

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XIX No. 238, Rabi-us-Sani 26, 1446 AH Wednesday October 30, Pages 04, Price Rs.15



**RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met the Crown Prince** and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia His Royal Highness Mohammed bin Salman on the sidelines of Future Investment Initiative Forum.

## **COAS** reiterates Pakistan's commitment to strengthening traditional defense ties with Russia

RAWALPINDI (Online): Colonel General Àlexander V. Fomin, Deputy Minister of Defence of the Rus- Fomin commended the Pasian Federation, met General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at the General Headquarters (GHQ) to-

The meeting ad-dressed the regional security environment and mat-ters of mutual interest, inrity environment and mat-ters of mutual interest, in-cluding the enhancement of bilateral defense and secu-

Pakistan's commitment to strengthening traditional defense ties with Russia while both sides affirmed their dedication to bolstering collaboration in various

security and defense domains

Colonel General kistan Army's achieve-ments in combating terrorism and highlighted the importance of a unified, cooperative approach among the global community to counter ex-

tremism. of the Russian Federation, rity cooperation. Colonel Generat COAS reiterated Aleksandr V. Fomin called

on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force at Air Headquarters here on Tuesday

Gas companies seek up to 53% price hike from **July 2024** 

ISLAMABAD (INP): Another inflationary blow seems imminent as gas companies have requested to increase Sui gas prices by up to 53%, effective from

July 1, 2024. Sui gas prices are expected to rise by 53.47% for Sindh and Balochistan, while for Punjab Islamabad, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the proposed increase is 3.66%.

The Sui gas compa-nies have submitted their applications to the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) to increase the gas prices from the back date. Sui Northern has pro-posed an average price in-MMBTU, raising the average rate to Rs 1,810.38 per MMBTU.

# **Global peace without end to Gaza** bloodshed out of question: PM

Calls for collective global collaboration in realms of AI, education, health to overcome present-day challenges



RIYADH (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday, while underscoring the importance of knowledge-based economy driven by innovation in domains of artificial intelli-gence, education and health, called for collective global efforts and partnerships to overcome the contemporary challenges.

He said that no nation could overcome today's challenges alone and no single country could harness the potential of tomorrow without the support of others

"Pakistan stands ready to join those who dare to dream big. We invite you to invest, to bring your expertise and creativity to Pakistan, as we build a future, rooted in resilience and shared prosper-' the prime minister said during his address at the plenary session of the 8th



**OUETTA: A delegation of PML-N MPAs led by Provincial Minister Mir Saleem** Khosa meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

Sarfraz Bugti condemns Paroom firing incident: Cop martyred; **Terrorists opponent of dev. 3** terrorists & peace, followers of anti killed in polio

darkness of night.

ent people.

precious lives.

He said that the terror-

ists would not be spared and

Initiative (FII) held here.

The prime minister said that he was elated to share that Pakistan, too, was on a transformative journey; a journey of resil-ience, sacrifice, and a relentless pursuit of stability and growth. Attended by global leaders, this year's FII is themed "Infinite Horizons: Investing

Today, Shaping Tomorrow" and focuses on global investments aimed at addressing major issues such as artificial intelligence, robotics, education, energy, space, finance healthcare, and sustainability

The participating countries engage in the dialogue for the promotion of investment and a sustainable future while highlighting the strength of their respective economies

The FII conference featured discus-sions on artificial intelligence, robotics, education, energy, space, public health, and challenges, confronting sustainable development. The prime minister, citing future course, said Pakistan was laying the foundation for a knowledge-based economy driven by innovation in three pivotal domains, artificial intelligence, education, and health in which they looked forward to forging useful partnerships.

"AI is more than a trend; it's a force revolutionizing economies, societies, and

## **PM Shehbaz lauds** KSA's support for economic revival

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia to enhance bilateral trade, investment

RIYADH (APP): Prime stock of the ongoing bilat-Minister Muhammad eral engagements, especially Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday in follow up to the decihighlighting the importance sions taken in previous of deep-rooted brotherly high-level meetings held in Makkah and Riyadh in relations between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi April Arabia, appreciated Kingdom's support for the economic revival and stabil-Apprising the crown prince on the government of Pakistan's economic, in-

stitutional and policy re-forms agenda, the prime The prime minister met with Crown Prince and minster said that the Kingdom had a central role in the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Pakistan' future economic Prince Mohammed bin plans. The prime minister Salman Al-Saud on the sideappreciated Kingdom's efforts to promote regional lines of the eighth session of the Future Investment peace and stability in the Initiative (FII) in Riyadh, Middle East and reiterated Pakistan's unwavering PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

commitment to standby the The two leaders took Kingdom in these efforts.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir exchanging views with Colo-nel General Aleksandr V. Fomin, Deputy Defence Minister of the Russian Federation during meeting held at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi.

## Five labourers killed, two others injured in terrorists attack at Paroom dam

President, PM condemn terrorist attack on workers at Panjgur dam site Independent Report two others injured when



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail in a group photo with members during 12th Senate session of BUITEMS.

## **Governor Balochistan says:** Govt ready to set new avenues of future, move on path of scientific development

Mandokhail insists we have to decide in all public sector universities keeping in view modern requirements and needs of 21st century

#### **Independent Report**

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that we have to make decision in all public sector universities keeping in view the modern requirements and needs of the 21st century that which departments and faculties are to be closed and which new ones are to be introduced

This wise initiative would not only increase our relevancy but it would also promote mutual understanding between the academy and market while adopting new changes.

This means that we are ready to set new avenues of future, move on the passage of scientific development and empower our fu-

ture builders.

The Governor was chairing the 12th Senate meeting of Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) here on Tuesday. Those who were present in the meeting were included: Judge of the High Court, Mr. Justice Aamin Nawaz Rana, Provincial

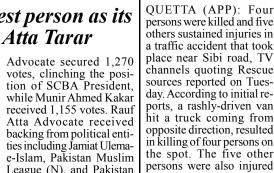
#### **Independent group's** Four killed, 5 injured near **Rauf Atta elected** Sibi traffic president of SCBA accident

SC bar elects best person as its President: Atta Tarar

People's Party.

OUETTA / ISLAMABAD (Online): In the annual elections of the Supreme Court Bar Association. Mian Rauf Atta Advocate of the Group, Independent backed by Asma Jahangir's faction, emerged victorious over Munir Ähmed Kakar Advocate of the Professional Group led by Hamid Khan. Polling took place across the country, including in Quetta on Tuesday.

According to unofficial results, Mian Rauf Atta



League (N), and Pakistan in the same incident. Rescue and Police Vote distribution revealed regional support difteam rushed to the site and shifted the dead and injured to Sibi district headquarter

ferences: in Quetta, Raut Atta received 70 votes to Kakar's 120; in Peshawar. hospital

#### state elements: CM Independent Report terrorism act, Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that terrorists are QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir cowards, who targeted the innocent persons in the

Sarfraz Bugti has condemned the incident of firing in Paroom area of Panjgur.

In a condemnation they have to be accountable statement issued here on for the bloodshed of the in-Tuesday, the Chief Minister said that the incident of terrorism is unforgivable terrorists involved in the inand condemnable. cident would be taken to

He said that the terrorist are opponents of the development and peace and are the followers of antistate elements.

The Chief Minister also said that peace and development is just irritating the enemies. However, the terrorists can never get success in their nefarious designs.

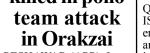
other party leaders.

early recovery of those in-While slamming the jured in the incident.

## Sajid Tareen says: Senators Ranjho, Naseema expelled from BNP-Mengal for violating party policy

ISLAMABAD / QUETTA senators for their betrayal, (Online) – Sajid Tareen Ad-vocate, the acting central stating they provided facili-tation to the establishment president of the Balochistan National Party the and the so-called federal government while deceiving (BNP), announced the exthe people of Balochistan. He accused them of betraypulsion of Senators Qasim Ranjho and Naseema Ehsan ing the ideology of Sardar Shah from the party due to Attaullah Khan Mengal for their violation of party policy and support for a controversial constitutional personal gain, claiming they sold their votes for individual interests. bill. During a press confer-

The BNP plans to file ence at the Islamabad Press a reference against the sena-Club, Tareen was accompators with the Election Comnied by former federal minmission, emphasizing that isters Agha Hassan Baloch both have now severed all ties with the party. Tareen stated, "They attempted to and central committee member Haji Hashim Notezi. He stated that the harm the national cause and decision to expel both senafailed to win councilor tors was made after conseats, yet they betrayed the party despite being made sulting with party leader and former Chief Minister senators." He reiterated the party's rejection of the reof Balochistan. Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal, and cent constitutional bill and demanded the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Tareen criticized both



PESHAWAR (APP): In an attack on police, escorting an anti-polio team in Upper Orakzai on Tuesday, a policeman was martyred while three of the terrorists were eliminated in retaliatory firing by the Frontier

Corps. SDPO, Upper He asserted that the Muhammad Orakzai, Rahim said the incident took place in Dabori Badan area task. The Chief Minister of Upper Orakzai where expressed sorrow with the terrorists attacked an antibereaved families of the polio team, and martyred martyrs. He also prayed policeman, Sayyed that may Allah Almighty Hameed. Another cop, give the bereaved families Muzammil sustained bulenough strength and palet injury in the attack. tience to bear the loss of The injured cop was shifted to DHQ Hospital He also prayed for the Orakzai by the police.

Ishaq Dar on Tuesday call-However, the jawans of ing the China-Pakistan Frontier Corps swiftly responded to the attack and Economic Corridor (CPEC) a "wonderful gift" of China eliminated three of the terto Pakistan, said that his rorists and arrested another in injured condition. country was committed to Large contingents of

taking the project to the next police and security forces level to deepen cooperation reached the area soon after in the fields of agriculture, the incident. industrialization, renewable

Pak-Iran

border opened

for 45-day

thanks to

Governor

**Independent Report** 

QUETTA: In a significant development, the Pak-Iran

border has been opened af-

ter a long time at Taftan

thanks to the untiring ef-

forts made by the Gover

nor Balochistan, Jaffar

cial handout issued here on

Tuesday, the Governor

According to an offi-

Khan Mandokhail.

unknown armed assailants ISLAMABAD: Five workattacked the site with weap ers were ambushed to death ons. He said that local and two others got injured people were targeted in the attack. The armed assailin terrorists attack at the ants fled from the scene afdam in Paroom area of ter the attack. According Panjgur in wee hours of Tuesday.

to the spokesman, the dead bodies of deceased persons The spokesman of provincial government, and injured were shifted to Shahid Rind confirmed that the local hospital. five workers engaged in the look after work of the dam

The condition of both injured workers is stated to in Paroom were killed while be out of danger.

## **DPM Dar says:** Pakistan committed to **CPEC-II** to deepen agri, industrial cooperation ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and

energy and others.

The deputy prime minister in his remarks at the International Conference "China at 75: A Journey of Progress, Transformation and Global Leadership" said that being the symbol of China-Pakistan cooperation, CPEC helped uplift the country's energy infrastructure to address the loadshedding woes of the people.



Foreign Minister Senator

OUETTA: Provincial Minister for Health Bkhat Muhammad Kakar inaugurates ICU Cardiac Surgery at Civil Hospital.

## Minister Health inaugurates Cardiac Surgery's ICU in Sandeman Hospital

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar inaugurated the Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care Unit (IČÚ) established in the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital here on Tuesday. The Medical Superintendent of Sandeman Hospital, Dr. Noorullah Musakhail, cardiologist from USA, Dr. Usman,

Balochistan was making endeavours for opening the Chief of Taraqee Foundation, Amjad Rasheed, pro-Taftan border. And now the vincial Head of Alfalah border has been opened for Bank, Sanaullah and other 45 days, mentioned in th concerned high ups were official release.

present on the occasion. It may be mentioned here that the repair and reno-

vation of the Cardiac Surgery ICU was done by the Taraqee Foundation and Alfalah Bank.

Addressing the ceremony, Provincial Minister said that it is our priority to facilitate the patients in hospitals by extending them all necessary healthcare facilities there.

He appreciated the role of Taraqee Foundation and Bank Alfalah in improving the healthcare facilities in the hospitals.

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan addressing the Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners Conference.





tions and revolt.

violence.

OPINION

## Daily **Independent**



## **Regional trade**

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb was correct in saying that not trading with your neighbours makes little sense.

In Pakistan's context, trade with regional states is negligible, and South Asia remains one of the least integrated regions in the world. Mr Aurangzeb was replying to a question at an event in Washington, and observed that while "political" and "geopolitical" issues were beyond his purview, Pakistan sought to expand its trade relations. He pointed out that this was one of the key reasons for joining the SCO, and seeking membership to BRICS

Indeed, trade can be a key conduit to bring states closer and reduce tensions and conflict. But in Pakistan's case, the biggest obstacle standing in the way of greater regional commerce is its longtime strained relationship with India. Yet it is also true that if Pakistan and India were to improve trade ties, better bilateral ties could develop across the spectrum.

The ruling PML-N, with its 'pro-business' outlook, has historically always argued for better trade ties with India. Both the prime minister and the foreign minister have earlier expressed the desire to improve trade ties with our eastern neighbour, hence there is nothing novel in what the finance minister suggested in Washington. The issue is that important stakeholders within the state must be on board if there is to be a normalisation of trade ties.

For example, despite the elected leadership's enthusiasm for trade with India, the Foreign Office had clarified in August that normalisation of commercial ties with Delhi was not on the agenda. This indicated that influential quarters were not overly enthused with the idea of trading with India. Crossborder commerce was suspended in 2019, after the abrogation of held Kashmir's limited autonomy by India, though it has resumed slightly, while smuggling and indirect trade through the UAE continue.

For its own economic interests, Pakistan should trade with India, Afghanistan, Iran and all other regional states. With reference to India. though it is the larger economy, cross-border trade can offer Pakistani businesses new markets in India, while Delhi can tap Central Asian markets by transiting through Pakistan. If done right, restored trade relations can also open the door to better bilateral ties. But for proper commercial ties to flourish, other ancillary facilities — a friendlier visa regime, direct flights, and banking channels - will be essential. It remains to be seen whether hardliners in the Indian capital would be willing to resume trade with Pakistan, while powerful quarters in this country must also be on board for crossborder trade to succeed. A blueprint for normalising trade finalised in 2012 can be used as a reference point to start the process afresh. As witnessed in other regions, economic interdependence can significantly help reduce chances of conflict.

# **Imbalance** of power

committees, which also Dr Niaz Murtaza have cross-aisle parity Power is a double-edged and follow Article 63-A's sword. It corrupts and party discipline proviabsolute power corrupts sions

absolutely. But it pro-A two-stage system duces order as well. with open applications Without power, there is and clear merit criteria is chaos. Eschewing absobest where legal aces lute power in the hands (judges, ex-judges, bar of a few, the sages sugcouncil heads and legal gest a balance of power academics) first vet the with checks and balapplicants. Parliament ances, one that is difrechecks their decisions, fused vertically and horirejecting the nominees zontally among state oronly if both aisles agree. gans. Power must be le-This ensures that decigitimate to reduce violasions don't reflect narrow executive concerns But we have long but those based on blithely ignored such

merit. We had a system wisdom. The 2008-18 era like this, with its easily had witnessed progress. fixable gaps being lack of But the last two years merit criteria and open under the PML-N/ PPP applications. Instead of have seen a huge reverfixing them, we adopted sal of this progress, with an opaque, non-merit, expower illegitimately ecutive-run system.

sucked upwards verti-Some people present long lists of cally and inwards horipost-2009 judiciary ills zontally. This concentration and illegitimacy of oddly without a power in a diverse, comproper 'before versus plex and large state after' review — to argue bodes ill for stability and that 'free' courts caused us harm and deserve

We had earlier detheir fate. The logic mimvolved power. Sadly, loics the clichéd one that cal bodies today are democracy causes harm. even more in a state of Judicial freedom is a big limbo than previously. part of democracy and Even the provinces have basic rights such as fair lost powers they had trials; undoing it undoes won via the 18th Amenddemocracy as well as ment, due to fiscal cuts, basic rights of which we court verdicts and the inhave had little experiformal sway of an omence

nipotent centre. The A free judiciary centre dominates the peforms slowly when it's ripheries such as not hired by executives Balochistan and the but emerges through a former Fata areas, leadprocess of merit that eming to local ire, revolt and ploys able judges who do

not succumb to pressure We now see autonoand who curb personal mous entities being biases. It is strengthened defanged: the ECP and by formal laws that en-NAB earlier and the hance court freedoms higher courts now in the and when agencies name of parliamentary, don't hound judges. The but in reality executive, only formal freedom courts got briefly was the one via the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendsway. In parliamentary systems, executives come from parliaments. ment. So, the blame for So, it's easy to confuse the judiciary's many ills the executive and parliagoes to the old system mentary dominance. when its current old True parliamentary sway guard leadership was in hiring judges means first hired long ago by legislators in cabinets, executives on mainly ponot sitting in appointing litical grounds.

It is unsurprising if some judges misused the informal space. We are sadly back to that system. But the fruits of limited formal freedom will surely emerge once able judges hired in the high courts via the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment adorn the judicial leadership. Six such judges have already shown unprecedented guts in their recent letter against the agencies, which many say spurred the apex court's judges to rule rightly against regime interests on reserved seats. So, the courts are being chained not for old wrongs but present resolve This sucking of

po--w-er upwards and inwa-rds should mean a muscular, omnipotent exe-cutive in Islamabad. Od-dly, we see an emaciated one. Where did all the inflow of power go? Wise ones talk in hushed tones of the establishment. This then is our

power (im)balance: topstuffed, illegitimate and opaque. Diverse and autarkic groups in large and complex states chafe at such power traits and pursue legal, peaceful avenues against them. But they are all be-

ing shut with courts defanged, parliament disabled, media silenced and protests crushed. Unfortunately, in this case, legitimate gripes erupt in ugly forms: crime, mob rage attacks or terrorism. Nearby Sri Lanka and Bangladesh have shown the power of huge upheaval. Earlier showed our years struggles in conflict despite armed power, even against ragtag militants. The future will show if our muscles can curb upheaval. The right way lies in renewing power legitimacy and diffusion. But when power lies elsewhere, more sensible complex ways and evade rulers quite easily.

-- Courtesy Dawn

**Essential judgments** 

#### **Parvez Rahim**

While almost all employers in Pakistan engage third-party contractors to carry out some or most of their work, many are not aware as to what type of rested with the company; work they can safely contract out and how the job will be managed administratively.

professionals had believed that core jobs in the office or factory operations should not be assigned to contractors' employees. Such jobs required constant supervision by the company's staff, which provided an opportunity for the contractors' employees to claim the status of the principal employer's workers. The experts believed that ancillary services, or non-core jobs, such as housekeeping, gardening or canteen operations, could be safely contracted out as supervision by the company personnel was not required

spate of Supreme Court judgments, employers now feel it has become risky to outsource even support services. The provisions of the draft labour codes have trig- till 1982 was grappling gered caution because they state that permanent jobs cannot be contracted out. Nevertheless, a perusal of three SC judgments, since the 2013 landmark judgment in the Fauji Fertiliser Company (FFC) case, reveals that none of them bars ancilservices' lary outsourcing. These judgments establish the principle that employees hired through contractors and working with the company's own staff under the same supervision are the latter's employees and not the contractor's.

In a landmark SC judgment on May 16, 2013, then chief justice Iftikhar Chaudhry confirmed the status of 112 workers of the bagging and loading section as the hiring was carried out tesy Dawn

#### FFC's employees and not through the contractor. of the contractor. The The court also noted reasons were valid: 1) that it was sad that com-The authority to hire and panies do not bother to fire, including settlement of wages and benefits of

2) their work was supervised, controlled and looked after by the incharge of the bagging Human resource department and his subordinate staff/ supervi- ment on April 4, 2024, the sors; 3) these workers had been continuously in the employment of the company for a long time; 4) they were also responsible for cleaning the machines and floors. Prior to the judg-

ment, this case had been pending in the lower and pieces, to the courts for over two de- outsource contractor, incades. FFC had pur- cluding human resource, chased a plant at Mirpur Mathelo in Sindh from or the Pak-Saudi Fertiliser Company, a state enterprise. The intention was to manage the plant professionally. But erasing irregular practices required time.

The bagging and However, due to a loading section was considered the most manpower-intensive area in a fertiliser plant. Another fertiliser plant of an American company at Daharki where I worked with a similar situation. It was acquired by the Engro Fertiliser Company. When I visited it more than two decades later, I was amazed to see that the huge bagging and shipping area was now fully automated. Even the loading of urea bags on trucks was mechanised.

In the second SC judgment on Dec 8, 2017, a three-judge bench headed by chief justice Mian Saqib Nisar and spirit. regularised the services

of 210 employees at Pakistan State Oil. During the hearing, the top judge observed that unfortunately, companies, including large enterprises, do not regularise and pension schemes for their employees. In fact,

donors regarding the

(PRCS) merged districts

chapter was convened at

chairman, Imran Wazir,

The meeting included

the Governor's House.

merged districts.

own their workers. Instead of granting workthe contractor's workers ers their rights, the companies file cases to avoid doing so. Some of the contractors' employees had been in service since In the third SC judgservices of 20 employees, allegedly employed by contractors, were confirmed at IFFCO Pakistan (Private) Ltd, the user company. The judges stated "there is no bar to contract out the whole job, or in bits within its own pre-mises

through toll manufacturi-ng agreements, but what is cruis that the cial outsourcing should not be used as a weapon of circumvention of labour laws by means of sham

agreements" There is a common factor in the aforementioned judgments: the supervision and control of the employees hired through the contractors and regularised by the SC rested with user companies. Employers must bear in mind that they need to avoid hiring employees through contractors to save on costs or to retain the right to terminate their employment at will.

The judgment in IFFCO's case is significant as it clearly spells out the outsourcing of jobs in totality or partly, provided a lawfully executed agreement is complied with in letter

employers The should honour such verdicts by ensuring that the contrac-tors abide by the labour laws applicable to the establishment, and secure social security their employees. -- Cour-

National News

# **Governor Punjab credits President Zardari for stable** coalition govt in country

RAWALPINDI (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has Kahuta here Tuesday. said that positive criticism was meant for and health were the province. He informed the improvement of the responsibility of the audience that a dialysis government, government's performance. He credited President Asif unfortunately, the past Ali Zardari for a stable current coalition government.

"Pakistan People's Party always plays its positive role when the country faces challenges of national integrity and dignity", he said and added that the credit goes to President Asif Ali Zardari for present stable coalition government. The governor remarked this during his address at the 8<sup>th</sup> annual session of Ghulam Rabbani



LAHORE: Participants are holding Breast Cancer Awareness Walk organized by Lahore Press Club Administration, held in Lahore.

## Swedish envoy, CM agrees to strengthen cooperation

CM Maryam Nawaz

foi

Swedish

environment

The

LAHORE (APP): Swedish conducive investment Ambassador to Pakistan climate in Punjab. Alexandra Berg von Linde called on Punjab Chief emphasized a strong focus Minister Maryam Nawaz on agriculture and support for farmers, stating, "There is a favorable Sharif here on Tuesday.

The meeting explored avenues for strengthening bilateral relations.

investment in Punjab." She The discussions assured investors that they focused on potential can invest in the province collaboration in various without fear of risk. sectors, including education, health, IT, ambassador commended agriculture, trade, and the Punjab government's environmental initiatives to protect sustainability, with an minority and women's emphasis on creating a rights

Qureshi Welfare to serve the needy Foundation (GRQWF) in segments of the society He said that the poor are He said that education treated free of cost in Sindh

but center would soon be established at Tehsil governments did not pay Hospital Pindi Gheb, attention to it. He further Attock. A large number of people including former federal minister Mehreen said that government owned schools should not be privatized. "Where there is a shortage of staff, the government should fill this

The Governor Punjab visited Al-Fateh Women shortage", he maintained. Appreciating the dialysis center and the Vocational Free Technical

Center, Computer Lab health facility being provided to the poor by Laboratory, Free Kidney the GRQWF in Kahuta, and Dialysis Center and Laboratory, Free Kidney other departments established in GRQWF. the governor said that other people should come ahead

## **KP Govt** forms body to appoint VCs in

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khvber Pakhtunkhwa government has formed Academic Search Committee to appoint Vice Chancellors in public sector universities

Professor Abdullah Malik had been appointed as the convener of committee while the other members included Anwar-ul-Hasan Gilani,

Muhammad Aslam Baig and appointed as secretary of the committee.

Multan, disrupts routine life MULTAN (APP): Early morning smog blanketed inclusive growth within Multan and surrounding

Pakistan's areas, intensifying ecosystem. PITB pollution and disrupting daily life. According to General (DG) e-Governance Sajid Latif Deputy Director M e t e o r o l o g i c a l Department, Muhammad and Al-Khidmat Foundation Lahore Arshad, the smog index hit President Engr Ahmad 226 on Tuesday, with a Hammad Rashid signed further rise expected over the MoU on behalf of the next two weeks



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi presides over the meeting of Pakistan Red Crescent Society Merged Districts Branch at Governor House.

## Minister attends 25<sup>th</sup> **COTHM convocation**

(APP): LAHORE students, emphasising that COTHM (Global UK) organised its annual 25<sup>t</sup> convocation on Tuesday at Golden Pearl Hall, Faletti's Hotel, in which Provincial Minister for Minorities

tourism

Ramesh Singh Arora tourism industry congratulated all graduating sense of the word.

PITB, Al-Khidmat

signs MoU

Affairs Ramesh Singh

Arora participated as the

students of various programmes, including

hospitality, culinary arts,

baking & patisserie and

management were awarded

appreciation certificates

and medals. In his address,

LAHORE (APP): The their

Technology Board (PITB)

Foundation Pakistan have

signed a Memorandum of

Information

Al-Khidmat

fostering

digital

Director

&

A large number of

chief guest.

travel

Punjab

and

**Bill 2024** their achievements are a PESHAWAR (APP): The result of their hard work. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa prayers of their parents, Assembly with panel and the blessings of Allah. He lauded the role of Chairman Muhammad Idress Khan here on COTHM in leading the Tuesday passed the KP youth towards economic Districts Advisory empowerment through Committee Amendment meaningful education and Bill 2024 training. He said that COTHM does not just

respective

Director

organizations. Key participants included

PITB Director Skills

Development Chaudhary

Ahmad Islam, Al-

BanoQabil Program

Lahore Dr. Usman Afzal,

and Regional Head VMD

Al-Khidmat Foundation

Lahore Moawiz Bin Tahir.

PITB will provide Al-

Khidmat Foundation with

a database of high-

achieving and deserving

female students from its

SheWins program. Al-

Khidmat Foundation will

support these students

by offering interest-free financing for essential

digital tools, including laptops and mobile

phones

As part of the MoU.

Khidmat's

The Bill pertaining to giving DDĂC prepare graduates equipped with market-driven skills but also Chairmanship to Members National Assembly, was approved by majority produces graduates who members of the House. The are able to discover their Bill was presented by Provincial Minister Arshad own identity and serve the hospitality, travel and Ayub. tourism industry in true

### High-level delegation from US, Canada and AKU visits KIU

**KPAssembly** 

passes DDACs

**KPAmendment** 

GILGIT (APP): A high-level delegation from the United States, Canada, and Aga Khan University (AKU) visited the Karakoram International University (KIU) here Tuesday. The delegation met with the Vice Chancellor of KIU. Professor Dr. Attaullah Shah and discussed potential collaboration in promoting higher education and research. During the meeting, the importance of ioint efforts in enhancing educational frameworks and research initiatives was discussed. The delegation expressed its commitment to exploring possible partnerships that would benefit both students and faculty.

## Kundi for promotion of merged districts

(APP): managing committee, and **K**hyber various officials.

During the session, comprehensive briefings were provided on the objectives, duties, financial management, and administrative matters of the merged districts branch.

Key discussions focused on the availability of relief supplies for He said this in a natural disaster response, meeting of the Pakistan annual income and Red Crescent Society expenditures, securing funds from donors, and the importance of volunteer services. Governor Kundi emphasized the effective participation from the use of PRCS-managed properties and the necessity of utilizing funds Vice President Farzand Wazir, members of the responsibly.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Miniority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora distributing certificates amongst the students during annual convocation.

# **Opposition decries worsening** law, order situation in merged areas, demand to convene APC

PESHAWAR Opposition parties in Kĥyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Tuesday demanded to convene All Parties Conference (APC) to ponder over the deteriorating law and order situation in merged areas and to address feelings of insecurity among people. The proceedings of

the day were presided over by Muhammad Idrees of Panel of Chairman. Opposition benches demanded convening of APC to deliberate over law and order situation while treasury benches stressed to form a full house committee to assess the situation.Parliamentary leader of Awami National

(APP): Party, Arbab Usman said that incidents of insurgency had been increased in merged districts during last two months and writ of government was being challenged time and time again. He suggested a meeting of APC and a visit of parliamentarians to meet members of affected families and express solidarity with them.

He also questioned delay in investigation of attack on Bara Check Post and said that compensation amount should be paid to heirs of martyred. Ahmad Kundi of PPP said that insurgency was not confined to district Khyber but whole province is affected by these incidents.



of the province. A notification issued said that

Dr Sara Safdar while the secretary of higher education department had been

Understanding (MoU) to empower women with digital and entrepreneurial **Smog engulfs** skills. In this regard, an Al-Khidmat Foundation delegation visited PITB Chairman Faisal Yousaf, marking a significant step towards

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Wednesday October 30, 2024

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# **Maritime Minister lauds** China's economic model, strengthens bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): economic model as an ideal Federal Minister for for other countries, adding elevate Pakistan's maritime Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh, on Tuesday emphasized inspired by this approach. and shipping industry. He China's economic model as a global example during a recent conference, underscoring the strengthening partnership between Pakistan and China.

Addressing conference "China at 75: A a reflection of their close Journey of Progress, Transformation & Global Leadership," organized by the Pak-China Institute, the Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh praised China's economic approach, which he said surpasses Western liberal and neo-liberal models. He prioritizing Pakistan highlighted the Chinese within South Asia.

that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is also standards of China's port The discussed

the and actions by hostile strengthening strategic groups would not weaken partnership between the longstanding Pakistan and China, noting friendship between the two that the two nations nations. He also assured consistently support each that Pakistan's federal the other in international fora, government is addressing the concerns of the Chinese ties. He expressed government and investors. optimism about the The completion of Phase II of reiterated the importance

China-Pakistan of CPEC for the Economic Corridor (CPEC) development Balochistan and other with China's continued support and thanked the provinces, stressing Pakistan's commitment to Chinese government for seeing all CPEC projects through to completion.

sector to meet the minister emphasized that terrorism

Sheikh pledged to

minister **Chinese-Pakistani** of companies participate in **B2B** Investment Meeting on Fisheries in Qingdao PCCC, CEMB

### to collaborate on cotton

Pakistani companies participated in the first research Pakistan-China B2B Investment Meeting on MULTAN (APP): The Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) and Fisheries held on Tuesday in Qingdao, Shandong province on China. Centre of Excellence in Molecular Biology

The event was the (CEMB) have agreed on a first in a series of sectorjoint proposal to advance cotton research and specific meetings to foster joint ventures and development in Pakistan. partnerships between The initiative was Pakistani and Chinese companies.

Zafar who represented PCCC, and Dr. Abdul Qayyum, on behalf of CEMB. Under this proposal, the PCCC will supply valuable genetic material, while CEMB would contribute cutting-edge gene

technology to support withstand boosting

equipment such as draft hope that it would bring in progress at the Power Pakistan's cotton standards. BEIJING (APP): As many The event is a followas 45 Chinese and 28 up to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China in June 2024 to further promote trade and investment between the two countries. Sun Huanjiang, Committee Member of CPC, Qingdao Municipal

Marine Development Bureau, in his remarks, reiterated the historic All Weather Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and China.

## New Service Center launched to enhance China-Pakistan cooperation in agriculture

Agricultural Machinery Service Center, Pakistan was inaugurated at the International Conference Center in Changsha, Hunan. It aims at enhancing agricultural capabilities in

Pakistan and fostering greater cooperation between China and Pakistan in agricultural mechanization, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday. The unveiling ceremony

International News

innovation technologies The secretary praised Agriculture Implements, the efforts of EDB's and mainstream ISLAMABAD (APP): Parliamentary Secretary current management in Petrochemical Policy and

Ministry of Industries and Production Shahid Usman on Tuesday commended the Engineering Development Board (EDB) for its remarkable progress in promoting innovative technologies, aligning with government's vision. the

**Commerce** News

YK

TME

During his visit to the EDB for a detailed briefing on its activities, the secretary expressed his appreciation, said a news release.

### **Rupee sheds** 06 paisa

against dollar

the

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Tuesday depreciated by 06 paisa against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.74 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.68. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.25 and Rs 278.75 respectively. The price of Euro increased by 27 paisa to close at Rs 300.23

During the meeting, it Provincial Minister for was decided to start a new loan scheme with easy terms for SMEs. This scheme, to be advanced in partnership with banks, will provide easy loans to promote solar energy in small industrial estates. Additionally, a new program aimed enhancing business skills for women investors was approved. Under this program, with the support of the Asian Development Bank, Women Resource Centers will be established in Faisalabad.

Promoting. Additionally, he commended the EDB for

preparing a comprehensive

policy to promote local

manufacturing and the early adoption of Electric

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to support SMEs.

**Finland warns Xi of** 

QINGDAO: The first 'Pakistan-China B2B Investment Meeting' on Fisheries was organized in Qingdao, Shandong province, on 29 October 2024. Ambassador of Pakistan to China Mr. Khalil Hashmi and Secretary of the Board of Investment Mr. Rahim Hayat Qureshi in a group photo with the representatives of participating companies of Pakistan and China. **Shahid Usman lauds EDB** efforts in promoting

B 2 B

formulation of Auto Industry Development and Export Policy(AIDEP 2021-26), Mobile Device Manufacturing Policy, interventions promotion of Solar and Allied Equipment.

LAHORE

(SMEs).

Vehicles (EVs), including New Energy Vehicles He also applauded EDB new initiatives for (NEVs), in support of a sustainable transport development of development engineering sector including New Energy Vehicles (NEV) Policy, system in Pakistan, energy efficiency, and the transition to clean technologies and environment in the country.

Ch Shafay chairs **SMEs Council meeting** 

(APP):

for

Industry and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain

#### chaired the first meeting of the Provincial Council on SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) here Tuesday. The meeting took several key decisions aimed at promoting small and medium-sized enterprises Managing Director of Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC) Saira Umar gave a detailed briefing on actions and strategies being taken

briefing, the Project and Director the Construction Manager briefed the Chairman about the milestone achieved on these sites. Temporary support work in the tunnel is complete paving the way for commencement of

Installation

The Chairman had a detailed visit of the key construction on the connecting tunnel. witnessed construction tubes of all three units work going on there, said a Unit No. 18, 19 and 20 - is

ISLAMABAD: Japanese Ambassador HE Wada called on the Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain in Islamabad.

## **Chairman WAPDA reviews** construction work on Tarbela 5<sup>th</sup> **Extension Hydropower Project**

TARBELA (APP): Chairman WAPDA Engr Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd) on Tuesday visited underconstruction 1530 MW-Tarbela 5<sup>th</sup> Extension and reviewed the progress on the project.

sites, which include the Raised Intake, the Tunnel and the Power house, and press release.

During the on-site house Site.

agreed between Dr. Yusuf

research. Together, both institutions aim to develop cotton varieties with higher yield potential that can climate challenges. This initiative would surely modernize Pakistan's cotton sector, economic resilience. Dr. Yousaf Zafar highlighted the partnership as a unique opportunity to transform the cotton

industry and expressed

marked a collaboration Agricultural Research Board. against the last day.

BEIJING (INP): The between the China Overseas Luban Workshop Agricultural Machinery Distribution Association (CAMDA), Tianjin Modern

Vocational Technology College, Tianjin Tailai Import and Export Co., Ltd., Tianjin Agricultural Mechanization Technology Testing Service Center, and Wugu Media.

On the occasion, according to CEN Asif Shah, Honorary Consultant of the Pakistan Luban Workshop and Executive Board Member of the Punjab

# Israeli strike in northern Gaza kills at least 60, officials say, as Hezbollah announces new leader

ian refugees to operate in

provider in Gaza. Israel has

long accused it of militant

ties, allegations denied by

found to kill children.'

the agency.

**Monitoring Desk** DEIR AL-BALAH: An Israeli strike on a five-story restrict the ability of the U.N. agency for Palestinbuilding where displaced Palestinians were sheltering in the northern Gaza Strip killed at least 60 people the Palestinian territories. The agency, known as UNRWA, is the largest aid early Tuesday, more than half of them women and children, Gaza's Health Ministry said.

In a separate development, Lebanon's militant group Hezbollah said it has chosen Sheikh Naim Kassem to succeed longtime leader Hassan Nasrallah, who was killed in an Israeli airstrike last month. Hezbollah vowed continue with Nasrallah's policies "until victory is achieved."

Israel also faced back-



A crowd gathers to watch as first responders work after a tram derailed and crashed into a building in the center of Oslo, Norway.

US warns Iran at UN of 'severe consequences' in case of new attacks

**Monitoring Desk** UNITED NATIONS: The United States warned Iran at the United Nations Security Council on Monday of "severe consequences" if it undertakes any further aggressive acts against Israel or US personnel in the Middle East. "We will not hesitate to act in self defense. Let there be no confusion. The United States does not want to see further escalation. We believe this should be the end of the direct exchange of fire between tary support for its ally.

Israel and Iran," US Ambas-sador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield told the 15member council The Security Council

met after Israel struck missile factories and other sites in Iran before dawn on Saturday. It was retaliation for Iran's Oct. 1 attack on Is-

rael with about 200 ballistic missiles. Iran's UN Ambassathem. dor Amir Saied Iravani accused Washington of being "complicit" through milibeat their son into a coma may never face trial

lash from aid groups after cades, as the new secretaryits parliament passed legis-lation that could severely general.

Kassem, 71, a founding member of the militant group established following Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, had been serving as acting leader.

He has given several televised speeches vowing that Hezbollah will fight on despite a string of setbacks.

Hezbollah began fir-A spokesperson for the U.N. children's agency ing rockets into Israel, drawing retaliation, after said the decision "means Hamas' surprise attack out that a new way has been of Gaza on Oct. 7, 2023, triggered the war there. Hezbollah said in a Iran, which backs both statement that its decisiongroups, has also directly making Shura Council traded fire with Israel, in elected Kassem, who had been Nasrallah's deputy April and then again this

#### Ship with suspected toxic waste in Albania

month.

**Monitoring Desk** DURRS: A ship carrying hundreds of tonnes of possibly toxic industrial waste returned to Albania's largest seaport of Durres on Monday, months after setting sail to dispose of the material in Thailand.

The Turkish-flagged Moliva container ship, believed to be carrying around a hundred containers filled with suspicious waste, was expected to be tested by Albanian authorities.

### Bangladesh immunity order sparks fears of

lice detained two people on Tuesday after a temple justice denied fireworks show erupted **Monitoring Desk** into a ferocious explosion, DHAKA: Hundreds died in leaving almost a hundred the student-led revolution people in hospital, eight that toppled Bangladesh's autocratic leader Sheikh in a critical condition. Hundreds were crowded Hasina, but those impacted around a Hindu temple at Nileshwaram in the southin the violent aftermath fear the new authorities' promern state of Kerala on Monday evening to watch ise of justice will exclude the fireworks, videos

The family of 16-yearposted by Indian newspaold Shahriar worry those who pers showed.



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends the welcome ceremony for Finnish President Alexander Stubb at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China.

## **Russia's air attacks kill** four in Kharkiv, injure four in Kyiv, Ukraine says

gram messaging channel. That attack followed a Russian guided bomb attack on Kharkiv late on Monday that shattered much of the Derzhprom building, one of the most celebrated landmarks in the city, dating from the 1920s

Four people were killed in Kharkiv after In Kyiv, falling debris from a destroyed midnight on Tuesday in Russian drone injured Russia's bombardment of four people and set a resithe city's Osnovianskvi dential building on fire, the mayor of the Ukraidistrict, Mayor Ihor the mayor of the Terekhov said on his Tele- nian capital said.

## **Firework explosion at** temple in India's Kerala injures over 150

Monitoring Desk les can be heard, before a powerful ball of flame NEW DELHI: Indian posurges high into the sky.

"Around eight people are critical, and around 154 have been reported injured, out of which 97 people are admitted in hospital," local police chief Shilpa Dyavaiah told AFP. "They burst fire-

crackers very close to the place where they have stored the firecrackers,' Dyavaiah said, adding that sparks from the burst crackers reached the

Then, from inside a building, a surge of crackcache.

Naim Qassem to succeed slain head Nasrallah **Monitoring Desk** BEIRUT: Lebanese armed group Hezbollah said on

Tuesday it had elected deputy head Naim Qassem to succeed slain secretary general Hassan Nasrallah. who was killed in an Israeli air attack on Beirut's southern suburb over a month ago. The group said in a

Hezbollah elects

written statement that its Shura Council had elected Oassem. 71. in accordance with its established mechanism for choosing a secretary general.

### Israel votes to ban UN aid agency, **Palestinians** say 100,000 residents trapped

Monitoring Desk JERUSALEM: Israel's parliament passed a law on Monday to ban the UN relief agency UNRWA from operating inside the country, alarming some of Israel's Western allies who fear it will worsen the already dire humanitarian situation in Gaza.

Israeli officials cited the involvement of a handful of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees' thousands of staffers in the Oct. 7, 2023.

US Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris speaks during a campaign rally at Burns Park in Ânn Arbor, Michigan.

## Harris to rally where **Trump riled Capitol** riot crowd

MICHIGAN: Kamala Harris will urge Americans to turn the page on Donald Trump as she delivers her closing election argument Tuesday on the spot where her rival rallied supporters before the January 6, 2021

US Capitol attack. With polls in a dead heat exactly one week before Election Day, the Democratic vice president's campaign said she chose the symbolic site to push her case that

president is a threat to American democracy. But Harris will also deliver an "optimistic and

the Republican former

campaign official said, amid rumblings in the party that she is focusing too much on Trump and not enough on her own policies. She will address some

20,000 people on the Elipse, a park outside the White House where Trump delivered a fiery speech in which he ramped up his false claims that he won the 2020 election.

Trump supporters then marched on the Capitol to disrupt the certification of Joe Biden's victory, in an assault that left a least five people dead and 140 police officers injured.

**Monitoring Desk** 

hopeful" message, a senior



in terms of sending troops an escalation and provocation in a message on behalf to escalation Cexpansion and of NATO and the EU durprovocation. So we had a ing talks in Beijing on Tuesgood discussion about this.

day Stubb and Xi met as Stubb told reporters. North Korea's foreign min-Vladimir Putin has not deister arrived in Russia, with Western military alliance NATO and South Korea warning that Pyongyang's troops could soon be entering the Ukraine war on Moscow's side.

nied the presence of North Korean troops, while Pyongyang has not commented. Stubb, who met various European leaders in recent weeks, said he deliv-

Russia,

Russian President

ered to Xi messages coor-The U.S. estimates 10,000 North Korean dinated with Finland's allies in NATO and the EU.





another four injured in Russia's multi-wave overnight attacks on Ukraine's two largest cities of Kharkiv and Kyiv, Ukrainian officials said on

Tuesday.

## Daily **Independent**, Hub



tial for cooperation between

Pakistan and Russia in mul-

tiple fields, which could be

utilized to achieve the de-

velopment goals of the

people of both countries.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar and Ambassador of Türkiye, Dr. Irfan Neziroglu, and others cutting the cake during the 101 Anniversay of Turkish National Day at a local hotel in Federal Capital.

## Visits Jamia Islamia Education System Institute: **Chief Minister vows to encourage** private sector for promotion of education in Balochistan

ter and sports complex in

the Jamia Islamia Institute.

announced to provide 10

In addition to this, he

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has vowed to encourage private sector for promotion of education in the province.

The Chief Minister said that no child would reroad main deprived of basic right of education.

He was speaking on construct basic health cenoccasion of his visit to the Jamia Islamia Education System Institute here on Tuesday

acres of government land to During the visit, he inspected different parts of the Institute in view of its the Institution and ex- services in the education pressed pleasure over the sector. He said that the land

government has initiated

steps to increase the num-

ber of Supreme Court of

Pakistan judges from 17 to

23, with sources revealing

that an official bill will be

introduced in the National

Assembly soon in this re-

will be consisting of 23 judges including Chief Jus-

tice of Pakistan and the bill

regarding the increment of

number of judges from 17

to 23 will be presented in

National Assembly on Nov

The Supreme Court

gard.

1 (Friday).

Barrister

from 17 to 23

proceeding.

on Friday.

Danyal will go up to 23.

enforcement of curriculum acquired from the land grabcompatible with the educabers in Chatham Achozai tional requirements of the would be allotted to the Inreligion and modern era stitute there.

that educational emergency The Chief Minister announced to build road is already enforced in the from the Institution to province and government is Muslim Abad, Airport doing a lot for bringing improvement in the education He also announced to sector

He also mentioned that closed schools are being opened and the habitual absentee teachers are being sent home permanently. He said education is basic right of the children

He also mentioned

as such no one would be deprived of it.

# ADB approves \$500 mln loan to support climate, disaster resilience in Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$500 million policy-based loan to support climate change and disaster risk reduction and resilience in Pakistar

The Climate and Disaster Resilience Enhancement Program (CDREP) will strengthen Pakistan's institutional capacity for planning, preparedness, and response; increase inclusive investment in disaster risk reduction and climate resilience; and support the scale up of disaster risk financing using a Zhukov. risk-layered approach, ac-cording to ADB press re-

lease received here Tues-Pakistan is one of the

most vulnerable countries

**Planning Minister** 

to climate change and disasters triggered by natural hazards in Asia and the Pacific. Average losses from disaster events exceed \$2 billion per year. Women and other vulnerable groups are disproportionately affected

by climate change and disaster events. 'This program builds on ADB's longstanding work in Pakistan to understand and reduce climate and disaster risks and support effective disaster response," said ADB Director General for Central and

West Asia Yevgeniy We are proud to support an integrated and comprehensive approach to climate and disaster risk management, including a portfolio of disaster risk financ-

ing instruments for timely and adequate funding for disaster response," Zhukov added The program supports enhanced capacity

for disaster risk mapping and modeling for investment and development decisions. It enhances coordination for disaster monitoring and response. It supports enhanced planning and prioritization of gender-sensitive and resilient

public investments, including integrated flood risk management and naturesed solutions. The program sup ports mobilization of cli

mate finance from public and private sources. This includes issuance of a domestic green sukuk (Islamic bond)



ISLAMABAD (APP): lations between Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz and Russia. Sharif on Tuesday said that He said that the upthere existed a huge poten-

coming meeting of the Pakistan-Russia Joint Commission in December this year would provide an important opportunity to expand bilateral cooperation. In the meeting, the

two sides discussed the The prime minister, in a meeting with a parliamenstrengthening of banking tary delegation, led by the channels, and the formation Speaker of the Russian Fedof a comprehensive eration Council Valentina roadmap to promote eco-



Matvienko, said that the strength and sustainability of the bilateral relations following the recent visits of Pakistan by the Russian senior leadership was welcoming, according to a PM Office press release.

The prime minister welcomed the Russian delegation to Pakistan and called their visit an important step towards strength-

#### nomic, trade, and invest ment cooperation between Pakistan and Russia Prime Minister

Shehbaz said that the recent visit of a 70-member Pakistani business delegation to Russia led by the Communications Minister and participation in the Pakistan-Russia Trade and Investment Forum was a welcoming step for the promotion of bilatening the parliamentary re- eral trade and investment.

## Ministers appreciate **Operational excellence** displayed by both PPL, BME in the mining sector

**Independent Report** KHUZDAR: The Minister for Mines and Minerals, Government of Balochistan, Mir Shoaib Nosherwani, accompanied by Health Minister Mr. Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Deputy Commissioner Mr. Yasir Dashti, and other officials, visited Bolan Mining Enterprises (BME) in Khuzdar. The delegation was warmly received by Mr. Zeeshan Asghar, Head of Bolan Mining Enterprises (BME)/ BLZ, Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL). Mr. Zeeshan briefed the delegation on BME's operations, notable achievements, corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives, and future plans

the Government of Balochistan, plays a key role in the region's economic development.

Minister Nosherwani commended BME for its substantial contributions to the local community and lauded the operational excellence displayed by both PPL and BME in the mining sector. He emphasized the importance of BME's continued role in driving regional growth and assured the government's support for its future endeavors.

This visit highlights the government's commitment to fostering development in the mining industry and enhancing collaboration with enterprises for for growth. BME, a joint the socio-econom venture between PPL and upliftment of the region. socio-economic

Govt sets to increase number of SC judges RAWALPINDI (INP) ISLAMABAD (INP): The Chaudhary of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz PTI founder Imran Khan (PML-N) has already presented the bill in a private

in new Toshakhana case on According to sources, Fuesday. Special Judge after the private bill, an of-Central ficial bill to increase the Arjumand presided over the number of judges will be nearing at Adiala Jail. tabled soon. They said the official bill to amend the

resent in the court, while Bushra Bibi's request for exemption from appearance was accepted. FIA prosecutor Umair Majeed opposed her exemption.

According to the proposed bill, the total count of Supreme Court judges, It is noteworthy that including the chief justice, next appearance.

#### lyze recommendations made by the Chinese working team. Imran, Bushra's indictment in new ToshaKhana case deferred

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planformer prime minister and ning, Development & Special Initiatives Prof Ahsan and his wife Bushra Bibi were once again not indicted Igbal here Tuesday chaired a review meeting of the focal groups constituted by the Prime Minister to ana-Shahrukh lyze recommendations made by the Chinese work-

Imran Khan was ing team The meting was at-tended by Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh; Secretary Planning, Awais Manzur Sumra; Chairman of the National Highway The court alllowed Bushra Bibi's exemption Authority and high-ranking but issued notice for her officials from various min-

reviews draft plans tional Food Security, Power, Commerce, Economic Affairs, Interior, and Railways

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning & Development, Ahsan Iqbal chairing a review meeting of the focal groups constituted by the PM to ana-

> This was the third meeting chaired by Minis-ter Ahsan Iqbal, following the Prime Minister's directives, to review the draft plans prepared by the fo-cal groups. The Minister emphasized the need for action plans for implementation with timelines. He

further stressed the need to highlight where Pakistan has already made progress. During review of agriculture sector, the Ministry of Food Security highlighted istries and divisions, includthat Pakistan lacks a longterm, comprehensive, and ing Communication, Investment, Petroleum & independent development **President greets** Turkish govt, people on 101st

the 101st Republic Day on Tuesday. that over the past century, Turkiye had achieved immense development in various fields and expressed the hope that the country would reach more mile-

stones under the leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, according to a President House press release. He said that Turkiye always raised voice on the issues faced by the Musm world

**Republic Day** ISLAMABAD (APP) President Asif Ali Zardari extended his greetings to the government and people of Turkiye as they celebrated The president said



current structure of the Su-

preme Court is expected

to be presented in the Na-

tional Assembly session

OUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti talking to administration and local tribal elites during his visit to Jamia Islamia Education System Institute.

## Ministers, BA Speaker say Terrorists' attack on labourers working on Paroom dam cowardly act

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar has condemned the incident of firing in Paroom in the strongest words. In a condemnation statement issued here on Tuesday, the Provincial Minister said that the terrorists attack on the labourers working on the dam is a cowardly act.

He said that the attack on the innocent people wouldn't be tolerated at all.

The Minister Health directed to the concerned high ups to provide immediate medical assistance to those injured in the cowardly attack. He said that those responsible of the attack would be taken to task.

He also expressed sympathy and grief over the loss of lives of innocent labourers with their bereaved families. The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai has strongly con-

demned the heinous incident of firing on the labourers engaged in the ork on a dam in Panjgur. In a condemnation statement issued here on

Tuesday, the Speaker said that this hatred act of terrorism is a condemnable and unforgivable. He said that terrorists

are enemies of the peace, development and prosperity. He said that we are united against the terrorism and adding pledged to give justice to the victims.

The Speaker provincial assembly also expressed heartfelt condolence with the bereaved families of martyr labourers and prayed for the early recovery of those injured in the incident of firing in Panjgur. QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister for Women's Development, Dr. Rubaba Buledi expressed sorrow over the firing incident at an underconstruction dam in the



**QUETTA: Director General Public Relations Balochistan Muhammad Noor** Khetran presides over the meeting regarding Journalists Welfare Fund.

Natural Resources, Na- plan for the sector

## Kakar meets QESCO Chief, discusses issues of electricity in hospitals

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar met the Chief Executive Officer of Quetta Electric Supply Company, Engineer Shafqat Ali, here on Tuesday.

During the course of meeting, the Minister Health discussed with QESCO chief the issues of electricity load shedding in the hospitals of province.

Speaking on the occa-sion, Bakht Muhammad Martyrdom of Kakar said that modern over 60 labourers equipments such as CT scan, MRI, Oxygen plants have been installed in the in two months matter of great hospitals of Kech, Loralai and Khuzdar. These equipconcern: Khetran

**Independent Report** UETTA: The Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran has strongly condemned the incident of firing on the labourers in Panjgur. In a condemnation statement issued here on Tuesday, the Provincial Minister said that it is condemnable to kill

labourers. He said that the local labourers were targeted under a pre-planned con-

spiracy. The Provincial Minister said that martyrdom of more than 60 labourers during last two months is a matter of great concern. He said that there's

an important role of labourers in implementation on the important development projects in the province and country. Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran said that we equally share the grief of the aggrieved families. He prayed for the departed souls of the deceased persons and grant of patience for their bereaved Paroom area of Panjgur. families

(AC) from announcing fi-nal decision in 190 million pounds reference.

sented record related to acquittal plea from trial court n IHC. NAB prosecutor said time be given to us to see the record. The hearing be fixed after two weeks.

Aamer Farooq remarked you are seeking two weeks. But we adjourn the hearing

for timely treatment and diagnosis of the patients. He on the occasion stressed the need to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity to the hospitals so as to provide best medical facili-

ties, he added. The Minister also stressed the need to supply electricity to the hospitals located in the adjoining areas of Quetta. In this regard, a com-

mittee has been formed comprising representatives of QESCO and Health Department.

Speaking on the occa-sion, QESCO chief assured to supply electricity to the important hospitals round ments are very important the clock.

**QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Sadiq Umrani** meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

## **190 million pounds reference** IHC extends till Nov 7 its order for stopping AC from announcing final decision

ISLAMABAD (Online): for 10 days. The acquittal Islamabad High Court pleas of PTI founder and (IHC) has extended till No-Bushra Bibi in 190 million vember 7 its order for stoppounds reference came up ping Accountability Court for hearing in IHC Tuesday.

CJ IHC Aamer Farooq and justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb took up the pe-

reached what stage.

NAB prosecutor Amjid Pervaiz said cross Chief Justice (CJ) IHC questioning of NAB investigating officer is underway.

The president said that the government and people of Pakistan desired the progress and prosperity of Turkiye as both countries supported each other in difficult times.

## **PTI challenges** decision on formation of

**Punjab ETs** ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI has challenged the decision regarding formation of Punjab Election Tribunals (PETs) in Supreme Court (SC). Election Commission (EC) and others have been made respon

dents in the petition. PTI leader Suleman Akram Raja has filed review petition on September 30 decision of SC.

September 30 deci-sion of SC be reviewed. Meeting between Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Chief Justice Lahore High Court (CJLHC) can not become Court reason for change of Elec-tion tribunals. Who will be judge of Election Tribunal this power rests with Chief Justice

LHC registrar notified 6 election tribunals on April 4. Names of serving judges for election tribunals were returned following the meeting between CJLHC and chief election commis sioner.

### **IHC orders** to conduct **MDCAT**

test again ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has ordered to conduct MDCAT test again.

The court accepted the petition against MDCAT test besides directing that arrangements be made for conducting the MDCAT test again within a month.

Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir of IHC ordered university to conduct MDCAT test again.

IHC ordered that Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto should conduct the MDCAT test again within a month

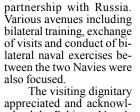
According to PMDC report out of syllabus questions were given in MDCAT paper

## **Russian Deputy Minister** for Defence calls on Naval Chief at NHQ

ISLAMABAD (PR): Rusterm, multi-dimensional sian Federation's Deputy Minister for Defence, Colonel General Alexander V. Fomin called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters here on Tuesday.

During the meeting, professional matters of mutual interest including bilateral collaboration and regional maritime security were discussed, a Pakistan Navy news release said. The Naval Chief ex-

pressed that Pakistan greatly values its relations with the Russian Federation and desires to forge a long-



edged the Pakistan Navy's efforts and commitments in support of collaborative maritime security. Both the leaders agreed to further strengthen and diversify the scope of existing bilateral defence relationship particularly in maritime domain and naval technologies.



ISLAMABAD: Russian Federation's Deputy Minister for Defence, Colonel General Alexander V. Fomin called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters.

## **PTI brings back TTP activists in Pakistan: Aimal**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The ANP chief ques-Chief of the Awami Nationed the performance of tional Party (ANP) Aimal the PTI-led provincial Wali Khan, while criticizgovernment in KP over ing Pakistan Tehreek-ethe decade and claimed Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday, that from 1947-2013 the accused PTI of bringing foreign loan burden was Rs 97 billion, which had back Tehrik-e-Taliban Pasoared to Rs 1500 billion kistan (TTP) activists to during the PTI tenures, the country. adding that if PTI contin-

Speaking on a point of order in the Senate, he ued in power till 2028, it alleged that PTI was a was estimated to touch 'Political Wing' of the 3000 billion. Taliban movement, which had been launched as a that the provincial government led by PTI was project by General (Retd) selling the lands of uni-Faiz Hameed. Aimal said that when versities and educational

Pakistan Peoples Party institutions. (PPP) and Awami National Party (ANP) were facing terrorist attacks in 2013, the PTI was inviting and establishing TTP offices in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), in-

cluding Peshawar.

the narrative, which began with the Cypher, now turned into a request from parliamentarians of Britain and the United States to release the PTI founder.

He went on to say

Aimal added that

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah printed at Independent Printers Querry Road Quetta and Published from Bolan market main RCD Road Hub. Ph. 2842938 Fax: 2842941 Cell No. 0331-8383955 E-mail:newsdailyind@gmail.com,dailyindisb@gmail.com

