

# Independent

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Gwadar

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Premier, Li Qiang unveiling a plaque to mark the completion of New Gwadar International Airport.

## Pakistan, Chinese PMs virtually inaugurate New Gwadar Int'l Airport

PM terms Gwadar Int'l airport a gift from China; to serve as catalyst for economic prosperity, regional connectivity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that the completion of Gwadar International Airport showed Chinese leadership's commitment and dedication to support Pakistan's economic agenda and develop its backward areas.

Addressing a ceremony of virtual inauguration of the newly completed Gwadar International Airport here, the prime minister said that the landmark achievement was all about time-tested friendship between the two countries.

He expressed the hope that the completion of this international airport would transform Gwadar's economy in particular and the economy of Pakistan in general.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang were at hands to unveil the plaque of Gwadar International Airport. The ceremony was at-

tended by members of the both delegations, ministers, military leadership and senior officials.

The prime minister said that today, both sides had witnessed the signing and exchange of MoUs between the two countries in various fields of industry, commerce and agriculture.

"No doubt these MoUs will shape into agreements very soon through joint efforts of both countries. Once again, I thank you for your visit to Pakistan out of your busy schedule which is a reflection of your commitment to promoting friendship between the two countries," PM Shehbaz told the Chinese premier.

He further said that earlier today, the two sides held comprehensive discussions.

The prime minister also thanked President Xi, the Chinese premier and the people of China for their generous gift in shape of Gwadar International Airport.

## Media persons of Balochistan playing constructive role despite unfavourable circumstances, financial hardships: CM

Mir Sarfraz Bugti issues directives to concerned authorities to resolve issues being faced by journalists; orders to transfer land of Journalists Housing Society to Journalists Cooperative Society from Information Department; increases seed money of Journalists Welfare Fund from Rs. 230 million to Rs. 500 million immediately

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stated that media persons of the province playing their constructive role well despite the unfavourable circumstances and financial hardships.

He said that the media persons of province are infixed with the beautiful values and traditions of the province. He said that we welcome positive criticism and it is his aim to free the media persons from the government aid for healthy criti-

cism as such every possible effort would be made to resolve their issues.

The Chief Minister was speaking to a delegation of senior media persons who called on him under leadership of President of Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ), Khalil Ahmed, here on Monday.

Also present in the meeting were the former President of PFUJ, Salim Shahid, president of Quetta Press Club, Abdul Khaliq Rind and General Secretary of BUJ, Abdul Shakoor.

During the meeting, the members of delegation apprised the Chief Minister about the issues of media persons including the delay in project of Journalists Housing Society.

The Chief Minister directed to the concerned authorities to take immediate steps for resolving the issues. He also directed to transfer the proposed project of Journalists Housing Society in name of the Journalists Cooperative Society from the Information Department immediately.



QUETTA: Office bearers of Quetta Press Club and Balochistan Union of Journalists meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti

## Qatari Royal family member calls on CM Balochistan: Large number of youths of Balochistan being provided opportunities of livelihood abroad, says CM

Sheikh Talal Khalifa Al Thani says youth of Balochistan to be provided opportunities of livelihood in Qatar



### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has reiterated his government's plan to send 30,000 youth of the province to Qatar and other countries after imparting them the necessary training under the CM Youth Skills Development Programme.

He said that it is for the first time in history of the province that the youngsters are being provided opportunities of livelihood abroad in large number. These youngsters would not only earn respectable livelihood for them and their families, but would also send foreign exchange back to Pakistan.

These views were expressed by the Chief Minister while speaking to the member of Royal family of Qatar, Sheikh Talal Khalifa Al Thani, who called on him along with other members of

the family here at the CM's secretariat on Monday.

During the course of meeting, they discussed the matters of mutual interest and cooperation.

The Chief Minister apprised the member of Qatar Royal family about the CM's Youth Skills Development Programme and share details about it.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister said that the Youth Skills Development would bring economic stability in the country and province bringing down the poverty.

The member of Qatar Royal family, Sheikh Talal Khalifa Al Thani hailed the CM Balochistan Youth Skills Development Programme and termed it welcoming.

He assured that youth of the province would be provided the opportunities of livelihood in Qatar.

## Two-day SCO CHG summit kicks off today as delegates start arriving

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The twenty-third meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government (CHG) of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is set to begin on Tuesday, bringing together regional leaders to discuss enhancing collaboration with a focus on trade, economy, and cultural linkages.

The delegates from the countries participating in the annual gathering of SCO leaders have already started landing in the federal capital which has got a facelift with colorful lights, floral decorations, SCO countries' flags and banners to welcome the dignitaries. The LED display screens have been installed on the main intersections - also beautifully painted with lights and murals. The landmarks across the city have been adorned with colorful lights and Pakistani flags, also creating a rare photo-op for the citizens and fodder for social media

## Governor Balochistan praises role of lawyers for rule of law and justice

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated he held the lawyers community in high esteem and appreciate their endeavours for promotion of the rule of law and justice.

He said that the lawyers community plays important role in promoting culture of rights and responsibility



ties as well as maintaining the rule of law and creating balance among the individual rights and social duties.

The Governor was speaking to a delegation of lawyers who called on him under leadership of the provincial president of Pakistan Muslim League-N's lawyers wing, Anwar Nasim Kasi who called on him here at the Governor House on Monday.

The Governor emphasized on the importance of legal struggle in formation of a society based on the justice. He expressed his resolve for support of the lawyers community and assured his every possible cooperation to the delegation for protection of their rights and interests.

## No compromise on judicial reforms, says Bilawal

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has asserted that judicial reforms will be implemented without any compromise.

Speaking at the launch of the Hari Card in Karachi on Monday, he emphasised the party's commitment to



the promises made in the Charter of Democracy.

He stated that the launch of the Hari Card follows the Benazir Income Support Programme and the

Mazdoor Card, highlighting the PPP's focus on small farmers and the working class.

Bilawal referred to the agricultural losses suffered during President Asif Ali Zardari's first term, noting that the government was forced to import food. He underscored the need to

He called for transitioning farmers to solar power for irrigation and ensuring they receive quality seeds. "We face the dual challenge of combating climate change while supporting farmers," he added.

In his political remarks, the PPP chairman recalled that the late Benazir Bhutto had promised to implement the Charter of Democracy.

He expressed determination to fulfil those commitments and asked the public if they were satisfied with the current judicial system.

He insisted that if the public is not content, the solutions provided by Benazir should be pursued, including equal representation for all provinces in the judiciary. Bilawal rejected calls for him to back down, asserting that he remains committed to Benazir's vision.



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Premier Li Qiang holding a significant meeting with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and the Service Chiefs.

## China praises counter-terrorism efforts of Pakistan Army

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chinese Premier Li Qiang, who is in Pakistan to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit, held a significant meeting with Pakistani military officials.

During the meeting, Premier Li Qiang met with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and the service chiefs.

The discussions reaffirmed the commitment to further strengthen and expand the long-standing relations between Pakistan and China.

Key topics included defense cooperation and issues related to terrorism between the two countries.

The Chinese Premier praised the role of Pakistan's armed forces in the fight against terrorism.

## Naqvi did not assure Gohar of arranging his meeting with PTI founder

ISLAMABAD (Online): Interior ministry has said no assurance has been given by interior minister Mohsin Naqvi for arranging meeting between barrister Gohar Ali with PTI founder Imran Khan.

According to statement issued by interior ministry spokesperson Barrister Gohar Ali Khan wrote a letter to interior minister Mohsin Naqvi whereby request was made for arranging his meeting with PTI founder.

Interior minister talked to barrister Gohar Ali by telephone. Interior minister held out assurance for reviewing the application. However no assurance was given about permission for meeting with PTI founder.

## New Polio case reports from Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health (NIH) Islamabad has confirmed the detection of wild poliovirus type-1 case from Quetta District of Balochistan.

The index case had onset of paralysis on 22 August 2024.

This is the third polio case from district Quetta and the 33rd from Pakistan at large this year.

## Pakistan, China reaffirm support to each other on core issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and China on Monday reiterated their support to each other on all core issues and pledged to develop China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) phase-II at the highest standards.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Premier Li Qiang led the delegation-level talks at the Prime Minister's House.

During the meeting, the two leaders discussed all aspects of bilateral relations and discussed regional and global issues of mutual interest, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction that the Pakistan-China Strategic Cooperative Partnership which was based on mutual trust and shared principles was being further

strengthened with the passage of time.

The two sides also stressed the need for timely completion of all the ongoing projects including industry, modernization of agriculture, information technology, science and technology for the mutual benefits and for the socio-economic development of Pakistan.

The two leaders also expressed satisfaction that cooperation under CPEC had entered into a new phase.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif assured Pakistan's unwavering commitment to ensure the safety of Chinese nationals and projects in Pakistan.

The two sides agreed to continue the high-level contacts, including strengthening of all areas of bilateral cooperation.

## Pakistan emerges as important player in region: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Monday that Pakistan which faced isolation on foreign policy affairs in the past, had now emerged as a



key player in the region.

Talking to the media after the inauguration of the Media Facilitation Center at Pak-China Friendship Center, he said the present government had succeeded to end diplomatic isolation of the country and now high level delegations from many countries have been visiting Pakistan in the recent past.

"We are a very active player in the region, and we have to play an active role in the region", he remarked.

He said recently Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim concluded a highly successful visit to Pakistan and both countries signed arrangements to enhance bilateral cooperation in various sectors.

Tarar said after his visit a high-level Saudi delegation led by a Minister arrived and inked many MoUs for Saudi investment worth 2.2 billion dollars in Pakistan.

He said that all economic indicators of Pakistan were positive with inflation decreasing to record 6.9 as compared to 32 per cent last year.

He said that foreign exchange reserves and IT exports had witnessed a surge

and remittances during the first quarter of the current fiscal year had touched \$ 8.8 billion mark.

International financial institutions like International Monetary Fund and World Bank praised Pakistan's economy and renowned financial journals like Bloomberg had termed Pakistan stock exchange as the most emerging market in the region, he remarked.

He said that the Chinese Prime Minister had come to Pakistan after 11 years which was an honour.

The minister said China had always extended the hand of friendship to Pakistan, and after the recent visit of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China, the second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor was launched.

During this phase, he said business to business cooperation will be increased.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### SCO summit

It is a matter of prestige that Pakistan is hosting the SCO Heads of Government summit from tomorrow. The multilateral event in the capital is all the more important as Pakistan tries to chart an economic recovery; besides, by hosting the summit, the country appears to have thwarted attempts by certain quarters to isolate it internationally. However, the state bears great responsibility to ensure that the event passes off smoothly, especially as Pakistan confronts a wave of terrorism, and malevolent actors trying to exploit security loopholes.

Clearly, this is why the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi have been placed under virtual lockdown until the summit concludes. Ten thousand police and paramilitary personnel will protect the diplomatic mega event, while the military will also offer assistance. True, the security protocols appear excessively stringent, but the administration knows that it can take no chances as foreign dignitaries gather in the capital. In this regard, all quarters, including political parties, must ensure that no hurdles are placed in the way of the SCO summit.

Beyond the security lens, the summit offers Pakistan an opportunity to engage with other states in the neighbourhood. The SCO, a Beijing-led initiative, brings together China, Russia, the Central Asian states, Iran and others, to foster a Eurasian community that focuses on socioeconomic cooperation, harmonising counterterrorism and law-enforcement policies, and reinforcing cultural bonds. Regional integration — within South Asia, with Central Asia and the Middle East — is imperative if Pakistan is to embark on a successful path towards economic prosperity. While some may see the SCO as an 'anti-West' collective — along with the Moscow-led BRICS — this is a limited view. Partnerships between regional states and the larger neighbourhood create constituencies of peace and common efforts to encourage commerce and economic activity. No one, therefore, should feel threatened by the fact that Eurasian states are coming together to pursue shared goals. Forums like the SCO also offer states such as Pakistan and India, which do not have cordial relations, platforms to improve ties under a multilateral umbrella.

In this regard, the arrival of the Indian external affairs minister in Islamabad for the summit will be watched closely, though a bilateral breakthrough is not expected. Together with the SCO, Pakistan should also endeavour for full BRICS membership — for which it has applied — and engage other regional blocs to expand its trade horizons and improve foreign relations. At one time, Pakistan was a major voice in the comity of developing nations and the Muslim world. Due to our own internal weaknesses, specifically economic meltdowns, our international stature has been severely reduced. A successful holding of the SCO summit would signal that Pakistan is very much back on the world stage.

## Back in the news

Huma Yusuf

"You can check out any time you like, but you can never leave." Those famous lyrics are going to haunt American officials after next month's US presidential elections as Washington again considers its Afghanistan problem. How it will broach this problem is unsurprisingly of interest to Pakistan's establishment. But rather than endure a case of déjà vu, could our leaders pitch a new approach?

Just under 24 million Afghans require humanitarian assistance, 48 per cent of them live below the poverty line, and Afghan women's rights are so decimated that women are now prohibited from even speaking in public. Over the past three years, these factors have not been sufficient to draw global attention to Afghanistan. The world remains focused on the conflict in the Middle East, Russia's posturing, and US-China rivalry.

And yet, Afghanistan is creeping back into America's line of sight, and the recent arrest of an Afghan national in Oklahoma for allegedly planning Election Day attacks in the name of ISIS will put the issue into centre focus. The man was apprehended while trying to stockpile weapons after trawling through online IS propaganda. His detention is a reminder that the US is not secure against terrorism while militant safe havens persist.

Even earlier, Afghanistan was back in US headlines, because it has become a useful punching bag in the context of domestic politics. America's chaotic departure from Afghanistan — based on a deal with the Afghan Taliban brokered by the Trump administration, followed by an exit plan executed by the Biden administration — has featured repeatedly

on the campaign trail, with Republicans and Democrats blaming each other for all that went wrong.

The Republican Party timed its publication last month of a report that sharply criticises the Biden administration for failing to plan for the return to power of the Taliban, and taking steps to safely evacuate Americans and their Afghan allies beforehand. It aims to defend the Republicans' record following last year's After Action Review, an internal US government probe into both sides' failings during the withdrawal, particularly the failure to anticipate and plan for worst-case scenarios. Having stirred the Afghan pot to win domestic political points, the next US government will have to contend with what it has brewed.

Reprioritisation of Afghanistan will also be driven by the fact that Russia is seeking to emerge as a regional leader on the topic. The Moscow Format meeting involving regional governments earlier this month focused on Afghanistan, and stressed how regional security hinges on the Taliban's ability to clamp down on militant groups operating from its soil. This is not a conversation Washington can easily ignore.

In this context, Pakistan is preparing for a throwback to the days when Washington worried about global terrorism threats emanating from Afghanistan, and sought to tackle them by scattering counterterrorism funding in Islamabad's direction. Increased CT cooperation was the focus of bilateral meetings between the US and Pakistan in May, and the government's decision to 'reinvigorate' its national CT strategy in June appeared strategically timed.

No doubt, Pakistan

faces a grave and material security threat from groups such as the TTP that carry out cross-border attacks from Afghanistan. The rapid rise in militant attacks is alarming: August's death toll of 254 people killed in militant attacks — the highest over the past six years — was an unambiguous warning sign. Pakistan should absolutely do whatever it takes to eliminate this security threat, including cooperating with regional governments similarly affected, as well as global players with their own vested interests such as the US.

But what the state should not do is cynically use CT considerations as a blunt instrument against public dissent. Nor should it assume that rekindled US interest in regional security offers it carte blanche to clamp down in the name of national security. The PTM ban on tenuous security grounds, the conflation of Pakhtun identity with terrorism and anti-state positioning, the focus on Afghan flags at the PTM jirga — these are missteps that distract from the real threat and damage state credibility.

Perhaps this time around the government can take advantage of the presence of a large, local constituency that is opposed to extremist violence, and instead, privileges peaceful protest, rule of law and democratic rights. Throughout our erstwhile 'war on terror' we sought effective CT narratives.

These now exist in the form of grassroots movements across the country.

A changing geopolitical context should not embolden their suppression — it should empower them as strong alternatives to future cycles of violence. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Educational divide

Arshad Saeed Khan

While basic education is a constitutional right of every child in Pakistan, millions of children and youth remain deprived of this fundamental means of living a quality life. The recently launched District Education Performance Index (DEPI) by the Ministry of Planning and Development represents a significant step towards comparing the state of education across 134 districts in Pakistan.

The findings of the report reveal severe disparities in both access to and quality of education, with a staggering 77 districts categorised as 'low' performers. Most of these districts are concentrated in Balochistan and Sindh, revealing deep-rooted interprovincial inequities. Despite its pioneering effort, the DEPI report raises important questions about the robustness of its design, methodology, and title.

A stark contrast emerges when comparing Islamabad and Rajanpur, two districts with nearly identical populations of 2.3 million. According to the DEPI, Islamabad ranks at the top of the 134 districts, while Rajanpur languishes far behind in 80th place. Despite both districts being part of the same country, their educational realities could not be more different. In Islamabad, 84 per cent of individuals (aged 10-plus) are literate, reflecting its privileged educational infrastructure. Meanwhile, in Rajanpur, the literacy rate is a mere 37pc, underscoring the region's severe educational deprivation.

The disparities become even more striking when examining school attendance. In Islamabad, only 40,477 residents — roughly 2pc of the population —

have 'never' attended school. In Rajanpur, however, a shocking 1.2m people (52pc) have been denied even this basic right.

In Islamabad, fewer than 90,000 children (15pc) are out of school, whereas in Rajanpur, a staggering 442,819 children (56pc) remain outside the education system. Who bears responsibility for Rajanpur's dismal educational performance? It is unfair to hold Rajanpur accountable for the neglect and deprivation faced by its children.

The real difference lies in the systemic advantages Islamabad enjoys. As the seat of power, home to decision-makers, parliamentarians, custodians of state funds, and a myriad of educated employees, Islamabad benefits from a concentration of resources and attention that is unavailable to districts like Rajanpur. Meanwhile, Rajanpur's underperformance is symptomatic of a broader structural discrimination. Its remoteness from the corridors of power, especially from the provincial capital of Lahore (often referred to as Takht-i-Lahore), leaves it marginalised and underserved.

Of the 34 indicators used by the DEPI to assess district performance in education, 18 — over 53pc — are beyond the authority of the districts and fall under the jurisdiction of provincial governments. Districts depend entirely on the discretion of officials and political leaders in provincial capitals for development budgets, teacher appointments, new school construction, and essential facilities such as computer labs. How can a district's performance be accurately judged in areas

outside its control?

The disconnect between certain DEPI indicators and ground realities is clear in one notable example: the average tenure of a provincial secretary of education is used as an indicator of district performance under the domain of 'governance and management'. How can districts influence the tenure of a provincial secretary when decisions, including premature transfers, are made by the chief minister or chief secretary?

District officers have these matters. This flaw in the DEPI framework highlights the need for significant revisions. True performance can only be gauged when districts have the power and the means to meet their goals, which they clearly do not. Districts remain mere spectators, wholly dependent on provincial decisions. So, what the DEPI really shows is not 'performance' but the current state of educational deprivation and neglect. The right to free and compulsory education (Article 25-A) is a constitutional duty shared by federal, provincial, and local governments, and none can shirk this responsibility. Shockingly, over 25m children aged five to 16 are currently out of school in Pakistan, while the illiterate population has swelled from 50m in 1998 to 60m in 2017 and 67m in the 2023 census. We must move beyond superficial rankings and enact meaningful reforms that empower districts and ensure equitable resource distribution.

Only then can we build a society where every child has the chance to access quality education and thrive. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### New ADB country director for Pakistan assumes office

ISLAMABAD (APP): Asian Development Bank's (ADB) newly appointed Country Director for Pakistan, Xiaojin (Emma) Fan joined the Pakistan Resident Mission here Monday to officially commence her role.

As Country Director, Ms. Fan will oversee ADB's operations in Pakistan, including the implementation of the country partnership strategy (CPS) that prioritizes lifting growth, increasing resilience, and boosting competitiveness, said ADB press release issued here. She will also lead the consultation for the new CPS covering the period from 2026 to 2030, it added. "I am delighted to be back in Pakistan to lead the country office. I look

forward to promoting ADB's longstanding partnership with the government and people of Pakistan," said Ms. Fan. "ADB will continue to work closely with Pakistan's federal and provincial governments, the private sector, and other stakeholders to speed-up economic recovery, implement reforms, and champion policies and development processes to create jobs. We'll scale up our support for climate resilience, private sector development, and institutional development; and we will continue to foster livable cities, rural development, digital ecosystems, growth centers, and regional cooperation and

integration," she added.

A national of New Zealand, Ms. Fan holds a Doctorate in Economics from the Australian National University, and Master's and bachelor's degrees from Lanzhou University in the People's Republic of China (PRC). She has more than 30 years of professional experience, including 22 years in ADB.

Ms. Fan joined ADB in June 2002 as an Economist, and since then has held positions of increasing responsibility in various departments across the bank.

In December 2013, she was appointed as Advisor for ADB's Strategic Planning Department (SPD) and the Head of its Results Management Unit.



DUBAI: Pakistan's Ambassador to UAE, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi inaugurates Pakistan Pavilion at GITEX GLOBAL at Dubai World Trade Centre.

### Huawei showcases innovative AI-Ready Cloud at GITEX 2024 in Dubai

ISLAMABAD (APP): Huawei Cloud is set to demonstrate its commitment to intelligent upgrades at GITEX 2024 in Dubai through its innovative AI-ready cloud to meet the industry-specific requirements, including carrier, government, finance, media and entertainment, Web3, and e-commerce and retail.

According to a news release received here on Monday Alan Qi, President of Huawei Cloud Middle East and Central

Asia, said, "Huawei Cloud brings global digital transformation best practices to the region with AI-native cloud services like databases, big data, data governance, software development, and AI."

We partner with industry leaders to create solutions for government, electricity, finance, media, e-commerce, and retail, promoting digital and intelligent transformation. Additionally, we connect local industries with global

enterprises to foster innovation through peer exchanges and successful practices."

Under its "Everything-as-a-Service" strategy, Huawei Cloud offers all-digital, all-cloud, and AI-driven services, including Infrastructure, Technology, and Expertise as a Service.

Shahzad Rasheed — CEO of Huawei Cloud Pakistan, said, "At Gitex, we're witnessing the future of cloud innovation unfold before our eyes."



LAHORE: Chairman Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) Muntaha Ashraf in a group photo with Chinese delegation during a meeting.

### Minister Kirmani says: Institutional reforms to improve service delivery

MULTAN (APP): Provincial Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Ashiq Hussain Kirmani on Monday said that service delivery would be enhanced through institutional reforms in line with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister.

In a statement issued here, he announced that special powers were being granted to the Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture to resolve institutional challenges through better policy-

making and provide improved services to farmers. Chairing a meeting at the Agriculture House, the minister highlighted that Punjab focused on promoting innovation and value addition in the agriculture sector. Generous funding was being provided to ensure that production targets were met strengthening the national economy, he added. The transformation of agriculture would lead to economic stability, he noted.

### Rupee sheds 03 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Monday depreciated by 03 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.66 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.63.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs278 and Rs279.50 respectively. The price of Euro decreased by 48 paise to close at Rs303.46 against the last day's closing of Rs303.94, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

### Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was report at the port where five ships, Apollon-D, Maersk Saratoga, Karpathos Dawn, Solar Cateca and Isabella Kosan scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice, Palm oil and Chemicals berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal and Engro Vopak Terminal respectively on Sunday.

### 'CM livestock card will be launched soon'

SARGODHA (APP): Director General of Livestock and Dairy Development Punjab Dr. Muhammad Ashraf on Monday visited the Livestock Complex Sargodha.

During his visit, he inspected various facilities including the Director Livestock Office, Diagnostic Laboratory, Vaccine Cold Chain, and the Chief Minister Punjab Livestock Facilitation Desk.

Dr. Muhammad Ashraf also planted a sapling in the office lawn

and expressed satisfaction with the cleanliness of the premises.

Director Livestock Dr. Arif Sultan provided a briefing and presented a performance report.

Additional Directors of Livestock from all four districts were also present during the briefing. In his address, Director General of Livestock and Dairy Development Punjab Dr. Muhammad Ashraf said that the Chief Minister Punjab Livestock Card will be launched soon.

### SIFC playing pivotal role in country's economic development

ISLAMABAD (Online): Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is playing a pivotal role in taking the country's economy on the path of development and restoring the confidence of the world. As a result of these efforts, China, Russia and Brazil have recently expressed their desire to invest in various sectors of Pakistan. China desires to shift its various industries to Pakistan while Russia and Brazil are involved in trade agreements with Pakistan.

### Chinese premier's visit to strengthen Pakistan-China economic ties: Malik

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Ifikhar Ali Malik said on Monday that Chinese Premier Li Qiang's four-day visit to Pakistan marks another significant milestone in further deepening bilateral economic and trade relations between the two countries.

besides fortifying the invincible bonds of brotherhood and steadfastness of friendship. In his statement issued here, he said the visit underscores the unwavering friendship and brotherhood that has characterized China-Pakistan ties for decades. Both countries share a deep-rooted bond that has

been described as "higher than the mountains and deeper than the sea," and Premier Li's visit is set to solidify these ties even further.

He said the visit will help expanding cooperation in various sectors, particularly in trade, infrastructure development, and energy projects. China is already Pakistan's largest trading partner and a key player in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which has brought billions of dollars in investments to Pakistan. This visit will further enhance these economic initiatives, fostering mutual growth and development, he added.



ISLAMABAD: A shopkeeper arranging and displaying perfumes to attract the customers in the city.

### Political activity in capital must be under the law: MCCI president

MULTAN (APP): Multan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) President Mian Bakhtawar Tanveer Sheikh said on Monday that any political activity in the federal capital must be under the law, especially during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.

Talking to APP here Monday, he asked the government to take appropriate measures for maintaining peace and order in the capital after understanding the gravity

of the situation. He said there should be no unlawful gatherings in Islamabad, especially during the SCO summit.

The government's role is to ensure equal rights for all citizens to balance the situation while maintaining peace, he added.

He said the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was a business conference and a key event for fostering economic collaboration among SCO member states.

## 242 decisions of KP Cabinet implemented

### Independent Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cabinet has held a total of 15 meetings so far, in which 319 important decisions were made, out of total 242 decisions have been implemented completely, and whereas remaining 77 decisions are in the process of implementation. The decisions made during cabinet meetings include 76 important decisions related to the Finance Department, 51 related to the Law Department, and 26 related to the Local Government Department, 19 decisions related to the Planning

Department, 34 to the Home Department, 27 to the Education Department, and 28 to the Health Department.

Some of the key decisions of the provincial cabinet include; the approval of important legal drafts, funds for development projects, and other public welfare initiatives, in addition to approval of Memorandums of Understanding, agreements and important policies of the government.

A review meeting held here on Monday with the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin

Khan Gandapur in the chair, took stock of the progress made on the decisions of the cabinet meetings.

The participants were informed that a total of 2564 new vacancies have been approved in the cabinet meetings. Moreover, Rs 8.5 billion has been released for the deserving households under the Ramadan package. Additionally, 1356 new vacancies have been approved to strengthen police in the province, and Rs. 600 Million have been released for the purchase of armored vehicles for the police.

## CM Punjab lauded for uniform sanitation system for urban, rural areas

SIALKOT (APP): Punjab Land Record Authority (PLRA) Chairman Chaudhry Tariq Subhani has said that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has made a uniform sanitation system a reality in rural and urban areas of the province and the entire system has been outsourced.

He was talking to people after inspecting the bulk waste lifting and dumping process and the cleaning of the drains and streets under Suthra Punjab Program at Bhal of Uion Council (UC) Syedan-Wali, here today. Now door-to-door

garbage collection from villages will be started in the next two weeks and in addition to cleaning and sanitation services, garbage will be lifted and dumped in accordance with hygienic principles, he added.

Deputy Director Local Government (DDLG) Department Umer Amjad Baig, Chief Officer (CO) District Council Fida Mir, ADLG Muhammad Jameel Gul besides UC Secretary, members of UC Committees and local dignitaries were also present in a large number.

## PPP leader for immediate convening of CCI meeting

PESHAWAR (APP): Chairman inter-provincial coordination committee (ICC) and parliamentary leader of PPP Ahmed Kundi in Monday called for immediate convening of a meeting of the Council of Common Interests (CCI).

Chairing over an introductory meeting of the ICC here he said that the CCI meeting should be held within 90 days as a constitutional requirement and deplored that it could not be held for the last eight months.

He said that the KP government should write a letter to fulfill this constitutional obligation as soon as possible.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi inaugurates NADRA registration Center at Provincial Assembly.

## Governor Punjab says: SCO summit's testament of world's faith in Pakistan

### Independent Report

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has said that the holding of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Pakistan is a testament of world's faith in Pakistan as an important partner.

"Presence of twenty heads of countries is a matter of pride for the country. The SCO summit is a positive development that augurs well for the economic development of Pakistan," Governor Punjab said while talking to the office-bearers, ticket holders and workers belonging to District

Sheikhupura at the Governor's House, here on Monday.

He said the SCO summit will open new horizons for development, adding that the economy has started to improve in Pakistan and foreign investment is also increasing.

He said that the arrival of twenty leaders in Pakistan is proof that Pakistan's image has improved at the global level.

He said that the federal government and all institutions deserve kudos for hosting the SCO summit in Pakistan.

The Governor Punjab said that the SCO conference is the key to the economic development of Pakistan, after which new avenues of development will open in the country.

He said that PTI's protest on the occasion of SCO meeting is against the country's interest. He added that PTI's call for protest on this occasion is like stopping the country's development. He said the masses have rejected PTI's call for protest. The Governor further said that everyone including the opposition has to play a positive role for the betterment of the nation.

## Governor inaugurates passport, Nadra offices in KP Assembly

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Monday inaugurated passport and Nadra offices in the provincial assembly.

The event was attended by Speaker Babar Salim Swati, Deputy Speaker Suraya Bibi, Opposition Leader Dr. Ibadullah, PPP parliamentary leader PPP Ahmad Karim Kundi, Director General of Passport Mustafa Kamal Qazi, and Nadra Director Khalid Inayatullah, along with other assembly members and secretariat staff.

The Governor's visit aimed to provide assembly members, secretariat staff, and press gallery

representatives with the convenience of computerized identification cards and passports right at their doorstep.

This marked Kundi's first visit to the provincial assembly as Governor, during which he also reviewed the assembly hall and the jirga hall.

Talking to media, Kundi expressed gratitude to the Federal Interior Minister for their significant support for the project.

He acknowledged the critical role played by Speaker Babar Salim Swati in establishing the parliamentary jirga and emphasized the need to set aside political differences to focus on restoring peace.



LAHORE: Angry students protest by burning tyres and furniture a local college, after the alleged rape of a female student by security card at Gulberg in the Provincial Capital.

## WCLA launches guided tour of Lahore Fort hidden places

LAHORE (APP): For the first time the Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA) has launched a guided tour of the Lahore Fort in which the hidden spaces of the fort have been opened and the tourists can see them with a trained guide of WCLA.

According to WCLA sources here on Monday, this is a monthly guided tour launched by the WCLA in 2024. Places inside Lahore Fort like Arzagh, Kala Burj, Akbari

Gate, Akbari Hammam, Kharak Singh Haveli with rooftop views, Akbari Mahal, Sheesh Mahal Attic Rooms, Ranjeet Singh's Last Living Room, British Barracks or Jails, Mughal era Water Channels, The Mysterious grave in the basement, Torture cells near the Royal Kitchens, Zanana Masjid, Naag Temple, Summer Palace and Daulat Khana Khas o Aam have been opened to the public for the first time in this tour.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan expressing his views while meeting the office bearers, ticket holders and workers belonging to District Sheikhupura here at Governor House Lahore.

## Police confronting anti-state elements in Bannu: Paktoon

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering, Paktoon Yar Khan has said that an attack occurred at Bannu Police Lines shortly after the funeral of a martyred officer.

Giving details of the incident, he said that Bannu Police are actively confronting anti-state elements. He said that five terrorists have infiltrated the police

lines, and an exchange of fire is ongoing, involving both small and large weapons. Authorities have sealed off the surrounding areas, with concerns about potential casualties and financial losses.

Emergency protocols have been implemented in hospitals across Bannu. The minister said that terrorism in any form is unacceptable.

## Man released from jail after 18 years killed

PESHAWAR (APP): A man released after spending 18 years in jail was shot dead by his rivals in the vicinity of Mattani police station, police said on Monday.

The incident occurred in Shaheedan Azakhel area of Mattani where 45-year-old, Akhtar Ali who was released from jail after 18 years, was killed by his rivals. Kifayat Ullah, a relative of the deceased, told police that Akhtar Ali and his brother were bringing firewood when Akhtar was allegedly killed by his rivals, Hukam Sher and his son Momin.

# International News

## Israel says 4 soldiers killed by Hezbollah drone attack while Israeli strike in Gaza leaves 20 dead

### Monitoring Desk

DEIR AL-BALAH: A Hezbollah drone attack on an army base in central Israel killed four soldiers and severely wounded seven others Sunday, the military said, in the deadliest strike by the militant group since Israel launched its ground invasion of Lebanon nearly two weeks ago. The Lebanon-based Hezbollah called the attack near Binyamina city retaliation for Israeli strikes on Beirut on Thursday that killed 22 people. It later said it targeted Israel's elite Golan brigade, launching dozens of missiles to occupy Israeli air defense systems during the assault by "squadrons" of drones.

Israel's national rescue service said the attack wounded 61. With Israel's advanced air-defense systems, it's rare for so many people to be injured by drones or missiles. Hezbollah and Israel have traded fire almost daily in the year since the war in Gaza began, and fighting has escalated.

Israel launched its

ground operation in Lebanon earlier this month with the goal of weakening Hezbollah and pushing the militant group away from the border to allow thousands of displaced Israelis to return to their homes.

Inside Gaza, an Israeli airstrike killed at least 20 people including children at a school Sunday night, according to two local hospitals. The school in Nuseirat was sheltering some of the many Palestinians displaced by the war.

Meanwhile, explosions hit early Monday outside Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah, killing three people and injuring about 50 others, the hospital said. Tents caught fire, and residents of the Central Gaza community carried the injured into the hospital.

Hezbollah's deadly strike in Israel came the same day that the United States announced it would send a new air-defense system to Israel to help bolster protection against missiles, along with troops needed to

operate it. An Israeli army spokesperson declined to provide a timeline.

Israel is now at war with Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon — both Iran-backed militant groups — and is expected to strike Iran in retaliation for a missile attack earlier this month. Iran has said it will respond to any Israeli attack. The U.N. peacekeeping force in Lebanon known as UNIFIL said Israeli tanks forcibly entered the gates of one position early Sunday and destroyed the main gate. They later fired smoke rounds near peacekeepers, causing skin irritation. UNIFIL called the incident a "further flagrant violation of international law."

International criticism is growing after Israeli forces have repeatedly fired on U.N. peacekeepers since the start of the ground operation in Lebanon. Five peacekeepers have been wounded in attacks that struck their positions, with most blamed on Israeli forces.

## Israeli minister denounces UN peacekeepers as fighting rages

### Monitoring Desk

JERUSALEM: Israeli Energy Minister Eli Cohen on Monday accused the United Nations' UNIFIL peacekeepers in south Lebanon of being a "useless" force that failed to protect Israelis from Hezbollah attacks and called on it to withdraw as fighting ramps up. "The State of Israel will do everything to ensure the safety of its citizens, and if the UN cannot help, at least it should not interfere, and move its personnel from the combat zones," he said on X. Israel and the United Nations have been trading accusations over the peacekeepers in south Lebanon, as Israel pushes its forces through the area in an attempt to wipe out Iran-backed Hezbollah

and its military infrastructure.

The UN said Israeli tanks had burst into its base on Sunday, the latest allegations of Israeli violations against peacekeeping forces, that have been condemned by Hezbollah and by Israel's allies.

Israel disputed the UN account and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called for the peacekeepers to withdraw, saying they were providing "human shields" for Hezbollah during an upsurge in hostilities.

The UNIFIL peacekeeping force said two Israeli Merkava tanks destroyed the main gate of a base and forcibly entered before dawn on Sunday.

## WHO approves Bavarian Nordic's mpox vaccine for adolescents

### Monitoring Desk

MUNICH: The World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Monday it had approved Bavarian Nordic's mpox vaccine for adolescents aged 12 to 17 years, an age group considered especially vulnerable to outbreaks of the disease that has triggered global concern. The WHO said in a statement that it gave the Jynneos vaccine prequalification for adolescents on Oct 8. The WHO declared mpox a global public health emergency for the second time in two years in August after a new type of the virus spread from the Democratic Republic of Congo to its neighbours.



Lebanese army soldier inspects a site damaged by an Israeli air strike in the Christian-majority region of Aitou in north Lebanon.

## Kremlin says NATO's nuclear exercises fuel tensions in light of 'hot war' in Ukraine

### Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: The Kremlin said that NATO's annual nuclear exercise involving nuclear-capable military aircraft, which began on Monday, was fuelling tensions in light of the "hot war" unfolding in Ukraine. NATO was due to begin its annual "Steadfast Noon" nuclear exercise on Monday, the alliance's Secretary General Mark Rutte said on Thursday, something he cast as a powerful display of deterrence capabilities against a backdrop of heightened

nuclear rhetoric from Russian President Vladimir Putin.

F-35A fighter jets and B-52 bombers will be among some 60 aircraft from 13 nations taking part in the exercise, hosted by Belgium and The Netherlands, NATO officials said.

"In the conditions of a hot war, which is going on within the framework of the Ukrainian conflict, such exercises lead to nothing but further escalation of tension," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

## Russia calls on BRICS partners to create alternative to IMF

### Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Russia, which chairs the BRICS group this year, has called on its partners to create an alternative to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to counter political pressure from Western nations ahead of the BRICS summit later this month. BRICS, originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, and China, has expanded to include South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates. Top BRICS finance and central bank officials are meeting in Moscow this week.

## Philippine defence minister doubts China's intent on South China Sea code

### Monitoring Desk

MANILA: The Philippines doubts China's intention to negotiate a regional code of conduct in the South China Sea although Manila is looking forward to continuing discussions, Defence Minister Gilberto Teodoro said on Monday.

Teodoro said that while President Ferdinand Marcos Jr had approved "good-faith discussions",

## China deploys record 125 warplanes in large scale military drill in warning to Taiwan

### Monitoring Desk

TAIPEI: China employed a record 125 aircraft, as well as its Liaoning aircraft carrier and ships, in large-scale military exercises surrounding Taiwan and its outlying islands Monday, simulating the sealing off of key ports in a move that underscores the tense situation in the Taiwan Strait, officials said.

China made clear it was to punish Taiwan's president for rejecting Beijing's claim of sovereignty over the self-governed island.

The drills came four days after Taiwan celebrated the founding of its government on its National Day, when Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te said in a

speech that China has no right to represent Taiwan and declared his commitment to "resist annexation or encroachment."

"This is a resolute punishment for Lai Ching-te's continuous fabrication of 'Taiwan independence' nonsense," China's Taiwan Affairs Office said in a statement.

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense said 90 of the aircraft, including warplanes, helicopters and drones, were spotted within Taiwan's air defense identification zone. The single-day record counted aircraft from 5:02 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Shipping traffic was operating as normal, the ministry said.

## North Korea set to blow up cross-border roads with South amid drone row, Seoul says

### Monitoring Desk

SEOUL: North Korea is getting ready to blow up roads that cross the heavily militarised border with South Korea, Seoul said on Monday, amid an escalating war of words after the North accused its rival of sending drones over its capital Pyongyang.

North Korean troops were working under camouflage on the roads on its side of the border near the west and east coasts that are likely preparations to blow up the roads, possibly as early as on Monday, South Korea's military spokesman said.

Last week, North Korea's Army said it would completely cut roads and railways connected to South Korea and fortify the areas on its side of the border, state media KCNA reported. Separately, North Korea on Friday accused South Korea of sending drones to scatter a "huge number" of anti-North leaflets over Pyongyang, in what it called a political and military provocation that

could lead to armed conflict.

Lee Sung-jun, a spokesman for the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff, declined on Monday to answer questions over whether the South Korean military or civilians flew the drones.

In further statements over the weekend, North Korea warned of a "horrible disaster" if South Korean drones were again found to be flying over Pyongyang. On Sunday, it said it has put eight fully armed artillery units at the border "on standby to open fire."

South Korea's military has said its refusal to answer questions on the drones is because addressing what the North has alleged would be to get drawn into a tactic by Pyongyang to fabricate excuses for provocations. South Korea has sought to boost its anti-drone defences since 2022, Lee said, when five North Korean drones entered its airspace and flew over the capital Seoul for several hours.

## Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Li Qiang visit Pakistan to expand bilateral cooperation, build high quality CPEC

BEIJING (APP): Chinese Premier Li Qiang official visit to Pakistan would enhance traditional friendship, strengthen strategic communication, expand bilateral cooperation across the board and building of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in a high quality way, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Monday.

Through this visit, China looks to working with Pakistan to enhance the traditional friendship, strengthen strategic communication, build China Pakistan Economic Corridor in a high quality way, deepen and expand cooperation across the board, and accelerate the building of a closer China Pakistan community with a shared

future in the new era and jointly work for regional peace, development and prosperity, Mao Ning said during her regular briefing held here.

At the invitation of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Chinese Premier Li Qiang is visiting Pakistan from October 14 to 17.

The spokesperson said that China and Pakistan are ironclad friends and all weather strategic cooperative partners and added, Our relations have stood the test of time and remained rock solid.

She pointed out that this June Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif paid an official visit to China. The two sides actively delivered on the

important common understandings reached by the leaders of the two countries and the bilateral relations have maintained sound momentum of development.

She said that this is primarily Li Qiang first visit to Pakistan after he took office and marks exchange of visits at the head of government level between the two countries within a year, which is of significance to deepening all weather strategic cooperative partnership.

During the visit, Premier Li Qiang of the State Council will attend the 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to be held in Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Premier, Li Qiang in delegation level talks.

## All Parties Conference AJK govt always supports Kashmir freedom struggle: Prime Minister Ch Anwar

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Prime Minister (PM), Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has reiterated his government's all out support to Kashmir cause of self-determination.

The AJK PM said this while addressing an All-party conference held in Poonch Division's Rawalakot city under the aegis of Jammal Islami Azad Jammu and Kashmir late Sunday.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that the basic purpose for establishing base camp was to strengthen the freedom movement and liberate the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The ideological basis of a nation is something that one cannot compare with that of development", the PM said, adding that AJK had progressed beyond imagination since 1947. He said that the people of Azad Kashmir enjoyed every kind of facility.

"We are providing electricity to our citizens at three rupee per unit and 40 KG flour at 2000 rupees", the PM said. "Do the people in Indian occupied Kashmir enjoy same rights and privileges as people of Azad Kashmir do?", the PM asked.

He said that there was no need to adopt an apologetic tone when it comes the issue of Kashmir.

## Sustainable & permanent solution to financial issues of public sector universities to be found: CM

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stated that the sustainable and permanent solution of the issues of public sector universities of the province would be found out.

He said that the provincial government doesn't want that any employee including the teachers may not face any problem for the salaries. He said that teachers are respected segment of the society and as such we are finding permanent solution to the issues and challenges being faced by universities. In this con-

text, result oriented steps would be taken by making important decisions in the high level meeting to be held this week.

In the meeting, performance of the universities and hardships being faced by them would be reviewed and strategy would be prepared to resolve the issues from all aspects.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the teachers of public sector universities here on Monday. They apprised the Chief Minister about their problems.

During the course of meeting, Provincial Minis-

ters Mir Sadiq Umrani, Ms. Raheela Hameed Durrani and Mir Shoaib Nausherwani and Member Provincial Assembly, Khair Jan Baloch.

The Chief Minister urged the public sector universities to refrain from unnecessary recruitments and development projects.

He also asked them to ensure transparency in the financial matters and work on the projects of self-sufficiency. He stressed that the universities of the province would have to adopt modules according to the requirements of modern era.



QUETTA: Faculty members of various public sector universities meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti. Provincial Ministers Mir Sadiq Umrani, Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani and MPA Khair Jan Baloch are also present

## Terrorism increased due to bad governance in Balochistan, says Sardar Khetran

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering (PHE) and WASA, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran has stated that there is a bad governance in the province, as a result of which, the terrorism has been increased.

The Provincial Minister for PHE and WASA was speaking to the media persons soon after the session of provincial assembly here on Monday.

Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran said that the government is lacking its writ

in the province. He pointed out that a total of 44 persons were martyred in Loralai during last 50 days.

He said that the terrorists want to create panic and harassment among people of the province. He said that the terrorists are wandering without any hesitation just because of the bad governance.

He regretfully pointed out that the incidents of terrorism were occurred but the concerned DIG police and Commissioner didn't bother to inform the elected public representative.

## Chinese PM Li given guard of honour at PM House

ISLAMABAD (APP): Premier of the State Council of China Li Qiang on Monday was given a guard of honour at the Prime Minister's House as he arrived there to meet Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and hold the delegation-level talks.

As Premier Li arrived at the venue of formal welcome reception, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif warmly welcomed him.

The national anthems of Pakistan and China were played as the dignitary stood at the salute dias.

The smartly turned-out contingents of three armed forces presented a guard of honour which Premier Li reviewed.

## Avaz says Protecting rights of visually impaired persons essential to make them productive citizens

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Monday said that the white cane is a symbol of independence, confidence, and freedom for those with visual impairments.

While paying tribute to the courage and resilience of visually impaired persons on the occasion of White Cane Safety Day, he said that this day serves as an encouragement for all of us to support and empower visually impaired individuals and include them in the national mainstream.

The Speaker emphasized that visually impaired individuals are an important part of our society, and ensuring their well-being and empowerment is our collective responsibility.

"By harnessing their

potential, we can turn visually impaired persons into productive and active citizens," he added.

Ayaz Sadiq stressed the need to take steps to utilize their abilities more effectively and enable them to play a vital role in social life, allowing them to live with dignity and contribute as valuable members of society. He further added that if visually impaired persons are provided with equal opportunities in education, employment, and other sectors, they can significantly contribute to the development and progress of society.

The Speaker remarked that White Cane Safety Day is a moment to renew our commitment to safeguarding the rights of visually impaired persons and making every effort to improve their lives.

## JI rejects Govt's proposed constitutional amendment

KARACHI (INP): Hafiz Naeemur Rehman, the Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan, has voiced strong opposition to the government's intention to amend the constitution to appoint a Chief Justice of its choosing. He made it clear that JI strongly rejected the Government proposed constitutional amendments.

He described this move as unacceptable and a direct affront to the integrity of the judicial system.

During a press conference, Rehman highlighted the deteriorating infrastructure in Karachi, particularly criticizing the city's broken roads and failing sewage system.

He noted that recent rains exacerbated these issues, underscoring the rampant corruption within the government's administration. "Corruption is embedded from the top down in this system," he stated, lamenting the lack of accountability for those responsible.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Premier, Li Qiang during MoU exchange ceremony.

## Governor Balochistan says Hosting SCO Conference by Pak not only honour, but would also highlight better image of country at international level

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that it is not only an honour for Pakistan to host the conference of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the session in Islamabad, but it would also highlight better image of the country at international level.

He said that the prospects of investment would be increased further and economic stability and development would be promoted with arrival of the world leaders of Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Iran and the member countries of the SCO in country.

In a statement issued here on Monday, the Governor said that the alliance becoming at the level of region in the political history of the world is getting central status in the interna-

tional politics.

He said that the SCO is an important example of change.

He said that different organizations are moving ahead the world change, which would provide guidance to cope with the joint challenges facing the humanity.

The Governor said that the SCO is becoming its name and status at the international level quickly. He hoped that this organization would pave the way for increasing the economic cooperation, trade and investment among the member countries, which is representing almost 40 per cent population of the world.

Therefore, SCO should take concrete steps for increasing coordination and friendly relations among the member countries and different nations of the whole region.

## To step into modern business world Institutions like NIC provide remarkable platform for young people: Dr. Rubaba

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister for the Department of Women Development, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi has emphasized that institutions like the National Incubation Center (NIC) provide a remarkable platform for young people to step into the modern business world. She expressed these views during her visit to the National Incubation Center at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering, and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) in Quetta. Pro-Vice Chancellor of BUITEMS, Dr. Abdul Rahman Khan, was also present on the occa-

sion. NIC Director Muhammad Shah briefed Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi on the center's initiatives and business projects. During her visit, Dr. Buledi interacted with the young entrepreneurs presenting their business ideas under the NIC and appreciated their efforts, noting that their startups and business ideas would play a significant role not only in Balochistan's economy but also for the entire country.

She further stated that the Department of Women Development is committed to partnering with the NIC in the future to create new opportunities for women to advance in business.



QUETTA: Provincial Advisor for Women Development Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi talking with women at National Incubation Center BUITEMS

## Condolence resolution adopted on death of Sardar Sarfraz Chakar Domki in BA

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The condolence resolution was adopted on death of the late Provincial Minister, Sardar Sarfraz Chakar Domki in the session of Balochistan Assembly here on Monday.

The resolution was tabled by the Provincial Minister for Irrigation, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani in the opening sitting of the current session while the Speaker Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzain was in the chair.

As the session started, fāteha was offered for the departed soul of late Provincial Minister Sardar

Sarfraz Domki.

Fāteha was also offered for the departed souls of the coal mine labourers killed in terrorists attack in Duki coalmine field on last Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti pointed out that the proceeding of session of provincial assembly gets adjourned if a sitting minister dies, as per the traditions of assembly.

On this, the Speaker ruled that the condolence resolution be tabled in the session and then adjourned the sitting until October 16, 2024.

## SP vows to tighten noose against drug dealers

QUETTA (APP): Superintendent Police City Muhammad Sharif emphasized his commitment to maintaining law and order by tightening the grip on criminal elements and drug dealers.

Talking to media on Monday, he said police checkpoints across the City Police jurisdiction have been reinforced for more effective security checks.

SP Sharif assured that every complaint received at the City Police Station and other precincts within the circle will be addressed promptly, ensuring justice for all citizens. "It is the core responsibility of the police to ensure that no one is subjected to injustice," he added. "Any disturbance to peace or criminal activity will be dealt with firmly."



LAHORE: Renowned religious scholar Dr. Zakir Naik meeting with Quaid PML (N) Muhammad Nawaz Sharif

## BUITEMS, Nanjing University sign MoU

QUETTA (PR): In a significant step towards promoting international cooperation and advancing the strategic objectives of the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering, and Management Sciences (BUITEMS), the Vice Chancellor of BUITEMS, Prof. Dr. Khalid Hafeez, visited Southeast University in Nanjing, China. During this visit, a key Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between BUITEMS and Southeast University. This MoU marks the beginning of a mutual partnership aimed at fostering research and academic collaboration, particularly in support of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The agreement sets the framework for collaboration between BUITEMS and Southeast University, focusing on joint research projects, faculty and student exchanges, and developing innovative solutions

to global challenges. This partnership aligns with BUITEMS' Strategic Plan 2024-2029, which emphasizes international cooperation and research excellence as central pillars for institutional development.

Both institutions reiterated their commitment to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the broader Belt and Road Initiative. Through this collaboration, BUITEMS and Southeast University aim to contribute to the success of these initiatives, particularly by focusing on areas such as smart infrastructure and disaster prevention.

As part of the visit, a China-Pakistan bilateral strategic seminar was held in Nanjing on the construction of the "Belt and Road" Joint Laboratory for Smart Disaster Prevention of Major Infrastructure. This seminar provided a platform for discussing strategies to enhance disaster prevention and build resilient infrastructure.



QUETTA: Vice Chancellor BUITEMS Prof. Dr. Khalid Hafeez and Vice Chancellor Nanjing University China Zheng Hairong shaking hand after signing a MoU between the two universities

## Govt should arrange meeting of PTI leaders with PTI founder: Saad

LAHORE (Online): PML-N senior leader Khawaja Saad Rafiq has said government should arrange meeting of PTI leaders with their Quaid Imran Khan and PTI should withdraw protest call on the occasion of Shanghai Cooperation Conference (SCO) unconditionally.

"if meeting is arranged even then PTI can find pretext for staging protest. But government should end the pretext of protest, he said this in a statement issued on X.

According to media information PTI has linked withdrawal of protest call on eve of SCO conference to their meeting with PTI founder and Quaid.

It is old tradition of PTI to create conflict on the arrival of foreign guests in Pakistan.

He said clash be avoided.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti presenting a resolution in the Balochistan Assembly

## Ali Kuli says: Ch Nisar, his brother Gen Iftikhar became hurdle on his way to promotion as COAS

FAISALABAD (Online): Lt Gen (Retd) Ali Kuli Khan has said his appointment as army chief was his right on the basis of seniority and ability but Chaudhry Nisar and his brother Gen Iftikhar became hurdle on his way.

Chaudhry Nisar and Gen Iftikhar had incited Nawaz Sharif against him. Nawaz Sharif withheld my promotion file. Army should not interfere in politics. Gen Zia committed mistake by executing Bhutto, he said this in an exclusive interview.

He cautioned harm is being caused to entire nation due to present conflict. My uncle Aslam Khattak remained governor of KP.

## PM welcomes 27 more Palestinian students arrive in Pak

LAHORE (APP): Twenty-seven more Palestinian students arrived in the country to acquire medical and dental education on Monday. Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan President Dr Hafeez ur Rehman, Vice President Air Marshal (Retired) Arshad Malik, Health Services Chairman Prof Dr Zahid Latif and government officials warmly welcomed the students at Lahore airport. Dr Hafeez ur Rehman said that in the first phase, 192 Palestinian students were coming to Pakistan through different flights. He said that the students would continue their medical and dental education in universities of Pakistan, adding that the Alkhidmat Foundation, Global Relief Trust and Doctors of Rehman would extend cooperation for the purpose.

He thanked the government of Pakistan, Palestinian Embassy and medical colleges and universities which helped the students continue their education. "After meetings with Palestinian Embassy officials, the government of Pakistan and different colleges and universities, we were able to bring the students to Pakistan. The students will be provided with all possible facilities including education, food and residence," he added.

"The Alkhidmat Foundation continues a relief and rescue operation in Gaza from the first day of war. It is providing facilities like food, medicines and shelter there. It has also set up schools," he said, adding that cooperation was also being extended to Palestinian students in Egypt.