

# Independent

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## Pakistan, Malaysia agree to deepen trade, investment cooperation; reiterate stance on Gaza, Kashmir

Shahbaz, Anwar Ibrahim reaffirm commitment to strengthen mutually beneficial partnership

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Malaysia on Thursday agreed to deepen bilateral cooperation in multiple areas including trade, investment, defence, and agriculture, besides reiterating their strong positions on regional issues including Gaza and Kashmir.

In a joint press stakeout following their one-on-one meeting and delegation-level talks, both prime ministers told the media that their discussions focused on strengthening the bilateral collaboration in multiple areas of mutual interest as well as regional and international issues including Palestine and Kashmir.

As part of the efforts to boost bilateral trade, both leaders agreed that Pakistan would export Halal meat worth \$200 million per annum and 100,000 metric tonnes of Basmati Rice to Malaysia.

Total trade between Malaysia and Pakistan stood at USD 1.4 billion with the trade goods included palm oil, apparel, textiles, chemical and chemical-based products, and electronics and electronic products. Among South Asian countries, Pakistan is Malaysia's third-largest trading partner.

In his remarks, Prime Minister Shehbaz told the media that besides discussing the export of Pakistan's Basmati Rice, two sides also discussed the possibilities of exporting Halal meat from Pakistan to Malaysia worth \$200 million per annum, and assured that his country would make no compromise on the quality.

He said the Malaysian PM had also assured to address the discrepancies in the import of Pakistan's rice into his country.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that they had a 'wonderful' meeting to discuss the enhancement of trade and investment, besides exploring avenues of further cooperation in defence, tourism, agriculture, green energy, skilled labour and youth empowerment.

He said both sides were unanimous in believing that the two countries would collectively find new heights in trade and investment cooperation for a bright future for two nations.

Assuring his cooperation to further enhance Pakistan-Malaysia defence and security cooperation,

he said that thousands of Pakistani students were currently studying in Malaysia to help strengthen the people-to-people contacts.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that Malaysia's development should be emulated as a role model for all Muslim countries where foreign direct investment and exports were on the increase.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim address a joint press stakeout.

## SC nullifies decision in the case of article 63-A, accepts review appeals

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Thursday accepted the review petition and terminated the previous judgment pertaining to Article 63A of the Constitution. The court ruled that the defecting lawmakers' votes should indeed be counted and said that the detailed judgment would be issued later on.

A five-member bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Amin ud Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Mazhar Alam and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan, announced the short order.

The chief justice said that the review petition of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) was accepted unanimously, adding that the detailed verdict would be issued later on.

Earlier during the proceedings, Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI)'s lawyer Barrister Ali Zafar took the stance that his meeting with PTI's founder was not held independently. The lawyer said that the PTI founder had requested that he wanted to give arguments himself before the bench through video link.

On this point, the CJP said that you were making unreasonable request. He said what secret things did you have to discuss with PTI founder? You were only supposed to discuss a constitutional issue, he remarked. Ali Zafar said that the PTI founders had objection on formation of bench and stated that they will not be a part of proceedings. The court on the occasion appointed Barrister Ali Zafar as amicus curiae and asked him to assist the bench.

Ali Zafar, as amicus curiae, said that the objection was not against any personality, and instead it was on the formation of bench.

He said that the original petition was related to the vote in the no-confidence motion but the top court linked the presidential reference with the constitutional petitions. The court disposed of the constitutional petitions by declaring that

it had given an opinion on the reference, and the review petition's scope was limited, he said.

The Chief Justice of Pakistan said that one may be unhappy with the Constitution or the death penalty, but everyone was bound to implement it. "Can a judge take an oath and saying that he is not happy with this provision of the Constitution," he questioned.

The CJP said that the

head of the party had the authority to give or not to give a declaration of defection to someone. The members of the assembly or political parties were subordinate to their leader, not the judges, he said.

On the query of the bench, Farooq H. Naek said that party elections were held under the Election Act, in which the decision of the party chief was taken.

Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa said that the decision of Article 63 A was a majority decision by the margin of one judge. He questioned that if the opinion of one judge was heavy on the parliament.

He asked that whether the court should send the matter to the President to decide which opinion he agreed with.

Additional Attorney General Aamir Rehman op-

posed the option and said that the constitutional petitions had also been dealt with the reference. The matter of dealing with the constitutional petitions could not be sent to the President, he added.

The chief justice said that if Article 63A was clear, then what was the need for its interpretation. Appeals of disqualified members also have to come to the Supreme Court, and if the court decision leads to disqualification, the appeal will be ineffective, he remarked.

The Additional Attorney General said that the decision on Article 63A was full of contradictions. He said that on the one hand it said that vote was a fundamental right but at the same time this right was abolished on the direction of the party.



President Asif Ali Zardari conferring the award of Nishan-e-Pakistan upon the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim, during a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## We have to eradicate poliovirus together: CM takes notice of poliovirus case reported from Zhob; seeks inquiry report

Mir Sarfraz Bugti directs to launch special anti-polio campaign in province making it most effective

QUETTA: Highly concerned about the rise in cases of poliovirus in Balochistan, the Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has taken notice of the new case of poliovirus reported from Zhob district of the province, and sought the inquiry report about it.

The Chief Minister stressed that we would have to eradicate poliovirus, which otherwise cripple the children, together.

He said that each and every case diagnosed with poliovirus happens to be painful and matter of concern.

The Chief Minister said that at the time when world is finding new avenues of development, we are not ridding of the poliovirus.

He urged the parents to get their children administered the anti-polio drops voluntarily. Moreover, he directed to the Health Department and Emergency Operation Center for Polio Eradication to launch special anti-polio campaign in the province. He also directed to make the immunization campaign most effective.

## Naqvi warns of stern action against protestors during Malaysian PM's visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday warned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), of stern action against protestors if anyone disrupts law and order at the visit of Malaysian Prime Minister's visit to Pakistan.

The government will ensure fool proof security arrangements at the time of visit Malaysian Prime Minister, said the minister.

According to the new law, specific place has already been allocated for public and political gatherings with the permission of concerned authorities, he added.

Naqvi said that the protest demonstration is a constitutional right of every citizen but the government will not allow anyone to sabotage the visits of foreign dignitaries.

He said that knowing well about government's action against protest demonstration during the visit of foreign guest, PTI's call to storm Islamabad is an enemy agenda.

IHC dismisses petition against CEC's appointment

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday dismissed a petition challenging the appointment of Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja declaring it non-maintainable.

IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, who heard the case filed by PTI leader Akram Khan Bari, observed that Mr Raja had retired from government service before his appointment as CEC.

The petitioner claimed that Sikandar Sultan Raja was a serving bureaucrat when he was appointed against the key post.

Citing judicial verdicts, he pleaded that a serving bureaucrat could not be appointed against the instant post.

## Seven killed as wedding bus falls into gorge

QUETTA (APP): At least seven people died and 19 people including children and women received injuries as a bus plunged into ravine near Brewery Road's Bypass area of Quetta on Thursday.

According to police sources, the bus carrying wedding party plunged into gorge due to tyre burst.

As a result, seven people died on the spot while 19 people including woman and children sustained injuries.

The bodies and injured were shifted to Civil Hospital where started medical aid.

The bodies were identified Naseebullah, Haji Naqibullah and small girls including Zeenat Bibi, Bibi, Alia, Bibi Safia and Bibi Alia.

The injured including Habibullah, Bibi Nooria, Bibi Fatima, Bibi Khakija, Najiba, Bibi Tayyiba, Bibi Jamila, Palusha, Bibi Nadia, Bibi Ruqia, Bibi Ajwa, Bibi Abida, Bibi Malala, Bibi Zulikha, Bibi Alia, Bibi Jamila, Bibi Asia, Bibi Naqwa and wife of Naseebullah.

The dead bodies were handed over to the heirs after completion of medico legal formalities.

Further investigation was underway.

He said that each and every case diagnosed with poliovirus happens to be painful and matter of concern.

The Chief Minister said that at the time when world is finding new avenues of development, we are not ridding of the poliovirus.

He urged the parents to get their children administered the anti-polio drops voluntarily. Moreover, he directed to the Health Department and Emergency Operation Center for Polio Eradication to launch special anti-polio campaign in the province. He also directed to make the immunization campaign most effective.



QUETTA: A large number of people are gathered after a bus fell into a ditch due to over speeding, near Hazara Graveyard located on Western Bypass in Quetta.

## Chinese Consul General based in Karachi meets Mandokhail: Pak especially Balochistan to become hub of all economic activities with completion of CPEC: Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that Balochistan is an important link of mega project of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) while Gwadar is the shining jewel in its (CPEC)'s crown.

He said that Pakistan especially Balochistan would become hub of all economic activities with completion of the CPEC and as such there is a need to benefit from the profitable opportunities of investment available in the province.

The Governor was speaking to the Chinese Consul General based in Karachi, Yang Yundong, who called on him here at the Governor House on Thursday. During the course of meeting, the matters pertaining to the political and economic changes taking place in the region as well as healthcare facilities and educational scholarships for the students were discussed.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor said that China is our time-tested friend, which has supported Pakistan at different times in history. He stressed that we would have to learn modern skills along with modern education in view of the future challenges facing both the countries.

The Chinese Consul General on the occasion invited Governor to visit China. Both the leaders were agreed on extending cooperation and assistance in different sectors.

Another case of poliovirus reported from Balochistan increasing tally to sixteen

Independent Report

QUETTA: The polio cases continue to rise as another case of poliovirus has been reported from Balochistan province increasing the tally to sixteen during current year.

According to the Health department sources, the new polio case has been reported from Zhob district where the virus was detected in 3-year-old girl child.

While it is 16th polio case reported from Balochistan this year, it is 2nd case reported from Zhob district.

According to National Institute of Health, this year, Balochistan has reported the highest number of polio cases, with 16 confirmed incidents, whereas the total number of cases across Pakistan has reached 28.

Earlier, six cases of polio were reported from Killa Abdullah district with two each from Quetta and Zhob.

One polio case has been reported from Dera Bugti, Kharan, Chaman, Killa Saifullah, Pishin and Jhal Magsi.



KARACHI: Chinese Consul General Yang Yundong meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

## Orders inquiry & action on negligence Bugti expresses sorrow over bus accident on Western bypass

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has expressed deep sorrow over the bus accident occurred on Brewery Bypass here on Thursday.

The Chief Minister said that the loss of precious human lives is sorrowful and matter of grief.

He ordered an inquiry into the road mishap.

He said that dud action would be taken against the responsible if found negligence.

The Chief Minister directed to provide better medical treatment facilities to the injured.

He said that we equally share the grief with the bereaved families of those who died in the accident.

He also prayed for the early recovery of the injured persons.

Meanwhile, the Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar has expressed sorrow over the accident and loss of lives in it.

He issued directives to provide immediate medical assistance to those injured in the accident.

He imposed emergency in the hospitals after the accident and directed to the doctors and medical staff remain present on duty.

Meanwhile, the Minister personally visited the hospital and inquired about the health of injured.

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PPP to participate in JI's March for Palestine: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Thursday said that party workers would participate in the March for Palestine being organised by the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI).

A JI delegation led by its Ameer Hafiz Naem ur Rehman formally invited Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to take part in the march during a meeting here at the Zardari House.

The two leaders discussed the war imposed on the Middle East by Israel and the current situation in the region.

Talking to the media, Bilawal said that the world community remained indifferent to the ongoing brutal killings of women and children in Palestine. The top Palestinian leader was martyred in Israel.

Israel had no regard for human rights, rather it was violating them with impunity, he added.

The PPP chairman said that the war imposed by Israel in Palestine and Lebanon was inching towards Iran. "Israel is, in fact, on a drive to forcefully occupy the Palestinian lands for completing its agenda of a 'greater Israel'."

"The PPP stands firm with the Muslims all over the world," he added.

The JI delegation consisted of vice presidents Liaquat Baloch and Mian Aslam, Secretary General Ameer-ul-Azeem and Ameer JI Islamabad Chapter Engr Nasarullah Randhawa.

PPP Vice President Senator Sherry Rehman, Secretary General Nayer Hussain Bukhari, Naveed Qamar and PPP Chairman's Spokesperson Murtaza Wahab were also present in the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking with media persons along with Chief of Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naem Ur Rehman after a meeting at Zardari House, in the Federal Capital.

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ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf inaugurating Bahria University College of Medicine.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Judicial infighting

The ongoing spat within the Supreme Court has raised serious concerns about the integrity of the country's highest judicial forum at a time of unprecedented crises.

Instead of articulating their differences through formal judgments, which judges are expected to do, senior justices have taken to airing their grievances in public. Their sparring has eroded the court's power and left it vulnerable. The chief justice has been made the target of much criticism in recent days — owing, perhaps, to his seemingly contradictory positions before and after taking office.

However, to blame any individual would be unfair. Other senior judges equally share the responsibility for the ongoing turmoil. For example, the recent note addressed by the senior puisne judge to the chief justice questioning the exclusion of a third judge from the Supreme Court's apex committee should perhaps not have ended up in the public domain. Nor should, for that matter, the response to it. Indeed, it would have been much better for the issue to have been addressed internally through consultation and debate. Alas, the bitter exchanges have added fuel to the fire. The episode has only solidified the perception that the judges have chosen to take sides against each other and do not wish to work towards a resolution, thus further damaging the judiciary's prestige and weakening public confidence in its ability to function impartially. As other state institutions grow more assertive, continued failure to present a united front will increasingly endanger the apex court's authority. It is also painful to note how the current schism is turning into a rather disturbing reflection of a past crisis. One cannot help but recall former chief justice Sajjad Ali Shah's troubled tenure, which culminated in his downfall because of persistent discord within his court. While that comparison seems crude at this point — and one sincerely hopes that the situation never comes to pass — the present judiciary should guard against the path leading to it.

The judges must recognise that their squabbling has proven to be a godsend for those who have long wished to weaken the court and capture the state. The government's refusal to implement the court's decision in the reserved seats case is example enough of how other institutions will take advantage of the situation.

The responsibility for restoring the court's writ lies with the senior-most judges of the Supreme Court. They must prioritise their institution over their personal differences and make a sincere, concerted effort to resolve their problems. There is time still for them to come together and settle all disputes amicably. The judiciary has survived many challenges in the past, and it can do so again. For that, its leaders must let bygones be bygones and act with wisdom and restraint.

## Modern facsimiles

F.S. Aijazuddin

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was born in Turkey, in 1881. Since then, facsimiles have been spawned many times: Soekarno in Indonesia, Lt-Col Rawlings in Ghana, Col Nasser in Egypt, Field Marshal Ayub Khan et alia in Pakistan. Each wore the uniform of a patriot, tailored for him, as he believed, by destiny.

Patrick Kinross' definitive biography Atatürk: The Rebirth of a Nation (1964) is a must-read for anyone (in jail or out of it), with time on his hands and thwarted patriotism smouldering in his heart. Atatürk's political ideas assumed a 'coherent shape' early in his life, while he was still a lieutenant at the military training school at Montasir. "He began to devour history as he had previously devoured mathematics and poetry. He read all he could about the career of Napoleon who became (with qualifications) one of his heroes."

Like Napoleon, Atatürk suffered from the highest form of narcissism. "In so far as Atatürk was capable of love," Kinross explains, "he loved his country." In time, Atatürk would have a loyal mistress Fikriye whom he later discarded for a wife, Latife. Fikriye later committed suicide. When Latife became too demanding and possessive, he divorced her. Childless, Atatürk adopted eight children. Turkey though remained the enduring love of his life. That, and the people of Turkey.

Two incidents in Kinross's biography present little known facets of Atatürk's innate egalitarianism. One day in Sofia, Atatürk notices a peasant being denied service in a tea house. He chides the waiter: "As long as the peasant is not master of the country, there can be no real

progress in the country." From this was born his slogan: "The peasant is master of this country."

In another, at a dinner given by the Soviets in their embassy, he tweaked his communist hosts: "I don't see among us any of the men who prepared this feast." Within minutes, the cook and other servants were called to the "classless table".

Daringly for his time, Atatürk advocated gender equality. In a national meeting of teachers, he taunted the organisers: "Why did you make them sit apart from the men? Don't you trust yourselves, or have you no faith in the virtue of these ladies?"

Regarding religion, Kinross tells us that Atatürk was not for the eradication of Islam. What he sought was "to disengage it from the condition of being a political instrument, which it had been for centuries of habit".

Kinross describes Atatürk's tortuous efforts to reform the Turkish alphabet. Atatürk spent hours poring over old and new dictionaries in search of "pure Turkish words". His aim was to purify the language of Arabic and Persian infusions. Eventually, he compromised by "naturalising" words that had no Turkish equivalent. Atatürk's achievement was to give his countrymen a language and alphabet comprehensible to anyone who had learned the new ABC, thereby reinforcing "Turkishness".

Muslims in India saw in Atatürk's Turkey the possibility of a viable Muslim state. The Indian khilafat committee evidenced its support through an Indian fund. Its contributions were used for the construction of a new parliament building in 'Angora' and the foundation of Turkey's first nationalist bank.

Western historians have written much about Winston Churchill's di-

strous failure at Gallipoli in 1915-16. Kinross provides a corrective account from a Turkish perspective. He highlights Atatürk's military success there as a military commander, despite being heavily outnumbered.

Even in defeat, though, Churchill admitted that "loaded with follies, stained with crimes, rotted with misgovernment, shattered by battle, worn down by long disastrous wars, his Empire falling to pieces around him, the Turk was still alive". Many Pakistanis will recognise in Churchill's words the present condition of our beleaguered homeland.

Kinross analyses traits found in many of our own Atatürk facsimiles: "Kemal was not born for cooperation, except in so far as necessity demanded it. He was born to dominate. Aware of this, [his closest supporters] while following him loyally, had watched him warily. They accepted his leadership but remained on guard against the personal ambition that conditioned his patriotism."

In one paragraph, Kinross comes uncomfortably close to our present political situation. Gen J.G. Harbord, an envoy of US president Woodrow Wilson, meets Atatürk. He asks him how he proposes to reconstruct Turkey: "Kemal as he talked had been playing with a string of prayer beads [...] He pulled the string apart, and the beads were scattered all over the floor. Picking them up one by one, he remarked that here was the answer to the general's questions. He meant to draw the pieces of his country together."

It took Atatürk only 15 years (three times a Pakistani prime minister's ordained term) to restring his rosary into today's Turkey. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Bringing them home

Rabiya Javeri Agha

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's visit to Pakistan is a crucial opportunity to address an important humanitarian and diplomatic issue — the signing of a long-awaited prisoner transfer agreement. A PTA would allow our nationals imprisoned in Malaysia to serve the remainder of their sentences in Pakistan, close to their families and communities. This is a matter of protecting the fundamental rights and dignity of our citizens, many of whom are vulnerable and facing harsh conditions abroad.

Pakistani prisoners in Malaysia have skyrocketed to 463 as of September 2024, a staggering 55 per cent surge in just seven months from February's count of 299. More disturbingly, it marks a massive 142pc increase since September 2022. These numbers don't just represent statistics; they reflect disrupted lives and separated families, underscoring an urgent need for action and diplomatic intervention.

These Pakistanis face a range of charges, from immigration violations and petty offences to more serious crimes, often under harsh laws like the Dangerous Drugs Act. Many face harsh penalties due to inadequate legal representation, language barriers, and limited consular support. Pakistan must act by securing a PTA with Malaysia, following the example set by neighbouring countries such as Iran.

A growing prisoner count highlights the need for systemic solutions. With international labour migration key to Pakistan's economy, protecting citizens abroad is vital. Over 85,000 Pakistanis in Malaysia contributed \$71 million in remittances in 2024 alone.

However, these migrant workers often find themselves at a disadvantage as foreign nationals in Malaysia's strict immigration system, leading to prolonged detentions and harsh sentences.

A PTA would allow our nationals to serve their sentences in a familiar environment where they can access support networks, family visits, and culturally sensitive legal assistance. Without a PTA, these individuals remain isolated, facing legal challenges and the emotional toll of separation from their families.

In recent years, Pakistan and Malaysia have strengthened commercial ties through increased trade and migration. As this relationship continues to grow, it is imperative that both nations ensure adequate protections for their citizens. The high rate of Pakistani migration to Malaysia means that more Pakistanis will inevitably face legal issues abroad. The absence of a PTA would mean continued detentions under foreign systems.

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's empathy for human rights is well-known, making this visit a timely opportunity to bring the issue to the forefront of diplomatic talks. His recent leadership in signing a PTA with Iran in 2024 serves as an example that Pakistan can follow. Malaysia's consistent engagement with Iran and other countries demonstrates a growing international recognition of the importance of these agreements. Since 2020, Malaysia has signed PTAs with Ukraine, Brunei, and Iran facilitating not only the transfer of prisoners but also strengthening diplomatic and consular relations. With Pakistan's rapidly increasing population in Malaysia, it must aim to be the next country to

formalise such an agreement.

In light of this pressing issue, the National Commission for Human Rights of Pakistan is taking proactive steps to address the situation. We are collaborating closely with S U H A K A M, Malaysia's National Human Rights Institution, to gather comprehensive data on Pakistani prisoners in Malaysia. This partnership allows access to crucial information that might otherwise be difficult to obtain. We are also working in tandem with the Pakistan High Commission in Malaysia, which has been instrumental in sharing data and providing support for our efforts.

NCHR and SUHAKAM's collaboration facilitates better understanding of the situation and strengthens diplomatic ties between our two nations. By working together, we can ensure that Pakistani prisoners' rights are protected, and their cases are handled with care and consideration. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's state visit presents a unique opportunity to address this critical issue. His human rights commitment makes him an ideal partner for Pakistan. The NCHR-SUHAKAM collaboration sets a strong foundation for PTA discussions, showing both countries' commitment to this humanitarian concern. It is time for Pakistan and Malaysia to sign a PTA. This is a diplomatic necessity and moral obligation. NCHR is ready to support the Pakistani government, using our collaboration with SUHAKAM and the Pakistan High Commission to uphold Pakistani nationals' rights abroad. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Al-Ghazi Tractors Limited launches high-performance, fuel-efficient NH-850 tractor

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Al-Ghazi Tractors Limited launched its latest product the New Holland NH-850. The 85-horsepower engine tractor is designed to set new standards in modern farming.

The exclusive launch event, hosted at Pearl Continental, Lahore, was graced by the chief guest, Director General Strategic Project of Green Initiatives



(Pvt) Limited, Maj General Shahid Nazir. Congratulating Al-Ghazi Tractors Limited, Maj General Nazir said, "I congratulate Al-Ghazi Tractors for introducing this new variant of 85hp tractors and I can assure you this will become

high in demand in coming days and months because of that a lot of land will be developed. I congratulate the team, for producing this machine with a lot of innovation, Al-Ghazi Tractors will continue the journey of bringing more machines of this kind into the field so that we can serve our farmer community."

The event was well attended by government

officials, corporate clients, dealers, vendors, and Al-Ghazi personnel alike. Among the prominent participants, the CEO Al-Ghazi, Sakib Eltaff, and the Chairman of the Board at Al-Ghazi, Robert McAllister were also present.

### Aamir declares proposed merger between Telenor Pak & PTCL as significant

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jazz CEO Aamir Ibrahim stressed the importance of healthy competition and market repair to drive innovation and benefit customers. Commenting on the proposed merger between Telenor Pakistan and PTCL, Aamir acknowledged it as a significant development for the telecom sector. "While we support initiatives that create synergies and efficiencies, we must also recognize the need for market repair," he stated, referring to the ongoing decline in industry-wide penetration and profitability. "Without addressing these fundamental

issues, achieving the vision of Digital Pakistan becomes increasingly difficult." According to company news release Aamir emphasized that the merger should lead to a healthier, more competitive landscape, which in turn benefits consumers. "Jazz has always supported efforts that push the industry forward, but it's vital that any consolidation ensures a level playing field, fair competition, and customer-centric innovation," he added. He also highlighted the critical need for regulatory fairness, particularly in terms of spectrum allocation.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and his Malaysian counterpart Tengku Zafrul Aziz discuss strengthening trade, focusing on rice, halal meat exports, and business cooperation.

### Pak-Malaysia agree for fostering deeper economic, trade cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Malaysia on Thursday agreed to take significant steps towards fostering deeper economic cooperation and exploring new business opportunities that benefit both nations.

Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan held a meeting with Datuk Seri Utama Tengku Zafrul Bin Tengku Abdul Aziz, the Malaysian Minister for Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI).

This meeting underscored the brotherly relations between the two countries cherish in all fields, according to a release issued.

The Minister for Commerce welcomed Minister Tengku Zafrul Aziz to Pakistan and highlighted

the longstanding friendship between the two nations.

Jam emphasized that there is huge potential to grow bilateral trade between the two sides.

The Minister urged for enhanced business engagements to transform this potential into reality.

Moreover, Mr Jam Kamal Khan stressed that there is a potential for growth in almost all the sectors of Pakistan.

He mentioned that Pakistan is exporting high-quality rice and mangoes all over the world.

He apprised the visiting Minister that recently Government of Pakistan had removed the Minimum Export Price (MEP) for rice which will allow

Pakistani exporters to negotiate competitive prices.

He encouraged Malaysia may engage more with Pakistan to import rice.

A significant focus of the dialogue was on the potential for exporting halal meat from Pakistan to Malaysia.

The Minister reiterated Pakistan's commitment to maintaining high halal standards, which are essential for expanding access to the Malaysian market.

He called for facilitation in the accreditation process for Pakistani meat and gelatin exporting companies, emphasizing that cooperation in this sector could greatly enhance trade flows.

Malaysian side acknowledged the difficulties faced by Pakistani businessmen in the procedural processes of JAKIM for exporting meat to Malaysia and reassured their commitment to ease these procedures for Pakistani businesses.

Moreover, Malaysian Minister for Trade invited Pakistan to participate in the activities of the ASEAN as Malaysia is taking the chair of ASEAN.

In closing, the Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to creating a conducive environment for foreign investment, expressing optimism for the future of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Malaysia.

### PSX continues with bullish trend, gains 754 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 754.76 more points, a positive change of 0.92 percent, closing at 82,721.77 points against 81,967.01 points on the last working day. A total of 319,879,266 3 shares were traded during the day as compared to 360,987,426 shares the previous trading day.

### Services' trade up by 0.13% in July-August

ISLAMABAD (APP): The export of various services witnessed 0.13 percent increase during the first two months (July-August) of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding months of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. According to the latest PBS data, Pakistan earned \$1.252 billion from the export of services during July-August 2024 as compared to services' export of \$1.250 billion in

July-August 2023.

On the other hand, the services' imports witnessed a decline of 0.45 percent during the months under review and were recorded at \$1.724 billion as compared to the import of \$1.732 billion in July-August 2023.

Based on the figures, the services' trade deficit shrank by 1.95 percent during the months under review as compared to the corresponding months of previous year.

### Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships, Maersk Cabo Verde, Al-Areesh and Centurion Signifer carrying Container, LNG and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Port Qasim Terminal and Pakistan International Bulk Terminal respectively on Wednesday. Meanwhile another bulk cargo carrier 'World Virtue' is also arrived at outer anchorage port on same day. Nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships.

### Over 50 federal, provincial officials trained on integrating Carbon Markets into project

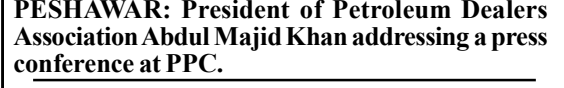
ISLAMABAD (APP): Over 50 federal and provincial planning officials have been trained on integrating carbon markets into government project approvals in an effort to support Pakistan to combat climate change and meet its international obligations.

SPAR6C, in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination and the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, organized a two-day Carbon Market Training Workshop for Federal and Provincial planning and development officials, a news release said.

The two-day workshop brought together officials responsible for appraising public investment projects. The event aimed to enhance their understanding of carbon credits and how these can be leveraged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, align with global climate goals and secure vital international financing.

Funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, the SPAR6C programme supports developing countries, including Pakistan, in navigating carbon markets.

This initiative is part of the Supporting Preparedness for Article 6 Cooperation (SPAR6C) programme, aimed at boosting Pakistan's participation in international carbon markets, which could generate between \$2 billion and \$5 billion by 2030. Pakistan has set a bold target of cutting projected emissions by 50% by 2030.



PESHAWAR: President of Petroleum Dealers Association Abdul Majid Khan addressing a press conference at PPC.

### Standing committee on livestock holds introductory meeting

PESHAWAR (APP): The introductory meeting of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Standing Committee on Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives was held Thursday wherein members were briefed by officials concerned about working and ambit of the department.

Later, briefing the media about the meeting, Sher Ali Afridi said the government was committed to increase output of livestock department owing to its importance to strengthen provincial economy.

Ifthikharullah, secretary livestock and concerned officials.

Secretary Livestock briefed the committee about ambit, performance and future plans of the department.

Later, briefing the media about the meeting, Sher Ali Afridi said the government was committed to increase output of livestock department owing to its importance to strengthen provincial economy.

## AJK President still remembers bleak memory of earthquake

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that painful memories 19 years ago of the tragic October 8, 2005 deadly earthquake that shook Azad Jammu Kashmir and other areas of Pakistan still haunt its inhabitants. "Those who witnessed the ravages of the natural calamity with their own eyes will hardly ever forget it", he said in a message on 19th Anniversary of history's worst killer earthquake being observed on October 8.

Sultan added that the cataclysmic tremors left thousands of people, including men, women and children dead, while many cities, towns and villages were completely destroyed.

He said that compensation for the loss of human lives caused by the earthquake was not possible, but the government tried its best to rehabilitate the victims, rebuild and reconstruct the damaged infrastructure.

The president said that those who lost their lives on 8 October 2005 were still fresh and alive in our hearts.

He thanked the international community, especially Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, the United Kingdom, European countries and the People's Republic of China, for providing relief and rescue to the people of AJK in the difficult time.

The president said



SARGODHA: Provincial Minister for Higher Education Department Rana Sikandar Hayat addresses the 'Future Innovator contest-2024' seminar held at University of Sargodha.

## Price hike, shortage of essential medicines will not be tolerated: Khawaja

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Khawaja Imran Nazir has declared that price-hike and shortage of life-saving and essential medicines can never be tolerated.

He made these remarks while presiding over an emergency meeting on Thursday on drug shortages and price hikes, convened on the directives of chief minister Punjab.

During the meeting, a detailed review was conducted on the factors con-

tributing to the shortages and rising prices of essential medicines. Director General Drug Control Muhammad Sohail provided an in-depth briefing on the current situation.

Addressing the meeting, Khawaja Imran Nazir highlighted that the Chief Minister of Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif is deeply concerned about the extraordinary price hikes affecting critical medicines. "The increase in prices of old stock medicines is unacceptable and

will be halted at all costs," he said, emphasizing the government's commitment to ensuring that the public has access to affordable and quality healthcare.

He assured that every possible measure would be taken to strengthen the pharmaceutical industry and enhance the transparency of the system. He also revealed that surveillance has already been initiated in markets across the province to monitor shortages and price hikes, as per the Chief Minister's orders.

## Minister reviews education department's performance

SARGODHA (APP): A performance review meeting of the Department of Education was held under the chairmanship of Provincial Minister for Education Rana Sikandar Hayat, at the Commissioner's Office, here on Thursday.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Task Force on Education Mazhar Mahmood, Advisor and Member of the Chief Minister's Advisory Committee Shakeel Bhatti, Chairman of the Punjab Education Foundation Malik Shoaib Awan, Commissioner Jahanzeb Awan and Deputy Commissioner Captain (ret'd) Muhammad Waseem, along with parlia-

mentarians and administrative officers. Director of Colleges Sarfraz Gujjar and Chief Executive Officer Education Sardar Akhtar Abbas Baloch provided detailed briefings on their respective institutions.

The minister announced that all 596 vacant teaching positions in government colleges of Sargodha division would be filled with College Teaching Interns (CTIs).

He said that the education-friendly initiative had led to record enrollments in public educational institutions this year, with students achieving top positions at the board level.



BAJAUR: Deputy Commissioner Shahid Ali along with other officials inaugurating Child Protection Unit in collaboration with UNICEF.

## Bilawal fulfilling Benazir's unfinished agenda, says Hassan

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Punjab General Secretary Syed Hassan Murtaza said on Thursday that party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was dedicated to realising the unfinished mission of his mother, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, with the supremacy of parliament being at the heart of her legacy.

In a sharp rebuke to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi's recent comments on Thurs-

day, he said, "How can those who manipulated the Constitution during their government now claim to be its defenders?"

He said the Bhutto family's contributions to Pakistan's constitutional history, stating, "Bilawal's grandfather, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, gave the nation a consensus Constitution, Bilawal's father, Asif Ali Zardari, restored it, and now Bilawal is striving for a new consensus constitutional amendment."

## ANF recovers 58 kg drugs in eight operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting raids in different areas managed to recover 58 kg drugs worth Rs 6.5 kg and arrested 11 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday.

He informed that 82 intoxicated tablets, 70 grams ice and 168 grams hashish were recovered from an accused arrested near a college in Lahore.

105 grams opium and 90 grams hashish were recovered from an accused rounded up near a university in Lahore.

## Awareness seminar calls for effective efforts to fight drug abuse

PESHAWAR (APP): The speakers at an awareness seminar on Thursday called for collective and effective measures to curb use of drug among youth and serious social issues arising out of it.

The one-day seminar was organized by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Center of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism (KPCEVCE) on prevention of increasing drug use among youth and elimination of crime.

The aim of the seminar was to create awareness and awareness regarding the increasing use of drugs among the youth and the serious social and security issues arising out of it.

Dr Qasim Khan, Director General of

KPCEVCE in his opening remarks emphasized the importance of community involvement and collective efforts in the fight against drug abuse.

He said that drug addiction among the youth increases tendency to engage in criminal activities, adding that it was an alarming issue that not only threatens the health and future of the youth but also the wider security concerns in the region.

He said that the aim of KPCEVCE was to promote dialogue for lasting solutions to these problems and to provide a platform for all partners where they can come up with better strategies for protection, guidance and rehabilitation of youth. Can discuss effective measures.

Dr Ayaz Khan called for collaboration between

government agencies, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations to develop a comprehensive strategy for drug prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation.

Professor Dr Abdul Rahman, head of the Islamic Center University of Peshawar, while speaking about the use of drugs in Islam, emphasized that Islam strictly prohibits the use of narcotic substances, and also advocates compassion and rehabilitation for those suffering from the addiction so that they could quit drugs and become useful citizens of the society. In the seminar, renowned psychologists, health experts and KPCEVCE officials shed light on the causes of drug

use and the harms and dangers arising from it, and the role of family and educational institutions in preventing drug use.

Vice Chancellor, Khyber Medical University Peshawar Dr Ziaul Haque highlighted the responsibility of educational institutions in creating awareness about the dangers of drug abuse and guiding students towards a healthy and useful life.

He said that KMU was not only educational centers but also useful platforms for creating awareness and promoting positive values among students.

He said that the fight against drug abuse requires the joint effort of teachers, parents and the wider society.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique presides over the high level meeting regarding Chief Minister Children Heart Surgery Program at Specialized Healthcare & Medical Education Department.

## International News

## 65 killed in Israeli strikes on Gaza orphanage, school

CAIRO/DOHA: Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip killed at least 65 Palestinians overnight, including in a school sheltering displaced families, medicals said, as Israeli tanks advanced in areas of Khan Younis in the south of the enclave.

Meanwhile, in a joint press conference with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani expressed a resolve to continue mediation efforts to end the war in Gaza amid a heightening of regional tensions.

Qatar has been one of the mediators working on a ceasefire deal in Gaza, although talks have stalled in recent days.

The health ministry in Gaza said on Wednesday that at least 41,689 people

have been killed by Israeli aggression in nearly a year. Israeli tanks carried out raids on several areas in eastern and central Khan Younis before partially retreating, leaving at least 40 people killed and dozens wounded.

Meanwhile in Gaza City, at least 22 Palestinians were killed in two airstrikes.

One Israeli strike on a school sheltering displaced families in Gaza City killed 17 people, while another hit the Al-Amal Orphan Society, which also houses displaced persons, killing at least five others, the medicals said.

Later on Wednesday, an Israeli strike on the Nuseirat Girls School, where displaced Palestinian families were sheltering, killed three people and wounded 15.

The escalation came after Iran launched a salvo of ballistic missiles at Israel on Tuesday in retaliation for Israel's campaign against Lebanon, and Israel vowed a "painful response".

Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, locked in nearly a year of war with Israel, celebrated as they watched dozens of rockets en route to Israel. Some of those rockets fell in the Palestinian enclave after being intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome missile defences, but caused no human losses, witnesses said.

Starting his first trip to Qatar as president, Pezeshkian said his country wanted "security and peace", but Israel had triggered an escalation by assassinating Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.



Palestinian rescuers and locals search the debris of a collapsed building in Khan Younis after an Israeli air strike.

## New NATO chief Rutte reaffirms support for Ukraine on Kyiv trip

KYIV: NATO chief Mark Rutte told Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy "Your security matters for us" on Thursday during his first visit to Kyiv since becoming the alliance's secretary-general.

Rutte also reiterated NATO's pledge that Ukraine would one day be a NATO member, but Zelenskyy said he wanted the Western allies urgently to provide the kind of active military support that

some of them have given to Israel in its battle with Iran. "Your security matters for us, and your fight for freedom reflects our core principles and values," Rutte told a joint news conference, stressing that his first foreign trip as NATO chief demonstrated the alliance's staunch support for Kyiv.

"Ukraine is closer to NATO than ever before, and it will continue along this path until it secures NATO membership."

## CIA launches drive to recruit informants in China, Iran, North Korea

WASHINGTON: The US CIA on Wednesday launched a new drive to recruit informants in China, Iran and North Korea, adding to what it says has been a successful effort to enlist Russians. The premier US spy agency posted instructions in Mandarin, Farsi and Korean on its accounts on X, Facebook, Instagram, Telegram, LinkedIn and the Dark Web on how to contact it securely.

## Six migrants killed by Mexican soldiers during highway chase

CHIHUAHUA: Soldiers chasing suspicious vehicles on a highway in Mexico opened fire and killed six migrants, the defence ministry said on Wednesday.

The patrol found 33 migrants from countries including Egypt, Nepal, Cuba, India and Pakistan, it said, without specifying the nationalities of those killed in the incident late on Tuesday in southern Chiapas state.

The killing happened on the same day that

Claudia Sheinbaum took office as Mexico's new president with a vow to respect human rights and avoid repression by security forces.

The two soldiers who opened fire have been removed from their duties pending an investigation, according to a statement.

It said the patrol saw a vehicle — followed by two flatbed trucks like those used by criminals — travelling at high speed and apparently attempting to flee.

## UN secretary-general warns against further escalation in Lebanon

MONITORING DESK UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations chief is appealing for an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon, warning that escalation to an all-out war between Israel and Hezbollah militants must be avoided "at all costs."

U.N. spokesperson Stephane Dujarric, who delivered the message from Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, stressed that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon must be respected.

Guterres spoke earlier Tuesday to Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati and told him the U.N. system is mobilized to assist those in need, Dujarric said. He also ap-

pealed to the international community to urgently support a \$426 million humanitarian appeal to help the people of Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the State Department has ordered all U.S. diplomats and their families based in Israel and the West Bank to shelter in place until further notice as the security situation becomes increasingly uncertain with Israel's ground incursion in Lebanon and potential threats of an Iranian missile attack.

"As a result of the current security situation, the U.S. Embassy has directed all U.S. government employees and their family members to shelter in place until further notice."

## Study reveals long-term death toll as cyclones batter the world

PARIS: As a typhoon battered Taiwan and rescuers searched for hurricane survivors in the United States on Wednesday, a study estimated that the long-term death toll of such tropical cyclones is around 300 times greater than official figures.

Hurricane Helene has killed at least 155 people in the southeastern US, Hurricane John killed at least 16 in Mexico last week and two people have died in Taiwan even before Typhoon Krathon makes landfall, expected on Thursday morning.

However the immediate deaths recorded during tropical cyclones — also called hurricanes or typhoons, depending on where they hit — represent just a fraction of the real toll they take on lives in the years after the storm clears, according to new research. And with human-driven climate change expected to help make tropical cyclones more intense, the US researchers called for people in the affected

regions to receive more support.

The research published in the journal Nature is the first to use statistical modelling to estimate how cyclones affect the overall number of deaths in a region over a long time frame, lead study author Rachel Young said. The researchers looked at 501 tropical cyclones that hit the continental US between 1930 and 2015, analysing the number of excess deaths from all causes recorded in the 15 years that followed. The average number of deaths officially reported during individual storms was 24. But if indirect deaths in the years after the storm were counted, the average toll for each was between 7,000 and 11,000, around 300 times higher than government figures, the study estimated.

This would mean that cyclones contributed to between three and five per cent of all deaths recorded in the affected areas on the US Atlantic coast over those 85 years, the study said.

## Italy to host G7 leaders' call on Middle East crisis

ROME: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni will host a call of Group of Seven (G7) leaders later on Wednesday to discuss the crisis in the Middle East, her office said.

"Italy will continue to strive for a diplomatic solution, including in its capacity as chair of the G7. I have convened a leaders' level meeting for this afternoon," Meloni was quoted as telling her cabinet.

Italy holds the rotating presidency of the G7 - the club of major Western democracies, which comprises the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Japan.

Meloni told her ministers that there was "deep concern" about latest developments, including Iran's missile attack on Israel on Tuesday and the instabil-

ity in Lebanon, her office said.

"The goal is the stabilisation of the Israeli-Lebanese border through the full implementation of Resolution 1701," she was quoted as saying, referring to the UN resolution which halted the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war in south Lebanon.

"In this framework, Italy has called on the UN Security Council to consider strengthening the mandate of the UNIFIL mission in order to ensure the security of the Israel-Lebanon border," she said.

Italy is a major contributor to the United Nations peacekeeping force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Italian media reported on Wednesday that her government was considering pulling its forces out of the area given the recent border violence.

## Smugglers force migrants to jump into sea; 100 missing in Djibouti

NAIROBI: Rescuers are searching for more than 100 migrants off the coast of Djibouti after smugglers forced them to jump into the sea, the UN migration agency said on Wednesday.

At least 45 bodies have been recovered from Tuesday's incident, a death toll that makes 2024 the deadliest year on record for sea crossings on the migration route between East Africa and Yemen, the International Organisation for Migration said. Another 154 people have been rescued from the two boats, which left Yemen for Djibouti with a total of 310 passengers, IOM said in a statement. "Ongoing search and rescue operations are underway by the Djiboutian Coast Guard.

## NA body seeks complete details of contracts made with IPPs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly Standing Committee on Power Division on Thursday sought complete detail of contracts made with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) in the next meeting. The committee which met with Muhammad Idriss in the Chair appreciated the constitution of Special Task Force to review the contracts made by the successive governments with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to lessen the overburden on consumers in terms of electricity bills. The committee however, directed that M/o Energy (Power Division) may take stringent measures to prevent the consumers from overcharging in different heads of electricity bills and unnecessary load-shedding in different areas of the country and report back to the Committee in its next meeting.



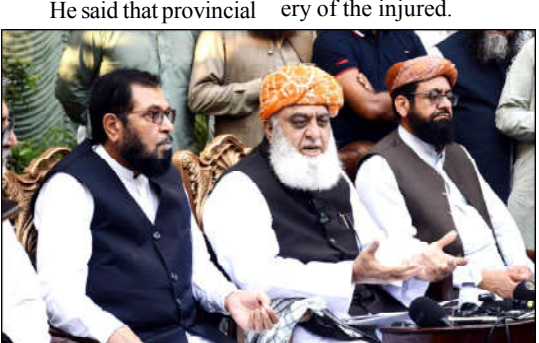
ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Egypt Dr. Ihab Mohamed Abdelhamid Hassan called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.

## Governor orders arrest terrorists involved in incident of firing on vehicle of DC Shirani

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has ordered to arrest the terrorist elements involved in the incident of firing at the vehicle of Deputy Commissioner Shirani, Sana Mah Jabeen near Tanga area of Killa Saifullah. The Governor stressed on zero tolerance for the heinous crimes and directed to the Commissioner Zhub Division to enhance patrolling and security in the concerned areas. He also directed to mobilize all available resources to eliminate terrorists.

## GoB grieved over bus accident on Brewery bypass

Independent Report QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the bus accident occurred on the Brewery bypass. In a statement issued here on Thursday, the spokesman of provincial government, Shahid Rind said that the medical treatment is being provided to the injured of the bus accident. He said that provincial



ISLAMABAD: Maulana Fazlur Rehman, head of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan addressing a press conference.

## BGHA takes out protest rally; opposes privatization of government hospitals

Independent Report QUETTA: The Balochistan Grand Health Alliance took out protest rally against the proposed privatization of the public sector hospitals, here in the provincial metropolis on Thursday. The rally taken out from the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital ended at the Quetta Press Club passing through different roads. The Alliance comprising the Young Doctors Association, Paramedical Staff Association and other representative organizations of the health workers were carrying the banners and placards inscribed the slogans against privatization of the public sector hospitals and other health establishments in the province. The rally turned out into the protest demo outside the Quetta Press Club. They vehemently rejected the decision of provincial government regarding privatization of the government hospitals and recruitment of doctors and other medical staff on the adhoc and temporary grounds. The Grand Health Alliance leaders said that they would not accept the government's decision anyway and would intensify the protest if it was not averted.



QUETTA: Advocate, Qari Rehmatullah addresses during the General Body meeting of Quetta Bar Association, in Quetta.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) at the Finance Division in Federal Capital.

## To boost bilateral trade PM Sharif pledges optimal support for Pak-Malaysian business communities

Pak, Malaysia business communities sign 4 MoUs to boost trade ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday pledged to offer the best possible facilities to the Pakistani and Malaysian business communities to boost their commercial activities. Speaking at the Pakistan-Malaysia High Level Business Dialogue, he emphasized the strong bilateral relations between the two countries and highlighted the significance of collaboration between their business sectors for mutual prosperity. Referring to his discussions with visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim, he stated that their meetings were highly productive, wherein they discussed issues being faced by the two countries. He said the Malaysian prime minister had assured of his complete support for both Pakistani and Malaysian businessmen to collaborate on joint ventures in sectors such as Halal meat, information technology, and other areas of mutual interest. He said that PM Anwar Ibrahim's visit would further enhance relations between the two countries. He said that Pakistan was fully geared up to grab the opportunity of exporting high-quality Halal meat to Malaysia as the agreement to the effect, besides many others, would be finalized during his forthcoming visit to the brotherly country. Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim on the occasion emphasized the importance of close contacts between the business communities of two countries to foster economic cooperation. He assured that Malaysia would continue its efforts to strengthen bilateral relations with Pakistan. The business communities of Pakistan and Malaysia signed four Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) on Thursday with an aim to promote trade relations between the two countries. According to press release issued by Commerce Ministry, Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, witnessed the signing of MoUs. Fauji Meat Limited and NSK signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) for a profit-sharing partnership in the distribution, wholesale, and retail of meat. Gobi VC Investment Fund committed \$300,000 to Qistbazar and announced plans to raise a \$50 million fund to support Pakistani startups. The statement added, SNA Equity invested \$5 million in Gamalux Pakistan, with a total investment goal of \$15 million by 2026. Additionally, Pakistan and Malaysia's Business Councils signed an MoU to enhance cooperation in Halal trade. These agreements mark a step towards strengthening trade and business relations between the two countries.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Prime Minister of Malaysia YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim in a group photo at Malaysia-Pakistan High Level Business Dialogue.

## Egyptian, Ethiopian envoys call on NA speaker; discuss bilateral relations, regional, int'l issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly (NA) Speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Thursday said Pakistan valued high its cordial ties with Egypt and intended to further expand the existing relations through enhanced parliamentary and economic cooperation. He expressed these views in a meeting with Ambassador of Egypt Dr. Ihab AbdelHamid Hassan who called on him at the Parliament House. Ayaz Sadiq said the relation between the two brotherly countries was based on common religion, culture, history, mutual respect and brotherhood. He expressed grave concern over the current situation in the Middle East and condemned Israeli aggression in Palestine and Lebanon. He urged upon the international community to play its role in ending Israeli occupation and aggression so that durable peace can prevail in the region. Highlighting the importance of parliamentary diplomacy, the speaker said parliamentary diplomacy could play a vital role in strengthening the bilateral relations. He further said the exchange of parliamentary delegations would enable parliamentarians of both countries to learn from each other's experiences. He also said enhanced contacts between Parliamentary Friendship Groups (PFGs) of both countries would result in strengthening of bi-lateral relations as well. Ayaz also extended invitation to his Egyptian counterpart to visit Pakistan along with parliamentary delegation. Egyptian Ambassador Dr. Ihab AbdelHamid Hassan appreciated the remarks of the speaker for further expanding relations between both brotherly countries and parliaments. He further said Egypt attached great importance to its cordial relation with Pakistan. He also commended Pakistan's efforts for promotion of durable peace in the region. Later on, Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan, Jamal Beker Abdula also called on the speaker at the Parliament House. The matters pertaining to bilateral relations and important regional and international issues were discussed during the meeting. Ayaz said Ethiopia was the gateway to the African Continent and Pakistan accorded great importance to its friendly relations with Ethiopia. He further said Pakistan according to its "Look Africa Policy" sought to strengthen its trade and diplomatic relations with African countries.



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Moazzam Jah Ansari addressing under trainee officers of National Institute of Management Quetta.

## Proposed constitutional package Lawyers organizations of Islamabad announce to convene APLC on Oct 7

ISLAMABAD (Online): All lawyers organizations of Islamabad while forging unity against proposed constitutional amendment has announced to convene All Pakistan Lawyers Convention (APLC) on October 7. All the representative bar associations, Islamabad High Court Bar, Islamabad district bar and Islamabad Bar Council while rejecting the proposed constitutional package have announced to put up resistance. Islamabad High Court bar, Islamabad district bar and Islamabad bar council held joint press conference. Aleem Abbasi of Islamabad Bar council held joint press conference along with other office bearers. All the three representative bar associations rejected constitutional package besides announcing to hold Pakistan Lawyers convention on October 7 against constitutional package. Aleem Abbasi said that we not only reject it but also we will put up resistance to stop them. Amendments are being made based on specific political parties and persons. Aleem Abbasi said following the implementation of these amendments, SC judges will have no more powers than a session judge. Letter from 6 judges was not liked. Now amendment is being made to keep aside these judges.

## Asim Kurd announces digitalization of revenue records in Hub

Independent Report HUB: Provincial Revenue Minister, Mir Asim Kurd Gello, announced that the provincial government is working towards the digitalization of revenue records to ensure good governance. Speaking at a media briefing during his visit to Hub on Thursday, the minister revealed that the settlement process in the district would soon commence. Minister Asim Kurd Gello emphasized that his primary focus is to address public grievances related to the Board of Revenue and Settlement Tehsil. He stated that, in line with the decision of the Balochistan cabinet, there is currently a ban on land transfer records, which will be lifted once the settlement process is completed. The minister assured that the settlement process in Hub would be carried out transparently, in accordance with the settlement manual. He instructed revenue officers to ensure fairness and prevent any injustice against stakeholders. The Balochistan government is also working on the digitalization of land records under the Revenue Act. Asim Kurd Gello credited the current government for initiating the computerization of revenue records and affirmed their commitment to resolving legitimate public complaints regarding the Board of Revenue in a timely manner. He also announced the organization of open forums to address governance issues and meet public expectations. During his visit, the provincial minister inspected the record room of the settlement office and received a briefing on settlement affairs. He directed relevant officers to strictly follow the settlement manual and ensure the protection of government land under the Land Revenue Act.



ISLAMABAD: PPP senior leader and Balochistan Advisor for Trade and Industry Mir Ali Hassan Zehri meeting with President Asif Ali Zardari.

## ECC approves increase in ARV retail price, ANF allowances

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Thursday approved many proposals including a summary proposing increase in retail price of Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) from Rs 891.65 to Rs 1,980 per vial of 0.5ml/ dose. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the ECC meeting, which among others was attended by Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain; Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari and Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik along with federal secretaries and senior officers from the ministries and divisions concerned. It was told that the Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) used at Federal General Hospital Chak Shahzad was manufactured by the National Institute of Health Islamabad, which was currently priced at Rs 891.65 whereas the WHO-approved ARV was sold at Rs 2,126.40 and the non-WHO approved ARV at Rs 1,266.14 in the market. After due consideration, the ECC approved the proposal to increase the Maximum Retail Price of ARV manufactured by the National Institute of Health, Islamabad, from Rs. 891.65 to Rs 1,980 per vial of 0.5ml/ dose to cover the land cost of imported material and ensure its sufficient production and supply to the public sector hospitals. The committee also approved a proposal for increase in the rate of Special Allowance (equal to 20 Daily Allowances) for the employees of Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) on a par with other Federal Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs). The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, in its summary, informed the committee about the short supply of Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) at Federal General Hospital Chak Shahzad Islamabad.



QUETTA: Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durran inspecting class room during her visit to Sandeman School.

## 3 die, 108 others injured in 60 accidents on various highways in Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: As many as three passengers died while 108 others injured in 60 traffic accidents reported on different national highways in Balochistan on a single day of Wednesday. According to the report of Medical Emergency Response Center (MERC) shared on Thursday, highest number of road accidents i.e., 29 were reported on N-25, Chaman-Quetta-Karachi highway. In these accidents, one person died while 59 others injured. Similarly, a total of 22 road mishaps were reported on N-50, Quetta-Kuchlak-Zhub-Dera Ismail Khan highway. Two passengers died while 33 others got injured in the road accidents occurred on N-50 highway. As per the MERC report, its centers located on different highways responded to the accidents and provided necessary medical aid there.

## Karim pays tribute to PM for presenting cases of Kashmir, Palestine in GA

QUETTA (APP): Central senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League- Nawaz (PML-N) Chaudhry Naeem Karim on Thursday paid tribute to the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Shehbaz Sharif for presenting the case of Kashmir and Palestine in the United Nations General Assembly (GA). In his statement issued here, he said that the Prime Minister has represented the nation by giving a resolute response to any aggression. The entire Pakistani nation is on the same page for the defense of the country, he said. He said that the Prime Minister tried to wake up the world in front of the Israeli Prime Minister and the Indian leader which was followed by the entire Muslim world. He said that the PM has won the hearts and minds of the Muslims around the world by highlighting the plight of the Kashmiri and Palestinian people at the highest forum. This speech reflects the true sentiments of not only the Kashmiri people but the entire Muslim Ummah, he noted.