugs and illegal weapons.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a group photo with Renowned Islamic Philosopher Dr. Zakir Abdul Karim Naik at Parliament House.

## Like Trachoma, PM urges sustained efforts to eliminate polio, hepatitis from Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday stressed the urgent need to eradicate polio and hepatitis in the country through sustained efforts, similar to the successful elimination of Trachoma, a contagious eye infection that causes inflammation on the inner eyelids.

Speaking at a function where Dr. Lou Dapeng, Head of Mission for the World Health Organization in Pakistan, presented a Trachoma-free Pakistan certificate to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, he said that the certificate symbolized the dedication of the Health Ministry and other stakeholders in the effort to eliminate the disease.

Trachoma is a disease caused by infection by the Chlamydia trachomatis bacterium and can result in irreversible blindness if left untreated. This achievement marks a significant milestone in public health.

The prime minister directed the relevant authorities to sustain their hard work and dedication, emphasizing that such efforts could elevate Pakistan to new heights of excellence, as long as they were prepared to tackle the challenges ahead.

He recalled that during his tenure as Punjab chief minister, he initiated effective programmes to combat the diseases, and hoped that the same would continue under the current leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and in other provinces as well. He

offered the cooperation of Federal Government in that regard.

PM Shehbaz appreciated the collaborative efforts of the Health Ministry, provincial governments, NGOs, experts, and other departments in eradicating Trachoma, which had helped save the sight of hundreds.

He instructed the relevant authorities to take preventive measures, and establish effective supervision and checks and balances to stop reemergence of the disease in the country. He also directed the authorities to leverage existing technical capacity and expertise, urging field officers, doctors and others to collaborate effectively to achieve success in all areas of life.

### Rana Sana says: Imran's political approach undermines democracy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Adviser to the Prime Minister on Inter-Provincial Coordination and Political Affairs, Rana Sanaullah, on Tuesday said that political approach of the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) negates the essence of democracy in the country. Speaking to a private news channel, he said that the PTI leader spent three and a half years attempting to undermine every politician and political party in Pakistan.

"He insisted on avoiding dialogue, striving for a political landscape where only his party remained dominant," he said.

Commenting on the current government's progress.

## NA Speaker urges Muslim Ummah to unite, promote Islam's true message globally

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Tuesday emphasized the need for unity among the Muslim Ummah, urging them to come together and work collectively to promote Islam's true message globally.

During meeting with prominent religious scholar Dr. Zakir Naik at the Parliament House, he welcomed Dr. Zakir Naik and expressed his delight over his visit to Pakistan.

The matters pertaining to the challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah, interfaith harmony, and other important issues were deliberated.

The speaker said that Islam is a complete code of life that promotes peace, tolerance, and love.

Ayaz Sadiq lauded the services rendered by Dr. Zakir Naik in spreading the message of peace and love of Islam around the world.

He said that the Constitution of Pakistan provides equal rights to all citizens and that the rights of minorities are fully protected in the country.

The Speaker stressed that the solution to the challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah lies in unity and solidarity.

Dr. Zakir Naik praised the love and hospitality of the Pakistani people, stating that "the people of Pakistan are very loving and caring".

He emphasized on the Muslim countries to shun their differences and unite in the light of the Holy Quran and Sunnah to confront the challenges being faced by the Muslim Ummah.

Dr. Zakir Naik said that Islam is a religion of peace, love, and brotherhood, and his missionary work aims to highlight the true message of peace and love in Islam across the world.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Hadia Nawaz meeting with Provincial Minister for PHE Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran

## Bugti greets Chinese nation on 75th National Day: Balochistan Govt. to ensure timely completion of all projects under CPEC, says Chief Minister

QUETTA (APP): Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has congratulated the Chinese nation on the 75th National Day and said that the friendship of Pakistan and China is higher than Himalaya and deeper than the oceans.

In a felicitation message issued here on eve of the 75th National Day of the Peoples Republic of China observed on Tuesday, the Chief Minister said that the Pak-China economic, social and commerce relations span over last sev-

eral decades. These relations are important for the regional peace and balance of power and stability, he added.

The Chief Minister said that Pakistan values its relations with China a lot and the CPEC is also an important part of expanding the long-standing relations between the two countries.

He said that work is continued on certain important projects including trade and energy, he added.

The Chief Minister said that the provincial government would ensure timely completion of all the projects under CPEC.

With this, not only more opportunities of livelihood would be created, but new era of development and construction would be started in the province, adding he believed.

He said that the people of two countries could be brought together through cultural exchange programmes. He said that the provincial government is taking steps to make effective the progress on the CPEC projects.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti talking with Provincial Ministers and MPAs at Quetta airport

### Govt contacted heirs of ailing child taking notice of post viral on social media

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has contacted the family of the ailing child whose post had gone viral on social media for treatment. The spokesman of Provincial Government, Shahid Rind said that the child suffering from disease has been admitted in the Children hospital. The operation of child would be conducted in the Children Hospital on advise of the doctors, the spokesman of provincial government added.

### Fatal shooting in Panjur

PANJUR: Unidentified armed men opened fire in Chitkan New Bazaar, Gadrosiya Point, resulting in the death of Pir Jan, son of Sofi Aslam, a resident of Chitkan.

Police sources confirmed the incident and launched an investigation into the fatal shooting.

### Labourer shot dead by robbers over resistance

DUKI (INP): Robbers gunned down a labourer and injured another over resistance during a robbery here on Tuesday, police said.

According to details, two armed robbers attempted to snatch motorcycle from labourers in Meraj area Salazai Stop of district Duki of Balochistan. The labourers offered resistance and injured a robber in attack by hoeing. The robbers opened straight firing killing a labourer on the spot, leaving other critically injured and fled the scene.

### PYCA organized awareness workshop in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Pakistan Youth Change Advocates (PYCA) organized an awareness workshop in Quetta for bringing together journalists to advance the cause of the transform Pakistan campaign.

This workshop strove to inform journalists of their roles as TRANSFORM Pakistan ambassadors for the regulation of industrially produced trans fats (ITFAs) and ban on partially hydrogenated oils (PHOs) in all dietary sources across Pakistan.

Media Advocacy Workshop was started on September 30th at the Quetta Press Club.

A total of 19 journalists from major print and electronic media platforms participated in the training.

"We have been doing discussions on the urgent need to regulate industrially produced trans-fatty acids (ITFAs) across all dietary sources and to legislate a ban on the production and distribution of partially hydrogenated oils (PHOs) in Pakistan to ensure that the food that we all consume is free of these poisonous substances. Among these discussions, one on one talks with media personnel remains pivotal considering the power of media to bring change" said Areebah Shahid, Executive Director at PYCA.

The workshop was attended by Deputy Director Technical, Balochistan Food Authority, Mr. Nageeb Ullah.

Addressing the group of journalists, he said, "A single regulation is necessary in times of health crisis in Pakistan."

### MNCH Program boosts healthcare Infrastructure in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): In a significant move to enhance maternal healthcare in Balochistan, the Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) Program headed by Dr Gul Sabeen Azam, has established a Pre-Fabricated Static Centre in Dera Bugti.

"This initiative, directed by Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, aims to reduce maternal mortality rates in the region by providing accessible healthcare services," said Dr Gul Sabeen, Provincial Coordinator MNCH Balochistan while talking to APP here Tuesday.

She noted that the newly inaugurated Centre, launched by Ejaz Sarwar, DC Dera Bugti, with support from Dr. Azam Bugti, DHO Quetta, will facilitate normal deliveries and enable swift referrals of complicated cases to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHO).

To address transportation delays, Dr Gul Sabeen said a critical factor in Balochistan's high maternal mortality rates, an ambulance has also been provided.

This development follows the MNCH Program's earlier successes in Usta Mohammad and Naseerabad, where similar Pre-Fabricated Units were established in 2022.

About increasing its outreach, she said the program plans to extend its support to other districts, further strengthening healthcare infrastructure in the province.



QUETTA: Participants of policy dialogue on MHM tax reforms photographed with Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, MPA Rehmat Saleh Baloch, Akhtar Bibi and experts of health and education sectors

### Two youth crushed to death by over speeding bus

ZHOB (INP): Two youth were crushed to death by an over speeding bus at Zhoob-Quetta National Highway on Tuesday.

According to details, a reckless driven bus ran over a motorcycle carrying two youth near BRC College in Zhoob.

Both youth hailing from Zhoob died on the spot in the accident.

Police and rescue teams reached the scene and shifted the bodies to Zhoob Trauma Center.

### Now one chief justice should go, second should come: Naem

ISLAMABAD (Online): JI Amir Hafiz Naem ur Rehman has demanded of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa to take initiative to end prevailing judicial crisis.

"we will not accept any constitutional package of government. Opposition parties are requested not to be hoaxed by government. Next strategy in connection with Haq Do Tehreek will be given after October 7, he said this while addressing a press conference here Tuesday.

He held the entire Pakistan will stand in support of Palestine on October 7 so that one voice goes to world that we are with Palestine. We are making contacts with different political parties in this connection. He stated JI will start protest movement under Haq Do Awam Ko after October 7. Government has breached the agreement made with us. In this regard we will start our movement on October 7.



QUETTA: A delegation of PML-N Women Wing meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

## Raheela calls for urgent action on Menstrual Health and Hygiene Tax Reforms

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani on Tuesday called for urgent action on Menstrual Health and Hygiene Tax Reforms.

She said this while addressing at the Policy Dialogue organized by the MHM Working Group (MHMWG) Secretariat Balochistan in collaboration with UNICEF Pakistan, brought together a diverse group of policymakers, advocates, and stakeholders to discuss strategies for impact full tax reforms.

Members National Assembly (MNAs) Ms. Akhtar Bibi, Phulain Baloch and Member Balochistan Assembly Rahmat Saleh Baloch reiterated their commitment to championing this issue at the federal level, assuring participants that they

would push for legislative reforms to ensure MHM products are affordable for all, especially vulnerable groups in rural and remote areas of Balochistan.

Addressing at Policy Dialogue, Raheela Durrani said, "This is not just a policy issue—it's a human rights issue".

She opened the Policy Dialogue on Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHM) Tax Reforms and stressed the vital need for parliamentarians from Balochistan to raise their voices at the federal level, pushing for MHM tax reforms that would ensure affordability and accessibility of menstrual products for women and girls.

Ms. Durrani called for a united front in advocating these reforms, emphasizing the need for sustained government commitment and public support to create an inclusive society where every woman could manage her menstrual health with dignity. Following her lead, stakeholders from Balochistan, including parliamentarians, health and education officials and experts urged the Federal Government to take immediate action on MHM tax reforms. These reforms, they stressed, are essential for enhancing the affordability and availability of menstrual products, which would alleviate the financial burden on millions of women and girls in the province. In a detailed presentation, Mr. Rahmatullah Khan Durrani, Commissioner of Income Tax at the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), proposed categorizing menstrual hygiene products as essential items rather than luxury goods.