

# Independent

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a Federal Cabinet Meeting.

## Gory tale of 2014-like sit-in not to be allowed to repeat at any cost: PM

Says nobody will be allowed to sabotage country's economic gains; Pakistan to sign agreements worth \$2 billion with Saudi Arabia; Federal cabinet approves setting up of PM Relief Fund for Palestine, Lebanon

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday, calling the recent protest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf a replica of the 2014 sit-in by the party, vowed that "gory tale" would not be allowed to repeat at any cost.

"Such incidents are a replica of 2014-15 incidents

when a sit-in was staged for months and was not called off despite the announcement of the Chinese president's visit to Pakistan without bothering about its impact on the country's image and national economy... We will not allow it to be repeated. We will not tolerate it at any rate, at any cost. This is my promise. I will not let it happen," the prime minister in his opening remarks at the meeting of the federal cabinet chaired by him. The prime minister drew cabinet members' attention to an attack that took place near Karachi airport killing two Chinese engineers and injuring another, despite the government's all-out efforts to ensure their security. He apprised the meeting of his telephonic conversation with the Chinese ambassador in Islamabad and also a condolatory visit to the Chinese embassy where he reiterated his government's assurance to leave no stone unturned to make the security of Chinese national "un-reachable."

## Bringing three million out of school children in schools big challenge for incumbent Govt, says CM

Mir Sarfraz Bugti maintains government sending children to Harvard and Oxford universities, on other hand, anti-state elements are making them suicide bomber

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stated that around three million children are out of the schools, and it is a big challenge for the present government to bring them in the schools. He said that we have reopened the schools, which otherwise were closed for last 12 years. He said that the government is sending the children to Harvard and Oxford universities, but the enemies are making them suicide bomber.

He said that no compromise would be made on merit in the government jobs. He said that no one coming outside harmed Balochistan, rather it's own people harmed it. He stressed that every govern-

ment servant would have to perform duty.

These and similar other views were expressed by the Chief Minister while addressing the ceremony of the high-level hygiene kits distribution among girl students at the Government Girls High School Jinnah Town, here on Tuesday.

The event was organized under the 'She Power' initiative, and also attended by the Coordinator of Prime Minister for Climate Change, Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, Chairperson of Senate's standing committee on Human Rights, Ms. Samina Mumtaz Zehri, Provincial Minister for Education, Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani besides other concerned officials and students.

He said that while we are facing certain challenges in education sector including that of 3 million out of school children, some 16,000 vacancies of the teachers are also vacant in the province.

He said that quality education is big thing, it is a challenge to bring the out of school children in the schools. He on the occasion regretfully pointed out that some doctors and teachers have not been performing their duties for last 12 years.

For instance, he referred to a doctor present in Canada, but has been drawing salary from the government in Balochistan.

He on the occasion exhorted the students to benefit from the government's scholarship programme.

## Govt accepts Maulana Fazal proposals on matter of constitutional amendments

Zardari, Nawaz Sharif assure Maulana Fazlur Rehman to take him along with them

ISLAMABAD (Online): Government has accepted proposals of Maulana Fazlur Rehman on the matter of constitutional amendments.

According to parliamentary sources decision has been taken to summon session of both of the houses of parliament after SCO summit conference.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman will hand over his draft on constitutional amendments to government team within two or three days.

Legal team of PPP and PML-N will share their draft with JUI-F.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman has shown his conditional willingness on the establishment of constitu-

tional court. Amendments on the procedure of appointment of judges and other matters will be brought later.

In the first phase amendment will be brought regarding formation of constitutional court and appointment and powers of its judges.

Meanwhile President Asif Ali Zardari and former Prime Minister (PM) Nawaz Sharif have assured Maulana Fazlur Rehman to take him along with them.

It has also been decided that joint draft of proposed constitutional amendment will be given priority.

The inside story of big meetings of stalwarts at Aiwan-e-Sadr has come to light.

## Islamabad hosts two-day int'l non-proliferation conference

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Strategic Vision Institute (SVI), Islamabad, hosted Islamabad Non-Proliferation Conference 2024, a two-day international event bringing together a distinguished group of scholars and experts from around the world.

The conference aimed at fostering constructive dialogue on global strategic issues and share Pakistan's policy perspectives, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release



ISLAMABAD: A group of people attending a conference.

mand Authority (NCA), Lt. Gen. Khalid Ahmed Kidwai and Advisor, NCA, Lt. Gen. Sarfraz Sattar. The participants included prominent international scholars from Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences (MEMO RAS), Center for Energy and Security Studies (CENESS), Russia, China Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), China, Carnegie

## GoB taking practical steps to ensure provision of modern machinery & medicines in all hospitals: CS

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan has stated that the provincial government is taking practical steps for ensuring provision of modern machinery and medicines in all government hospitals of the province so that the best healthcare facilities are available to the people.

For the purpose, all government hospitals and health centres are being put on modern lines in the province. He directed to the concerned officials to give first preference to provide facilities and ensure implementation on the development projects setting targets.

The Chief Secretary was presiding over the meeting about development projects of health and education (schools) here on Tuesday. The meeting reviewed progress on development schemes.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti addressing the event of distribution of hygiene kits under the "She Power" initiative at Govt Girls High School, Jinnah Town, in the provincial Capital.

## Aurangzeb says: Single-day strike may cause Rs190 b loss to national economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said on Tuesday that a single-day strike might cause cumulative losses of around Rs 190 billion to the national economy.

Addressing a press briefing, the minister said that the Ministry of Finance's Economic Wing had formally calculated the adverse impact, taking in account losses in gross domestic product, tax revenue, law enforcement costs, business and export losses, foreign direct investment flow, and information technology. He said the social sector had also been affected, with hospitals, construction workers, street vendors, and taxi drivers adversely impacted.

Approximately 0.8 million people in Islamabad did suffer for over the last 2-3 days, he added.

Currently, Pakistan's total GDP stood at Rs 124 trillion, with Q2 estimates at Rs 32 trillion on that basis the Economic Wing estimated losses, he said.

## Reshuffling in senior civil bureaucracy made in Balochistan

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The reshuffling has been made in the senior civil bureaucracy of Balochistan.

According to the official notification issued here by the Services and General Administration Department on Tuesday, Secretary Health, Saleh Muhammad Baloch has been transferred and directed to report in the S&GAD while Managing Director of BPPRA, Mujeebur Rehman, has been transferred and posted as the Secretary Health.

Another senior bureaucrat, Shah Irfan Gharshoon, serving as Commissioner Rakhshan Division, has been transferred and directed to report in the S&GAD while Special Secretary Health, Mujeebur Rehman Qambrani, has been posted as the Commissioner Rakhshan Division.

Similarly, Shaihak Baloch, who was awaiting posting orders, has been posted as the Director General Treasuries and Accounts.

## Governor sees cooperation of developed countries crucial for provision of basic facilities, removal of backwardness

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that cooperation of the developed countries can bear fruit for removing backwardness from



the province and provision of the basic facilities to the people.

He said that we value the facilities being provided in different sectors by these countries a lot, and expect that the developed countries especially Germany would expand its cooperation in the health as well as education and technology sectors.

The Governor was speaking to the Honorary Consul General of Germany in Quetta, Mir Murad Baloch here on Tuesday.

During the course of meeting, different matters including law and order situation, besides the health care of people and provision of the clean drinking water were discussed.

## PTI should learn from ban on PTM: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaulah Tarar on Tuesday said the ban on the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) was imposed on the basis of evidence that showed its close contacts with the terrorist organizations and its involvement in a campaign against the country.

Talking to media, the minister brushed aside speculations about ban on PTM which has been declared a proscribed organization by the Federal Cabinet the other day.

## AJK PM emphasizes to devise effective response strategy for minimizing loss of lives



MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister, Chudhary Anwar ul Haq Tuesday said that there was a dire need to adopt effective disaster response and rehabilitation strategies for minimizing loss of lives and damage to infrastructure during the natural calamities.

He said this while addressing a prayer congregation hosted in the State metropolis to pay homage to the victims of the 2005 deadly earthquake that claimed at least 80 thou-

sands of people's lives in AJK, mostly in the state capital town in the history's most tragic natural catastrophe. The prime minister said that the terrible earthquake turned a large part of the state into a pile of rubble besides consuming thousands of precious lives.

"On the other hand, the earthquake destroyed the infrastructure the state had built over decades," Anwar ul Haq said, adding that effects of this tragedy would be felt for a long time.



QUETTA: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam and Minister for Education Raheela Hamid Durrani sharing their views during the event of distribution of hygiene kits under the "She Power" initiative on at Govt Girls High School, Jinnah Town in provincial capital.

## Saudi Arabia's aid to Pakistan reaches \$12.75 bln, supporting 247 development projects: Al-Baiz

ISLAMABAD (APP): The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief) on Tuesday reaffirmed its commitment to humanitarian support in Pakistan with the signing of joint cooperation programmes and implementation contracts for various educational, health, recovery, and rehabilitation projects.

## Women's socio-economic empowerment interlinks with access to sanitation, hygiene facilities: Romina Khurshid

QUETTA (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Tuesday said that women's socio-economic empowerment and tackling hygiene issues are closely interlinked, improving access to hygiene and sanitation facilities directly impacts women's health, dignity and access to equal economic opportunities.

Addressing a hygiene kits distribution event under the 'She Power' initiative here on Tuesday, the PM's climate aide Romina

Khurshid Alam said that access to adequate and safe [menstrual] hygiene and sanitation facilities for girls and women has remained mostly a neglected area in the country, especially in rural and low-resource settings of Balochistan.

"Addressing hygiene challenges in ways that directly improve women's access to education, work, and leadership opportunities, we not only promote women's empowerment but also foster healthier, more equitable communities," she stressed.

## Shahnaz Umrani appointed as Parliamentary Secretary for Religious Affairs

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Member Provincial Assembly, Ms. Shahnaz Umrani has been appointed as the Parliamentary Secretary for Religious Affairs.

This was announced in an official notification issued here by the Services and General Administration Department on Tuesday.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding development projects of Health Department and Education (Schools)

Project No.	Project Name	PC Number	PC Amount	Actual	Balance
1	...	...	...	...	...
2	...	...	...	...	...
3	...	...	...	...	...
4	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	...
6	...	...	...	...	...
7	...	...	...	...	...
8	...	...	...	...	...
9	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...	...



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Terrorism upsurge**

A string of deadly incidents of terrorism in different parts of the country over the weekend illustrates the multifaceted nature of the militant threat that confronts Pakistan.

It also highlights the fact that the state cannot afford major security lapses. While there was initial confusion about the nature of the powerful blast near Karachi airport late on Sunday, it is now clear that it was a terrorist attack. At least three people have been confirmed killed in the incident, including two Chinese nationals. The foreigners were apparently the target of this terrorist attack as a convoy of Chinese workers was passing through the area. The banned Baloch Liberation Army has claimed responsibility for the atrocity, saying that its Majeed Brigade carried out the attack.

Meanwhile, a number of security personnel were martyred in KP and Balochistan on Saturday. Thirteen army and FC personnel were martyred during separate clashes with militants in North Waziristan and Kurram, while three security men lost their lives in a roadside bomb attack in Kalat.

The Karachi bombing should send alarm bells ringing in the corridors of power. It comes only a week before high-ranking foreign dignitaries from various states are due to gather in Islamabad for the SCO summit. It may well be that the Chinese nationals were targeted to sabotage the SCO event.

The Chinese embassy has not minced its words, demanding that Pakistan "thoroughly investigate the attack [and] severely punish the perpetrators", and has called upon the state to protect Chinese citizens and projects in the country. This is the second major incident targeting Chinese nationals this year after the Bisham attack in March, in which five foreigners were killed. Simply put, Pakistan cannot afford such acts of terrorism as the economy begins a long journey of recovery, and the country re-engages with the world by hosting bilateral and multilateral exchanges. The Karachi airport is supposed to be a highly secure location, guarded by civil LEAs, and surrounded by military installations. A thorough probe is therefore very much required to uncover how terrorists were able to strike at such a sensitive location. Moreover, the attacks in Karachi and in KP and Balochistan illustrate how varied the militant threat is: ranging from separatist groups to religiously inspired fighters. Instead of crushing the political opposition, all arms of the state — including the administration and the security establishment — need to fully devote their energies to eliminating the terrorist threat from the country. In the short term, this can be achieved through intelligence-based operations that pre-empt violent actors from carrying out their malevolent designs. Economic recovery and national development will be impossible to achieve unless these terrorist threats are addressed. Therefore, the state needs to go beyond rhetoric and take meaningful steps in this regard.

Danyal Adam Khan

In 2024, the fact that almost half of Pakistan's urban population must go without access to water has to be one of the biggest service delivery disasters in the history of our country.

The stark inequity is best framed through a comparison of two statistics. On one hand, a recent ADB report on sustainable urbanisation claims that 43 per cent of the country's urban population does not have access to water. On the other, every study tells us that groundwater in our cities has been depleting at an alarming rate — such as 1.7 metres per annum in Islamabad, according to UN Habitat. This means water is being used up rapidly, just as half of us live without it.

Broadly speaking, there are three direct ways in which climate change manifests itself in cities: air quality, temperature, and either a scarcity or an excess of water. With each of these elements, there is a disproportionate impact on lower socioeconomic classes, which is exacerbated by a mismanagement of available resources. In other words, climate change may be giving rise to new problems, but these are based on inequities we have already created.

One thing is absolutely fundamental to understanding this: the problem of cities and climate change is multifaceted and has to be addressed holistically, instead of through isolated project-based interventions. For instance, the major cause of urban flooding is an excessive concretisation of cities, which is a direct result of flawed land-use policies, as well as a crippling reliance on private vehicles which forces us to pave highways everywhere.

concretisation also happens to be linked to groundwater depletion, since it increases surface run-off and doesn't allow rainwater to permeate.

The highways, in turn, are a by-product of the rampant privatisation and commodification of land which has made us a nation of housing societies. Buying up (often forcibly) land on the outskirts of cities means they need to be connected to the urban core with superhighways and untenable sprawl. The cars that then reluctantly ply these in the absence of public transport not only cause congestion, but are the biggest source of carbon emissions in cities and a major contributor to the urban heat island effect.

Importantly, these private housing societies are often not provided water connections by municipal authorities, but rather use boreholes to freely pump out of a mutual water table, just like affluent households in the urban core. And if the state does not have the capacity to provide water, it certainly has no capacity to regulate unchecked usage through private boreholes. It all comes full circle.

In every scenario, it is the poorest segment of urban society which is made to suffer the biggest burden.

This segment makes up a disproportionate amount of the 43pc of our urban population without water, 67pc without solid waste management, 18pc without sanitation, and 57pc residing in slums.

Many in the development sector point to how much Pakistani cities lose out by 'not recovering cost' for the municipal facilities they provide, such as water. They claim that this results in low-quality pub-

lic services in exchange for a massive subsidy burden on the government. There is an element of truth to this. It is impractical to believe, for example, that we can go on for long without charging for water use — especially given our consumption habits in the face of per capita scarcity.

But instead of jumping on the privatisation bandwagon, it is important to remember that water is not only a fundamental human right, it also has no alternative. Any model we adopt, as a result, has to be equitable and redistributive. This means the state is compelled to provide a certain amount of water (according to an internationally agreed minimum requirement) free of charge. Doing otherwise would not only be criminal, but would also create even more perverse incentives to cheat the system.

So what are the alternatives? A possible three-step solution could look something like this: 1) invest in an urban water-metering system, without which we are blind to how much is being consumed, and where; 2) charge a progressive tax on excess usage above the minimum provision; 3) use these funds to extend the water and sanitation network to full coverage, repair dilapidated infrastructure, and invest in rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge.

The status quo is a result of too little regulation, not too much of it. Without it, we will continue to live in a situation where the privileged pump out water without cost or accountability, and the marginalised are pushed further into a state of perpetual deprivation. When no rules apply and no system exists, everyone loses in a race to the bottom. -- Courtesy Dawn

**The AMR hazard**

Arif Azad

Last month, the antimicrobial resistance agenda received a significant policy and research boost. At a high-level UN General Assembly meeting on AMR, member states pledged to double down on AMR containment efforts with guarantees and increased funding. The meeting, eight years after the first one in 2016, provided a political push to a coordinated global response to the agenda.

AMR, a multifaceted global threat, is affecting humans, animals, the environment, agriculture and food. Its wider effects are discernible in higher mortality rates, additional expenditure for health systems, compromised health gains from surgical procedures due to infections, economic losses, low productivity and rising poverty caused by the exorbitant healthcare costs associated with AMR. A credible estimate predicts that 28 million could become poor due to the high rates of AMR; of those affected, 26m are likely to live in low-income countries.

These figures, along with a study published in The Lancet in mid-September, present a grim picture: the study estimated 1.91m deaths, which can be attributed to AMR, and 8.22m deaths associated with AMR by 2050. The report shows South Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean as the worst-hit regions. The research also shows an over 50 per cent decrease in AMR-related deaths among under five-year-olds.

At the other end, mortalities rose by over 80pc in the over 70-year-old age bracket. The study forecasts 39m deaths from AMR between 2025 to 2050. The latest estimates are far higher than the original estimate of 10m deaths

by 2050, which was predicted in the Review on Antimicrobial Resistance in 2014. The new statistics should force us to take notice of the magnitude of the AMR threat — the report identifies South Asia as the hotspot.

An earlier study conducted by the US-based Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation showed that in Pakistan there were 59,200 deaths directly attributable to AMR with 221,300 deaths linked with AMR in 2019. In South Asia, new AMR mortality-related figures for Pakistan are likely to be higher than in other regional countries.

The two aspects of AMR devastation must prompt the authorities to strategise and implement measures on a war footing to reduce the scale of the rapidly growing AMR crisis.

The aforementioned meeting did indicate that there is an existing global alignment around AMR as evidenced in the adoption of the political declaration. The declaration, which was the most significant outcome of the high-level gathering, lays tremendous emphasis on framing and implementing national action plans on AMR.

Most countries have formed their plans in line with the World Health Organisation's global action plans and many are in the NAP revision process, including Pakistan. Yet implementation challenges have so far been exacerbated by funding shortfalls and the lack of sustained political will.

However, with the adoption of the political declaration, political will and funding pledges seem to have aligned well. The declaration also sets a target of 60pc of the national action plans being funded and evaluated by 2030,

along with the intention to update the global action plan by 2026.

Moreover, the head of the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, Barba-dos Prime Minister Mia Amor South Asia laun-ched a funding appeal of \$100m for the national action plans. The political declaration also sets the target of a 10pc reduction in AMR-related deaths by 2030. More importantly, given the intertwined nature of the AMR threat, a multisectoral and collaborative approach under the umbrella of One Health, steered by the Quad-ripartite arrangement, has been reinforced. The combined One Health work will be further accelerated and coordinated through a collaborative approach and increased funding appropriation.

As Pakistan is likely to be one of the worst affected countries in the South Asian region, the AMR threat is a real and present danger, which has been growing imperceptibly over many decades. Against this bleak backdrop, there is an urgent need for sharper focus on AMR control and containment programmes through accelerated and consistent political commitment and enhanced funding. This assumes special significance in light of the new research, which presents an escalated level of the AMR threat, as well as the political declaration, which puts political weight behind containment and control measures.

Therefore, the need for urgent action cannot be underestimated. The revised national action plan forms the foundation for incentivised, speedy planning on AMR with political resolve and dedicated resources. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**SMEs sector holds \$40-\$60b export potential: Ahsan Iqbal**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said that the Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) had the potential of \$40-60 billion export in the next 3 to 5 years.

Speaking at the 'Export-led Economy - Race to \$100 billion' ceremony, along with Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, he said that the government would facilitate SMEs sector to achieve this potential target.

The minister reaffirmed the government commitment to significantly increasing

exports, setting an ambitious target of \$100 billion within eight years.

He stressed that achieving this target within eight years, would be beneficial, but in case of missing, it would pose significant challenges.

Ahsan emphasized the need to enhance production and leverage key sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and information technology, mining, manpower and creative industries to drive growth.

In order to increase the exports, the government would collaborate with the relevant department/

ministries to develop a dashboard, outlining a clear road-map for growth in these sectors, he added.

Similarly, he said that only 70 out of 500 companies on the Karachi Stock Exchange generated exports of around \$10,000, and big KSE companies earned billions in profit without contributing to dollar exports.

To address this, he suggested for working on policies and incentives to encourage the private sector to contribute to the country's exports.

Jam Kamal Khan attributed Pakistan's export decline to various factors, including high

interest rates, production costs, COVID-19, and the Ukraine conflict.

However, he highlighted that the government had formulated a strategy to increase the country exports to \$60 billion.

He said that inflation and interest rates had come down consistently while the global investors were interested in investing in Pakistan. "Investors confidence has restored after International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme", he remarked.

"In the past, the focus was on textiles, now the focus is on pharmaceutical exports", he added.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with a group of investors led by Barclays at the Finance Division.



Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal and Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan in the event of Innovation Lab on Achieving \$100 Billion Exports Target organized by MoPDSI here in Islamabad.

**'Indonesia-South, Central Asia business Forum' yields transactions worth \$8.33b**

ISLAMABAD (APP): At the end of the Indonesia-South and Central Asia Business Forum (INASCA), worth \$ 8.33 billion in business and investment are expected in Indonesia through different 50 trade and investment deals in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The Indonesia-South and Central Asia Business Forum (INASCA), organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jakarta on October 7, 2024, concluded with remarkable outcomes.

This extraordinary achievement follows a series of events under the "Road to INASCA" initiative that began earlier this year.

The forum successfully secured 50 business and investment deals, amounting to \$ 8.33 billion.

The business delegations from different chambers of Commerce from Pakistan and other South and Central Asian countries, including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan participated in INASCA and promoted trilateral economic integration between Indonesia and the countries of these two regions.

Businessmen from various business sectors of Pakistan, including textile, oil consumption, and IT and technology sectors, have signed various agreements in INASCA.

**Delegation of Hutchison Ports Company calls on Qaiser Sheikh**

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level delegation from Hutchison Ports Company met with Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh to explore opportunities for expanding their operations at the South Asian Port Terminal within Karachi Port Trust (KPT).

The meeting was attended by key officials, including Secretary Maritime Affairs Syed Zafar Ali Shah and

Additional Secretary Umar Zafar Sheikh, according to a press release here on Tuesday.

During the discussions, the minister welcomed the Hutchison delegation and expressed the Ministry's unwavering support for their business initiatives. He emphasized the importance of effective terminal operations and assured the delegates of the government's commitment to facilitating growth in the maritime sector.

**LCCI welcomes govt moves to lower energy costs**

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Tuesday appreciated the government's proactive measures to review annual agreements with IPPs (Independent Power Producers) aimed at bringing down per unit electricity cost.

"This initiative is seen as a crucial response to the long-standing demand of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry regarding high cost of electricity that has hit the businesses, particularly the manufacturing and export sectors," said LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad, Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman and Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry while talking to various groups of businessmen here.

**Concrete strategy in place to meet future energy demands: Awais**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari on Tuesday said that concrete strategy has been put into place to meet the future energy's demands of the country.

"As energy always plays a key role in economy of the country so generation, transmission and distribution system of energy sector is being revamped on modern lines," he said while addressing a function here at National University of

Science and Technology (NUST).

He said the environment friendly renewable energy was also being promoted in the country adding that around 17,000 megawatts (MW) were going to be added to the system by 2034. Generation, transmission and distribution were all part of the power sector but in the past the generation part has not been added in healthy manner means at least cost methodology. However, he said we were committed to adding

generation on least cost methodology basis in the future.

He said issues with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) were being resolved amicably adding that he is grateful to IPPs for their cooperation to revise the contract condition.

He was of the views that the power has to be generated by the private sector and there should not be a single purchasers like Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) in the country.

**PSX stays bullish, gains 753 more points**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 753.68 more points, a positive change of 0.89 percent, reaching 85,663.98 points against 84,910.30 points on the last trading day. A total of 506,565,368 shares were traded during the day as compared to 449,507,635 shares the previous trading day.

**Punjab to establish electric bus terminals, depots: SMBR**

LAHORE (APP): Senior Member of the Punjab Board of Revenue (SMBR) Nabeel Javed has said that efforts are being made to provide affordable and environmentally friendly transport for the public.

He said this while chairing a meeting here on Tuesday. The meeting was attended by Colonies Member Abdul Waheed Malik, Secretary

Transport Ahmad Javed Qazi, Additional Secretary Mass Transit Authority Ayesha Mumtaz, ADC (Revenue) Lahore Habib Butt, and MD Mass Transit Authority Kanwar Anwar Ali.

During the meeting, SMBR Nabeel Javed announced that the Punjab Board of Revenue has allocated 41 kanals of land in Faisalabad.



## CM chairs 17<sup>th</sup> cabinet meeting, approves historic program of collective weddings

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presided over 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the provincial cabinet in which the largest historical program of collective weddings in Punjab was approved.

The project of group marriage of 3,000 girls from poor families was approved across Punjab. Rs. 100,000 as wed money will be given to the bride through ATM card. As many as 13 items including furniture, clothes, dinner sets will be gifted.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed to increase the scope of collective marriages.

The Cabinet approved allotment of one lakh acres of land to

landless farmers on lease for three and five years for the purpose of temporary cultivation across Punjab. In the meeting, e-bus service scheme was approved in Punjab, under which 27 buses will arrive in the first phase. 1.2 MW solar panels will be installed in the parking lot of e-buses for charging purpose. As many as 680 e-buses will be functional across Punjab by the end of the current year.

The Chief Minister sought the 'Electric Taxi Service Plan' in Lahore. Maryam Nawaz Sharif ordered strict monitoring of flour and chicken prices across the province.

It was informed in the briefing that 170,000 farmers in Punjab received

Kisan cards. Kisan cards were issued to 267,000 farmers. Around 1.1 million farmers applied for obtaining Kisan card. As many as 1-2 million applications were received for Green Tractor Scheme. Scrutiny of 700,000 applicants for green tractors has been completed.

Approval was granted to transfer funds to the Housing Department to construct 839 houses of New Pakistan Housing Scheme in Raiwind, Chiniot and Sargodha.

Age relaxation of five years has been approved for promotion to the posts of Inspector, Sub-Inspector and Assistant Sub-Inspector.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presides over the 17<sup>th</sup> Provincial Cabinet meeting.

## Constitution to be strengthened through amendment: Governor

FAISALABAD (APP): Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said on Tuesday the constitution was a supreme document which would be strengthened through constitutional amendment.

Addressing the District Bar Association (DBA), he said amendments would be made after due process of consultation with all stakeholders including lawyers. He said that PPP wanted a strategic balance between judicial and

parliamentary party with a focused vision to strengthen the democracy. He said that all decisions must be made on merit and there should be no room to speculate decisions on the basis of bench formulation. He said that his party had offered unprecedented sacrifices for the independence of judiciary. "I was in forefront of the movement for the restoration of former chief justice Ifikhar Chaudhry", he said and added that upon his restoration, Ifikhar Chaudhry smartly ignored the lawyers as well as political parties.

## KP Govt takes important decisions for security of Chinese nationals

PESHAWAR (APP): A high-level meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, on Tuesday at the Chief Minister's House and took stock of the security arrangements for Chinese nationals and other foreigners working in the province, in the context of the recent terrorist attack on a convoy of Chinese engineers in Karachi.

Important decisions were made after detailed deliberations on the future course of action to ensure foolproof security for Chinese nationals working on various development projects in the province.

The Chief Secretary, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Inspector General of Police, Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Muhammad Abid Majeed, and other senior officials attended the meeting.

Divisional commissioners and regional police officers also attended the meeting via video link.

In the meeting, it was decided to immediately purchase additional vehicles required for the security of Chinese nationals.



FAISALABAD: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan is addressing the lawyer's community at the auditorium of District Bar Association (DBA) Faisalabad.

## Efforts underway to empower Youth: Rana

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan has said that all resources were being utilised to empower the youth under the Youth Program.

they can demonstrate their talent on merit.

Rana said that the country's economy has stabilized and positive indicators show the remarkable achievements of the present government in every sector.

The Chairman PMYP added that Pakistan's hockey had won medals after 12 years in international competitions while Arshad Nadeem got an opportunity to come forward from the Punjab Youth Festival.

## ANF recovers 37.183 kg drugs in 11 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 11 operations across the country managed to recover over 37 kg drugs worth Rs 6.8 million and arrested 13 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday.

He informed that a special campaign was launched to net drug dealers supplying drugs to students of educational institutions. In an operation, 4 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused rounded up near a university in Hyderabad. 500 grams ice was recovered from an accused netted near a university on Old Shajab Road, Multan.

667 grams opium and 1.128 kg hashish were recovered near a university in Faisalabad and an accused was arrested during the operation.

310 grams hashish was recovered from a drug dealer nabbed near a college located on Pindi Road, Kohat.

## Salman chairs meeting regarding Children's heart surgery program

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique on Tuesday chaired an important meeting regarding the Chief Minister's Children's Heart Surgery Program at the Department of Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education. Parliamentary Secretary Rusdha Lodhi also attended the meeting.

Punjab Health Secretary Azmat Mehmod Khan, Special Secretary for Development Syed Wajid Ali Shah, Additional Secretary Dr. Waheed, Vice Chancellor of the University of Child Health Sciences Prof. Masood Sadiq, CEO of the Punjab Health Initiative Management Company Dr. Ali Razaq, and Nosheen, Director at the Punjab Information Technology Board, were present.

During the meeting, Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique reviewed the Chief Minister's Children's Heart Surgery Program in detail, with a briefing provided by the PITB.

## Dengue claims another life, cases mounts to 2143

RAWALPINDI (APP): One more patient died on Tuesday in Rawalpindi as dengue fever is continuously increasing as total dengue patients recorded till date are 2143 since January 2024.

Ruaqayya Amir 26 passed away at Holly Family Hospital.

The deceased belonged to Dhoke Munshi, was declared by the District Health Authority as died of Dengue Shock Syndrome (DSS). Total casualties after the recent death have reached six in Rawalpindi.

## Parliamentary secretary visits LDA Citizen Facilitation Center

LAHORE (APP): Parliamentary Secretary for Housing Barrister Sultan Bajwa made an unexpected visit to the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) Citizen Facilitation Center on Tuesday.

During the visit, LDA DG Tahir Farooq briefed him on the ongoing reforms at the facility and provided updates on the progress of daily applications received. DG Farooq assured that the processing of shifted files

was being completed within 48 hours and emphasized the LDA's focus on improving service delivery at the center. He mentioned plans to soon reactivate a call center to gather citizen feedback. Barrister Bajwa interacted with citizens present at the center, receiving their feedback on the quality of services, particularly appreciating the timely issuance of No Objection Certificates (NOCs).

## International News

## Hezbollah rockets hit Haifa as Israel steps up bombings in Lebanon

Monitoring Desk JERUSALEM: Hezbollah fired rockets at Israel's third largest city Haifa on Monday as Israeli forces looked poised to expand ground raids into south Lebanon on the first anniversary of the Gaza war, which has spread conflict across the Middle East.

Iran-backed Hezbollah, an ally of Hamas, the Palestinian group fighting Israel in Gaza, said it targeted a military base south of Haifa with 'Fadi 1' rockets and launched another strike on Tiberias, 65km away.

Hezbollah said it also targeted areas north of Haifa with rockets later in the day.

Israel's military said around 135 projectiles had entered Israeli territory on Monday. Ten people were reported injured in the

Haifa area and two others further south in central Israel. Israel's military said the air force was carrying out extensive bombings of Hezbollah targets in south Lebanon, and that two Israeli soldiers were killed in the border-area combat.

Lebanon's health ministry said 10 firefighters were killed in an Israeli airstrike on a municipal building in the town of Bint Jbeil.

The Israeli military has described its ground operation as "localised, limited and targeted" but it has steadily increased in scale since it began last week.

On Monday, the military said soldiers from its 91<sup>st</sup> Division had moved into southern Lebanon.

Also on Monday, around 100 Israeli fighters carried out a wave of strikes, hitting 120 targets in southern Lebanon within the space of an hour, including Radwan special forces units, Hezbollah's rocket force and its intelligence directorate. "This operation follows a series of strikes aimed at degrading Hezbollah's command, control, and firing capabilities, as well as assisting ground forces in achieving their operational goals," the military said in a statement.

An Israeli military statement said five rockets were launched towards Haifa from Lebanon and interceptors were fired at them. "Fallen projectiles were identified in the area. The incident is under review."

It said 15 other rockets were fired inland at Tiberias in Israel's northern Galilee region, some of which were shot down.

## Floods, landslides leave 15 dead in Meghalaya

Monitoring Desk GUWAHATI: At least 15 people have been killed in floods and landslides triggered by heavy rainfall in India's northeastern state of Meghalaya over the last four days, officials said on Monday.

More rain is expected in parts of the state through this week, with the India Meteorological Department forecasting "isolated heavy rainfall".

The weather department classifies rainfall between 64.5 mm and 115.5 mm as "heavy". Those killed include seven members of a single family who were buried alive in the South Garo Hills district, two people whose vehicle was swept away by floodwaters, and a man killed by a falling tree.

"The situation is better now as the weather

## Russian shelling kills one, wounds six in Sloviansk in eastern Ukraine

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Russian shelling killed one person and wounded six others in the eastern Ukrainian city of Sloviansk, a town near the front line of the 2-1/2-year-old war that Russia's military hopes to capture.

Vadym Filashkin, governor of Donetsk region, said on the Telegram messaging app that the shelling damaged six multi-storey apartment buildings, an administrative building and a business site.

Pictures posted online showed dwellings with shattered windows and damage to facades.

Filashkin said two children were among the injured, including a 2-year-old. Russian forces have been advancing slowly through Donetsk region in recent weeks, with the heaviest fighting gripping areas near the town of Pokrovsk, further south.



Myanmar's Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs Aung Kyaw Moe, Philippines' Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Ma. Theresa P. Lazaro, Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, Thailand's Foreign Minister Maris Sangiampongsa, Vietnam's Foreign Minister Bui Thanh Son, Laos' Foreign Minister Saleumxay Kommasith, Malaysia's Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan, Brunei's Second Minister of Foreign.

## UNICEF chief warns Gaza kids face 'post-generational challenges'

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: After a year of military operations between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, the head of UNICEF warned that children there will face "post-generational challenges" due to the conflict.

"If you look at Gaza really through the eyes of a child, it is a hellscape," UNICEF's executive director Catherine Russell told CBS News' "Face the Nation" on Sunday, noting the toll of family deaths and displacements, as well as ongoing lack of food and clean water.

"They are so traumatized by what's happening," Russell said of the kids. "Even if we can get more supplies in there, the trauma that these children are suffering is going to have lifetime and even post-generational challenges for them." The fighting started on Oct 7, 2023, when Hamas fighters killed 1,200 civilians and took about 250 hostages in Israel.

## Bangladesh's interim leader Yunus says no elections before reforms

Monitoring Desk DHAKA: Bangladesh's interim leader has refused to give a timeframe for elections following the ouster of his autocratic predecessor, saying in an interview published Tuesday that reforms are needed before polls.

Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus was appointed the country's "chief advisor" after the student-led uprising that toppled ex-premier Sheikh Hasina in August.

The 84-year-old microfinance pioneer is

## US restructures Afghan diplomacy team

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: The US State Department has announced a significant restructuring of its diplomatic strategy towards Afghanistan, appointing three senior officials to manage different aspects of its policy.

The move replaces the singular role previously held by Thomas West, the outgoing US Special Representative for Afghanistan. The new structure reflects the Biden administration's continued focus on Afghanistan, especially in light of ongoing security concerns following the Taliban's resurgence.

## Son of Osama bin Laden deported from France, barred from returning

Monitoring Desk PARIS: A son of Al Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden was deported on Tuesday from France, where he lived for years painting landscapes in a Normandy village, and barred from returning after posting comments on social media deemed to have glorified terrorism. Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau said he had signed an order banning Omar bin Laden from France and that he had previously been deported.

## Israel says senior Hezbollah official probably dead, Hezbollah backs truce efforts

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Israel's defence minister said on Tuesday it appeared the replacement for slain Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah had been "eliminated", in what would be another big blow for the Iran-backed group in Lebanon. Defence Minister Yoav Gallant made the announcement about Hashem Safieddine as Israel began ground operations in southwest Lebanon, expanding its incursions to a new zone, and as Hezbollah left the door open to a negotiated ceasefire.

Safieddine, a top Hezbollah official, was widely expected to succeed Nasrallah. Safieddine has not been heard from publicly since an Israeli airstrike late last week.

"Hezbollah is an organization without a head. Nasrallah was eliminated, his replacement was probably also eliminated," Gallant told officers at the Israeli military's northern command centre, in a brief video segment distributed by the military. "There's no one to make decisions, no one to act," he said, without providing further details. Like Nasrallah, Safieddine is a cleric who followed a path of religious descent from Islam's Prophet Mohammed. His physical resemblance to Nasrallah, who led the Lebanese Shi'ite group for more than three decades.

## Pope Francis slams world's 'shameful inability' to stop Israel-Hamas war

Monitoring Desk VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis criticised on Monday what he called the "shameful inability" of the international community to end the war in the Middle East, one year after Hamas' devastating attack on Israel.

"A year ago, the fuse of hatred was lit; it did not sputter, but exploded in a spiral of violence," he said in an open letter to Catholics in the region.

"It seems that few people care about what is most needed and what is most desired: dialogue and peace," he wrote.

"Violence never brings peace. History proves this, yet years and years of conflict seem to have taught us nothing."

Francis, who has also made Monday a day of fasting and prayers for peace for Catholics globally, has spoken more openly in recent weeks about the Hamas-Israel conflict, and has become more vocal in his criticism of Israel's mili-

itary campaign. On Sept 29, the 87-year-old pontiff criticised Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon that killed Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah as well as non-combatants, suggesting the airstrikes went "beyond morality".

Earlier in September, the pope called Israel's actions in Lebanon "unacceptable" and urged the international community to do everything possible to halt the fighting.

In his letter on Monday, Francis directly addressed Gazans: "I am with you, the people of Gaza, long embattled and in dire straits. You are in my thoughts and prayers daily," he wrote. "I am with you, who have been forced to leave your homes, to abandon schooling and work and to find a place of refuge from the bombing. ... I am with you, who are afraid to look up for fear of fire raining down from the skies," he said.





QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti addressing Climate Conference organized by Ministry of Climate Change and FDE Pakistan

## Ahsan lauds govt entities for bringing down inflation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday lauded the efforts of various government entities in bringing down the rate of inflation. The inflation remained continuously on decline during the current fiscal year and stood at 44-months lowest level of 6.9% in September 2024 as compared to 31.4% in September 2023, according to press release issued by planning division.

Chairing the meeting of National Price Monitoring Committee, the minister said, a remarkable deceleration in food inflation was

observed, showing decrease in urban food inflation to 1.7% from 33.9% over the year, whereas rural food inflation flowed in negative (-0.9%) as compared to 35.4% in the same month last year. He said, the prices of wheat flour and petrol (super) decreased significantly by 37.1% and 20% over the corresponding month of last year.

Earlier, representatives of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) gave a detailed presentation on inflation situation in Pakistan and also highlighted a significant disparity between the prices of various food items and those in the open market.

## Dy PM lauds KSrelief's vital role in delivering humanitarian assistance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday praised King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center's (KSrelief) vital role in delivering humanitarian assistance, particularly in response to recent natural disasters in Pakistan, including floods and earthquakes.

He underscored that these new initiatives would focus on building and rehabilitating essential infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, and housing.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister

was addressing a signing ceremony held for a series of key reconstruction and rehabilitation projects, to be undertaken by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief), marking a significant step in strengthening Pakistan-Saudi humanitarian cooperation. The ceremony was attended by a high-level delegation from KSrelief, led by Eng. Ahmed Ali Abdullah Al-Baiz, Assistant Supervisor General for Operations & Programs, who is currently on a visit to Pakistan. Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Shoaib Nausherwani and Mir Asim Kurd Gailu holding a meeting

## Dr. Rubaba emphasizes need for effective public health legislation,

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Advisor to Chief Minister for Women Development, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi has emphasized the need for effective public health legislation and the formulation of a One Health policy to address the pandemic situation and strengthen the health system in Balochistan.

She expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation from the International Health Regulations Islamabad under the leadership of Dr. Safi Ullah. Dr. Rubaba Buledi stated that

"to effectively respond to the challenges facing public health, it is essential to further stabilize our health system. This requires the development of modern laws and policies in the health sector that not only tackle current pandemic situations but also provide effective strategies for future health emergencies. "Highlighting the importance of collaborative efforts for effective change in the health sector, Dr. Rubaba Buledi mentioned that the implementation of a One Health policy.

## NP delegation meets DG Fisheries Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of National Party, led by Provincial Fisheries Secretary Adam Kadir Bakhs, met with Director General Fisheries Balochistan, Imran Ibrahim Bangulzai, at his office in Gwadar.

The delegation, comprising Zubair Hot, District Contact Secretary, and Abdul Qadir Baloch, Senior Leader of National Party Gwadar, discussed key issues affecting the fisheries sector, including illegal

trawling, use of banned nets, marine life conservation, illegal hunting of game fish, upgradation of Fisheries Department's force, protection of fishermen's livelihood. Director General Imran Ibrahim Bangulzai assured the delegation that the department is taking comprehensive measures to curb illegal fishing. He announced that new gunboats will be purchased, old gunboats are being repaired, tender process to begin next month.



QUETTA: Advisor of Prime Minister for Climate Change Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri meeting with Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan

## Balochistan affecting badly due to impacts of climate change: We are working to cope with challenges of climate change in available resources: CM

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has stated that the province has been affected badly due to the impacts of climate change, however, we are working to cope with the challenges remaining in the available resources.

The Chief Minister said that coping with the challenges of climate change is also included in top priorities of the incumbent provincial government.

Mir Sarfaraz Bugti was addressing the UN-led climate conference organized by the Ministry of Climate Change in collaboration with FDI Pakistan at the

Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) on Tuesday.

The Coordinator of Prime Minister for Climate Change, Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, Chairperson of Senate's standing committee on Human Rights, Ms. Samina Mumtaz Zehri, Provincial Minister for Education, Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani, representatives of the United Nations and civil society besides the faculty members and students of the BUITEMS.

The Chief Minister categorically stated that there is no role of

Balochistan in the causes of climate change, however, it is affecting due to the situation very badly.

He said that we would propose sustainable measures to tackle the situation under public-private partnership.

He asserted that cutting of forests on the commercial basis is an offense and as such stern action would be taken against those involved in it.

He said that the climate change is a very big challenge and as such the provincial government would work to cope with it together with all the stakeholders and aid institutions.



QUETTA: Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar being briefed by Advisor for IHR Federal Ministry of Health Dr. Safi Malik regarding preparation of Public Health Laws of Balochistan.

## Another petition filed in SC against proposed constitutional amendments

ISLAMABAD (Online): Another petition has been filed in Supreme Court (SC) against proposed constitutional amendments.

With the filing of this petition total number of petitions submitted against the proposed constitutional amendments have come to 5 in apex court.

New petition has been filed by advocate Saim Chaudhry making federal government, speaker National Assembly (NA) and chairman Senate respondents.

The petitioner has taken the plea that federal government cannot make amendments in conflict with the constitution. The amendments related to judiciary are tantamount to suppress independence of judiciary. The proposed constitutional amendments run contrary to the basic rights.

## Ashrafi says: Pak making notable progress in economic, foreign affairs

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi has said that Pakistan is making notable progress in both economic and foreign affairs.

Talking to media here on Tuesday, he condemned the recent Karachi blast as a malicious act aimed at destabilizing the country.

Ashrafi highlighted the significance of visits from the Malaysian Prime Minister and the Chinese Premier, as well as the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Pakistan, viewing these events as major opportunities for economic and diplomatic progress.

## Secretary LG directs to complete all development schemes of dept by end of Dec

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Secretary Local Government and Rural Development, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti. He said that tendering process of 413 schemes have been completed, which is welcoming.

He said that an environment friendly public park is also included in the development projects to be completed under the PSDP.

He stressed that all the

development schemes should be completed in line with the directives of Chief Minister, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti. He said that tendering process of 413 schemes have been completed, which is welcoming.

He said that an environment friendly public park is also included in the development projects to be completed under the PSDP. He also issued directives for bringing improvement in service delivery as per the directives of Chief Minister.



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Moazzam Jah Ansari presenting memorial shield to Director General Anti Narcotics Force Major General Abdul Moeed

## Balochistan civil society stages demo against suicide attack at Chinese nationals in Karachi

ISLAMABAD (APP): The civil society of Balochistan staged protest demonstration against the suicide attack at the Chinese nationals in Karachi on Sunday last.

The protest demonstration was staged outside the Quetta Press Club in which the activists including Babar Khajak, Allauddin Kakar and others participated.

They were carrying placards and banners inscribed with the slogans against terrorism in Karachi targeting the Chinese nationals.

They also chanted slogans in favour of Pak-China friendship. They also demanded of the government to bring those involved in terrorist to justice.

They said that the cowardly acts of terrorism such as Karachi can't demoralize the people and harm the longstanding friendship between the two friendly countries.

They said that the people of Balochistan totally reject the terrorism in the province and country.

The people of Balochistan want peace, development and friendship with China.



QUETTA: Members of Civil Society are holding protest demonstration against attack on Chinese citizens in Karachi, at Quetta press club.

## No ECP meeting scheduled for today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has categorically denied the media reports claiming a meeting of the Commission is scheduled for tomorrow, on Wednesday.

The spokesperson for the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) clarified "no meeting of the Election Commission is summoned on Wednesday" and that any reports suggesting otherwise are completely baseless and false.

## Seminar held on National Youth Helpline at BUITEMS

QUETTA (APP): HEC in collaboration with ACT International organized a seminar yesterday on National Youth Helpline at Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management (BUITEMS), Quetta.

The event, aimed to promote youth well-being and mental health awareness, was attended by more than 250 participants, including students, faculty

## FM tells foreign investors won't let go focus on ensuring structural reforms

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said Tuesday that the government was focused on ensuring that Pakistan stays on the course of structural reforms in core sectors of economy, including energy, SOEs, privatization, taxation and rightsizing of government.

He said that in the past Pakistan has been seen as a single-tranche country but time has come to remove this perception and implement the structural benchmarks agreed under the

programme with the IMF to ensure permanence to the macroeconomic stability. He made this observation while talking to a group of investors led by Barclays, who called on the Minister at Finance Division.

The Minister briefed the delegation on various policy interventions and initiatives implemented during the last 12 months to reform the economy and also gave them an overview of the growth and macroeconomic stability in key economic indicators, including twin deficits, stable currency, foreign exchange

reserves, and inflation that remained "a big story throughout the year".

The Minister said the current macroeconomic stability was an outcome of a successful conclusion of nine-month IMF Stand-by Agreement, initiated by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and implemented with discipline, rigour and vigour by the caretaker administration, paving the way for a larger and longer EFF to bring permanence to the macroeconomic stability and implement structural reforms.

He highlighted a posi-

tive outcome of the macroeconomic stability for Pakistan was its ability to not only clear the Letters of Credit and Import backlogs by May and June last year, but also clear the payments of profits and dividends close to \$ 2 billion to foreign investors. He said the new fiscal year had started on a clean slate and noted the continuation of macroeconomic stability in the first quarter with current account deficit remaining under control due to strong remittances, healthy RDA flows and exports showing positive trends in terms of diversification.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on relief activities for Palestine.

## Maulana Hidayat named Provincial Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Member Provincial Assembly and Head of Haq Do Tehreek, Maulana Hidayat Rehman has been named as the Provincial Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Balochistan.

The announcement to this effect was made here by JI on Tuesday.

According to the announcement, the election of provincial Ameer of JI has been made by its central Ameer, Hafiz Naemur Rehman in consultation with the concerned responsible persons for three years.

Over 46,000 members used their right of franchise in the polling process.

## PHC says: Problems should be resolved in parliament

PESHAWAR (Online): Peshawar High Court (PHC) has remarked problems should be resolved in parliament and what is happening will cause harm to society.

The PHC gave these remarks during hearing of transit bail of PTI leaders Shibli Faraz and Shandana Gulzar here Tuesday.

Justice Shakil Ahmad took up the transit bail plea of PTI leaders for hearing. Muazzam Butt advocate of the petitioners took the plea cases have been registered against the petitioners in Attock and Islamabad. Now they are feared to be arrested. Therefore, we have come for transit bail.

Justice Shakil Ahmad remarked what is happening is causing harm to our society.

## University of Turbat slams QESCO's inaction after power outage

TURBAT: The University of Turbat administration has strongly condemned QESCO's failure to cooperate in restoring electricity to the campus after a severe storm and heavy rainfall damaged three power transmission line poles on Monday evening.

The power outage disrupted electricity supply to the university, forcing the postponement of Tuesday's exams. Despite timely notification and requests from university officials, QESCO's technical staff refused to assist in restoring power.

University staff took initiative and successfully reinstalled the poles, but QESCO's technical team declined to complete the restoration process. This lack of cooperation has been widely criticized by the university administration. The university administration has urged QESCO's higher authorities to intervene and ensure prompt restoration of electricity. The university staff's efforts to restore power were commendable, but QESCO's inaction has caused unnecessary disruptions.

## PM seeks plan over relief assistance program for Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed for formulation of mechanism within three days, on part of the government, on aid assistance programme for Palestine.

The prime minister chaired a meeting on the progress of dispatching relief items to Gaza and Palestine, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

During the meeting, the prime minister stressed that they have to galvanize as a nation to help the Palestinian brothers who were facing oppression of occupied Zionist forces.

He also asked for involvement of country's leading NGOs in the relief activities and added that

participation of educational institutions from the public and private sectors should be ensured in this activity.

The prime minister further underlined that more students from Gaza should be provided educational facilities in Pakistan.

The meeting was briefed that since October 2023, Pakistan had dispatched 10 consignments of medicines, food items, clothing and other relief items worth 1810 tons to Palestine.

The prime minister said that the government was bringing back 71 Pakistani nationals stranded in Lebanon via Damascus while steps were being taken to bring back more Pakistani citizens from war-hit areas.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani and former Senator Rozi Khan Kakar meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

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