

# Independent

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## No need of military operation in Balochistan: Terrorist elements to be eliminated through smart IBOs, asserts CM

**Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti says educated Baloch youth being entrapped and made fuel of terrorism; welcomes Adeela Baloch on joining national mainstream giving up move of suicide bombing; asserts we would not let Baloch youth use against state; says we send girls to Oxford while terrorists entrap & send them for attacks. Killing of labourers in Panjgur condemnable**

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has categorically stated that there is no need of military operation in the province, however, we would eliminate the terrorist elements through smart intelligence base operations (IBOs).

He said that there always happen to be consequences of the military operations, which include mass migration of dwellers from the areas causing problems to them. So, we have no plan to conduct military operations in the province.

The Chief Minister said that the educated Baloch youth are being entrapped and made fuel of war of terrorism while on the other hand, we are educating them by providing opportunities of higher education on the other hand.

He said that we would not let Baloch youth use against the state. He also said that we send the girls to Oxford while terrorists entrap them and send for attacks.

Condemning the incident of brutal killing of seven labourers in Panjgur, the Chief Minister said that it is very sorrowful in which they (labourers) were made soft target.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti was addressing press conference along with the Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Ms. Ghazala Gola at the Chief Minister's secretariat on Monday morning.

also present in the press conference were Adeela Baloch, who had given up suicide bombing, and his father.

The Chief Minister on the occasion welcomed Adeela Baloch on joining national mainstream and thanked her on giving up suicide bombing. *Continued on page 2*



QUETTA: Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti distributing cheques among flood affectees during a ceremony.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti along with Adeela Baloch addressing a Press conference. Deputy Speaker Provincial Assembly Ghazala Gola is also present

## SC dismisses LHC's verdict regarding election tribunals

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Monday turned down the verdict of Lahore High Court (LHC) regarding election tribunals of Punjab while accepting the appeal of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

A five-member SC bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa announced the unanimous verdict.

The court, in its 11-page judgment authored by the chief justice, said, "We have also received 'Report' dated 18 July 2024 from the Registrar which confirms that the matter was amicably resolved between the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court and the ECP. And, we are informed that sufficient number of election tribunals will be appointed/constituted immediately. Since the matter has been amicably resolved there is no need to decide these cases. "We want to record our

appreciation that the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court, who holds an important constitutional office, and the ECP, which is a constitutional body, have amicably settled the matter. Undoubtedly, they realized their respective constitutional and legal responsibilities and rose to the occasion to do the needful.

"Therefore, since the matter has been amicably resolved to the satisfaction of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court and the ECP adjudication was not called for, resultantly, the impugned judgment is set aside and also the notification dated 12 June 2024 issued pursuant thereto. Moreover, though we do not expect, however, since such a dispute may one day have to be adjudicated upon we hold that anything stated in the impugned judgment should not be referred to before any court."



QUETTA: Chief Justice Balochistan High Court, Mr. Justice Hashim Kakar, Justice Abdullah Baloch, Justice Rozi Khan Bareech and Provincial Advisor Naseem ur Rehman Mulakhail offering Fataha for departed soul of mother of PPP leader Agha Shakeel Durrani

## Toshakhana-II case: PTI founder, Bushra Bibi's bail plea rejected

RAWALPINDI (INP): A special judge central on Monday rejected the post-arrest bail pleas of former prime minister Imran Khan and his spouse Bushra Bibi in Toshakhana-II case.

The pleas were heard by Special Judge Central Shahrulkh Arjumand at Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi.

Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi were both present at the special court established inside Adiala Jail.

On July 13, Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi were arrested in a fresh National Accountability Bureau (NAB) reference related to Toshakhana, hours after their acquittal in

the Iddat case.

The NAB team headed by Deputy Director Mohsin Haroon arrested Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi from the Adiala Jail.

The development came after the Islamabad district and sessions court accepted the appeals filed by former prime minister Imran Khan and his spouse Bushra Bibi against their conviction in the Iddat case.

The couple was sentenced to seven years in prison and awarded a fine of Rs500,000 each, in February earlier this year after a trial court found their nikah to be fraudulent.

## Malaysian PM due in Islamabad tomorrow for 3-day visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim is scheduled to arrive here on Wednesday for a three-day official visit to Pakistan from October 2-4, on the invitation of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

He will be accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising ministers, deputy ministers and senior officials, according to a curtain-raiser issued by the Foreign Office.

During the visit, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim will meet Prime Minister Shehbaz wherein the two sides will discuss a wide-ranging agenda to further strengthen Pakistan-Malaysia ties in diverse fields including trade, connectivity, energy, agriculture, halal industry, tourism, cultural exchanges and people-to-people contacts.

They will also discuss regional and global developments.

## Chairman PPP condoles death of mother of Shakeel Durrani

QUETTA: The Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari visited the residence of PPP leader, Agha Shakeel Durrani here on Monday.

The Chairman PPP condoled the death of mother of Agha Shakeel Durrani and mother-in-law of Nawab Sanaullah Zehri.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari offered fataha for the departed soul and prayed for the bereaved family.

Also accompanied the Chairman PPP were the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Member National Assembly, Ejaz Jhakrani, Advisor to Chief Minister, Mir Ali Hassan Zehri.

They also expressed condolence over the death with Agha Shakeel Durrani and offered fataha for the departed soul.

## 1.37mn viewers watch PM Shehbaz's live address at UNGA

PM leaves behind major world leaders in speech viewership on UN's YouTube

ISLAMABAD (APP): A total of 1.37 million viewers glued to the UN official YouTube channel to watch Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's recent address at the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 79) which ranked top among the world leaders' speeches streamed live across the globe.

According to the data shared by Center for Public Opinion Research, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's address was among the most watched events at the global stage and the number of viewers even surpassed those who watched the speeches of different world leaders.

The prime minister became the most prominent world leader attracting a large number of viewers.

The world leaders' addresses were streamed live on the UN official YouTube channel whereas on Al Jazeera's Tiktok account, the prime minister's address was watched live by a total of 1.6 million viewers.

## Govt reduces prices of petrol, diesel

Petrol price slashed by Rs2.07; igh-speed diesel price slashed by Rs3.40 per litre

ISLAMABAD (APP): Government has reduced the prices of petrol by 2.07 rupees per liter and high speed diesel by 3.40 rupees per liter for next fortnight.

According to a notification issued by the Finance Division, the new price of petrol is 247.03 per liter and diesel Rs246.29 per liter.

The price of Kerosene oil has also been reduced to 3.57 rupees per liter and light diesel by 1.03 per liter.

The new prices will be

applicable from midnight tonight.

On the directions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, government has reduced the price of petrol by 28.57 rupees and diesel by 37.51 rupees during last two months.

The fruits of the reduction of petroleum products are being transferred to the masses. The Prime Minister has been consistently focusing on providing relief to the people since the incumbent government came into power.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetrani meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

## Governor urges QCCI to persuade international investors to make investment in Balochistan

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has urged the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) to hold a grand seminar at national level for celebrations of its golden jubilee and persuade the international investors for making investment in the province.

The Governor was speaking to the participants of the annual meeting and oath taking of the QCCI here at the chamber on Monday.

The Governor said that there is a key role of the people associated with the trade and industry in increasing the national

growth, strengthening the taxation system and creating the opportunities of livelihood.

He said that our country's investors can agree to the foreign investors for investment in the province.

Therefore, it is necessary to provide all necessary facilities to our traders community.

He expressed pleasure over functionality of the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Also present on the occasion were the Provincial Minister for PHE, Sardar Abdul Rehman

*Continued on page 2*

## Relief & rehabilitation of flood victims remain one of top priorities: Chairman PPP reaffirms commitment to welfare & development of people of Balochistan

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari emphasizes homes for flood victims must be built strong enough to withstand future floods; urges CM Bugti and his cabinet to monitor relief and rehabilitation efforts and discuss matter with federal government

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has emphasized that the relief and rehabilitation of flood victims remain one of his top priorities.

He urged the federal and provincial governments to take immediate and concrete steps to address the issues faced by these citizens, who are severely affected by climate change.

The Chairman PPP was addressing the inaugu-

ration of the process of distribution of relief cheques to flood victims at the Chief Minister's House in Quetta on Monday.

During his address, he reaffirmed his commitment to the welfare and development of the people of Balochistan.

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari highlighted his efforts in 2022 as Foreign Minister to secure international funding for the rehabilitation of flood victims.

He stated, "Standing

with the Prime Minister, I signed agreements as Foreign Minister before the world. We secured funding for a housing project, which was my initiative that we presented to the World Bank. The aim of this project is to rebuild homes for flood victims in a way that they can withstand the challenges of climate change."

Chairman PPP called on both federal and provin-

*Continued on page 2*

## President visits Dar's residence to condole on death of his elder brother

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari visited the residence of Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar in Islamabad today to offer condolence on the death of his elder brother.

The President offered fataha and prayed for the bereaved family to bear the loss with fortitude.

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also accompanied the President.

## DPM Dar chairs meetings to review JMC, exploration, production sector issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Monday chaired an inter-ministerial to review preparations for the forthcoming 12th Session of Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) with the United Arab Emirates.

The JMC will be held in Abu Dhabi in October, a press release said.

Separately, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister also chaired the 4th meeting of the committee established by the prime minister on addressing key exploration and production sector issues, including circular debt resolution and re-gasified liquefied natural gas price rationalization.



President Asif Ali Zardari offering Fataha over the sad demise of the brother of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, in Islamabad.

## Justice Munib refuses to show up for Article 63-A hearing

ISLAMABAD (INP): A dramatic scene unfolded in the Supreme Court of Pakistan on Monday as Justice Munib Akhtar did not show up for hearing of appeals in the Article 63-A case.

A five-member bench led by Justice Qazi Faez Isa took up the appeals on Monday. The bench also included Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Jamal Mandokhail and Justice Mazhar Alam.

Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa announced that Justice Munib had written to inform him that he would not be able to attend proceedings. The proceedings were then adjourned.

CJP Isa added that the bench would try to convince Justice Munib to attend the proceedings on Tuesday.

The Supreme Court had previously scheduled the review appeals on the interpretation of Article 63-A for September 23rd.

The court's May 17, 2022, decision on a presidential reference regarding Article 63-A stated that a vote cast by a defected member of parliament against party policy would not be counted, and that the duration of disqualification would be determined by parliament.

## Imran announces nationwide demos to show solidarity with judiciary

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan has announced demos nationwide to show solidarity with the judiciary.

The protests will be held in Mianwali, Faisalabad and Bahawalpur on October 2, the former prime minister said in a message on Monday. He said the protest will be held in Lahore at Minar-e-Pakistan on October 5 and in D Chawk on Friday.

Taking a swipe at the government, the ex-PM said they (coalition government) want him 'crushed under the London plan.' He added: "I have been in jail for a long time. My wife has been kept in prison for many months. They want me shattered. We have always protested peacefully. Our women workers are in jails."



Provincial Ministers, Provincial Advisors, Parliamentary Secretary, MNA, Senator and party workers receiving Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on arrival in Quetta

## Pakistan hosts the first Asia Energy Transition Summit 2024 at LUMS

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Federal Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal emphasized Pakistan's vast potential to generate 300,000 megawatts of renewable energy from wind and solar power. "However, mobilizing both private and public finance is essential to realizing this potential," he stated during the second day of the Asia Energy Transition Summit 2024, held at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS).

The two-day summit, organized by the LUMS Energy Institute (LEI) in collaboration with the Pakistan Renewable Energy Coalition (PREC), the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan Research Institute for Equitable Development (PRIED) and Renewable First aimed to address the challenges and opportunities in transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy. PREC is a consortium of research institutions, civil society organizations, and energy transition advocates. Speaking as a special guest, Mr. Iqbal highlighted

the federal government's focus on five pillars for Pakistan's energy transition: innovation frameworks, technology-driven solutions, mobilizing new financial sources—such as the proposed Asia Energy Transition Fund—policy harmonization within Pakistan and across Asia, regional collaboration, and ensuring a just energy transition.

Senator Sherry Rehman, addressing the summit, stressed the need for financing solutions to combat climate change and facilitate energy transition. Reflecting on her tenure as Federal Minister for Climate Change, she discussed the challenges and opportunities for Pakistan in securing international financial support.

In a session on energy policy, Sher Ali Arbab, Convener of the Parliamentary Forum on Energy and Economy, highlighted the opportunities presented by the devolution of power to the provinces under the 18th Amendment and encouraged further decentralization to enhance efficiency and inclusivity in Pakistan's energy policy.



Key figures gather at LUMS for the inaugural Asia Energy Transition Summit 2024, hosted in collaboration with the Pakistan Renewable Energy Coalition (PREC), to discuss pathways towards a sustainable energy future.

## Mushahid for comprehensive strategy to capitalise on Pak rich historical, cultural heritage

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed on Monday emphasized upon history and heritage as sources of strength for a nation and urged the government to work out a comprehensive strategy to capitalise on Pakistan's rich historical and cultural heritage.

He was addressing as chief guest at a one-day International Conference, titled "Celebrating Pakistan's Ancient Archaeological and Civilisational Heritage" at Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) along with Secretary of National Heritage and Culture Division, Hassan Nasir Jami as Guest of Honour, welcome remarks were delivered by Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General, ISSI, and introduction to the conference by Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director, China Pakistan Study

Centre, ISSI. Senator Mushahid Hussain stated that national security should extend beyond geopolitics and economics to include national culture, history, and heritage. He said, "Pakistan stands at the crossroads of tourism, enriched by its historical significance. The Silk Road exhibition at the British Museum in London, featuring Buddhist sculptures from Swat, exemplifies the cultural connections of our history."

He highlighted that Pakistan is home to six UNESCO World Heritage sites, and there is immense potential to add more to this list. He also highlighted the Kartarpur Corridor, which represents a milestone initiative in soft cultural diplomacy, besides promoting inter-faith harmony. Firstly, he recom-

mended robust marketing and media initiatives are crucial to promote Pakistan as a premier tourism destination, secondly, the establishment of an international airport on significant sites to enhance accessibility and visibility in global markets, thirdly, implementing a visa-on-arrival policy can further simplify travel for international tourists, fourthly, focusing on Buddhism and Sikhism as they present low-hanging fruit for attracting religious and cultural tourism, fifthly, promoting adventure tourism can leverage Pakistan's diverse landscapes and outdoor activities. Additionally, highlighting the richness of Pakistani cuisine will also play a vital role in enhancing the overall tourist experience.

"To ensure this is as successful, it is imperative to link tourism, culture, and media effectively. Establishing a Task Force dedicated to promoting Pakistan's soft image and as a popular tourism destination will be instrumental in achieving these goals. With these initiatives, the sky is the limit for Pakistan's tourism potential, making it an attractive option for both domestic and international visitors," he said.

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted the significance of Pakistan's millennia-old, multi-layered archaeological and civilizational heritage, including the Indus Valley and Buddhist Gandhara Civilizations.

He quoted the book '5000 Years of Pakistan' by Dr. Mortimer Wheeler, published in 1950, in which the author acknowledges that the book's "title is a willful paradox but contains a fundamental truth."

He reflected on the Champions One Day Cup, noting good preparations

## Shan Masood stresses support for players ahead of England Test series

KARACHI (INP) - Pakistan Test team captain Shan Masood emphasized the need to support players to build a strong team. Addressing a press conference in Karachi, he acknowledged that it was easy to make changes after the consecutive defeats, but players needed backing to move forward.

Masood noted the importance of consistency within the team, expressing disappointment over the loss to Bangladesh. He accepted responsibility for the results and highlighted the pressure that came with representing the country.

He mentioned that Nouman Ali was included in the squad for the England series based on conditions, stressing that this series was crucial for Pakistan. He reflected on the Champions One Day Cup, noting good preparations

and the standards of the tournament.

Shan Masood aimed at improving performance in the upcoming Test series against England and acknowledged the team's regrets over the Bangladesh match.

He reiterated the necessity of providing players with consistent opportunities for success. He noted the unfortunate injury of Khurram Shahzad, declaring him a key player for the team. Masood concluded by stating that decisions regarding Shehzad's return would be made once he regained fitness.

He said that although the squad for the first Test against England had been announced, they were uncertain about conditions in Multan. He reiterated that the focus would be on starting the series strong, and improving as a team.

## Chairman PPP reaffirms...

Continued from page 1

cial governments to take the issue of climate change and rehabilitation of flood victims seriously. He urged the Chief Minister of Balochistan and his cabinet to monitor the relief and rehabilitation efforts and discuss the matter with the federal government. He further stated that the slow pace of funding for the rehabilitation project is an injustice not only to the flood victims but also to the province.

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari stressed that before seeking help from the World Bank, the federal and provincial governments should step in to assist the flood victims. "If both governments contribute, we can help more people," he said. He also warned that the federal government's approach to flood funds could have negative consequences in the

future, cautioning, "If the next Prime Minister or Foreign Minister asks for funds from international organizations during a natural disaster, they will look at our past record, which is not favorable."

Chairman emphasized that homes for flood victims must be built strong enough to withstand future floods. "When the next flood hits, these victims should not be in the same vulnerable situation they are in now," he said. He added, "If I ask the world for help again, the first question will be, 'What happened to the funds given earlier?'"

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari reiterated the need to build new homes for flood victims, noting that the construction of homes for victims is already underway in Sindh. He urged by stating, "Our country has limited resources, and we must use them wisely."



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti receiving Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari upon arrival at Quetta Airport

## Terrorist elements to be eliminated...

Continued from page 1

It may be mentioned here that Adeela Baloch had been recovered by the security agencies in Turbat last week, who otherwise was trapped by the miscreants to become a suicide bomber.

The Chief Minister maintained that he deemed it necessary to invite Adeela Baloch in CM House and said that everyone should know that how terrorists got done suicide bombing engaging Baloch youngsters by entrapping them. He said that credit of saving lives from suicide bombing goes to father of Adeela Baloch, who contacted the government when he found his daughter missing for sometimes. He pointed out that many Baloch youngsters including girls and boys are present in the camps of terrorists.

He said that the parents of young people should keep strict vigil on activities of their children and inform the government and its institutions if they (children) are found missing having no connection with them.

Referring the killing of innocent labourers in Panjgur and Quetta, the Chief Minister said that what service is being done to the province through

bloodshed of the innocent people.

To a query about the incidents of target killings and terrorism in different parts of the province, the Chief Minister said that no doubt these incidents are very big ones and there rise has been witnessed in these incidents in the province. However, the action is continued against the terrorists in the province, he mentioned.

He said that we can't share details of the action taken against the terrorists with media at the moment. We would definitely share the details about it when we would get concrete achievement against the network, he mentioned.

To another query, Mi Sarfaraz Bugti said that he didn't say that there is an ideal situation of law and order in the province, but it is not so terrible which otherwise was in the past.

It would take time, but situation would improve, he added.

The Chief Minister on the occasion also referred to certain initiatives taken by the government in education sector. He said that we are going to educate our youth and providing opportunities of higher education through different scholarship programmes, while on the other hand, the terrorists entrapped them against the state.

## Governor urges...

Continued from page 1

Khetran, Patron-in-Chief of the QCCI, Ghulam Farooq Khilji, newly elected President of QCCI, Muhammad Ayub Maryani, senior Vice President, Akhtar Kakar, Principal Secretary to Governor, Muhammad Hashim Khan Ghilzai, former President of QCCI, Abdullah Achakzai, Syed Sarwar Agha, besides other office bearers of the Chamber.

Addressing the ceremony, the Governor extended heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected office bearers of the QCCI from him and the people of province.

He said that there are long borders with Afghanistan and Iran. He said that our business community has been affected due to closure of the borders after the world epidemic of coronavirus.

He said that we should differentiate between the smuggling and trade activities.

He said that new opportunities of livelihood can be created by expanding the existing development projects.

He said that the government can't give the jobs to all people, but our traders can extend cooperation to great extent in this regard.

In the end, Mandokhail appreciated the organizers and participants on organizing successful ceremony in Quetta.

## Pakistan win silver medal in World Beach Kabaddi Championship

TEHRAN (INP): Pakistan won the silver medal in the first World Beach Kabaddi Championship held in Iran. Pakistan suffered defeat in the final against the host nation, Iran. In a thrilling final of the World Beach Kabaddi Championship, Iran secured victory by six points, with the score standing at 45-41 in favor of Iran against Pakistan. Earlier, in the semi-final held in the morning, Pakistan defeated Iraq with a score of 58-21.

Teams from Melli, Nepal, Turkmenistan, Denmark, Pakistan, Palestine, Kenya, Germany and Lebanon participated in the first World Beach Kabaddi Championship.

Prior, the training camp of the national team players in preparation for the World Beach Kabaddi Championship was held at Pakistan Sports Complex.

According to Secretary General, Pakistan Kabaddi Federation, Muhammad Sarwar Rana, the selected players were trained for their participation in the World Beach Kabaddi Championship from September 25 to 30.

## TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer (Building) CW PP&H Department Killa Saifullah invites sealed bids from eligible bidders who can prove their eligibility and qualification as mentioned in the bidding documents for the work mentioned below. The work estimated cost and other information of works as under tender based on Composite Schedule of Rates 2023, Government of Balochistan amended up-to-date as required from interested contractors / firms for the work listed below under BPPRA Rules. Tender Fee Rs.1500/-, Earnest Money 2% for each work.

S.No.	Name of Work	E/Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF OFFICE BUILDING / RESIDENTIAL BUILDING ACCOMMODATION FOR PROSECUTORS OF BALOCHISTAN DISTRICT KILLA SAIFULLAH TSE-242509561463	60,358,593
2	CONSTRUCTION PRC / GODOWNS AND OFFICES OF FOOD AT MUSLIM BAGH TSE-242509558573	9,9046,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules-2014. **BASIC ELIGIBILITY:** Eligibility Criteria & Evaluation Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents. **METHOD OF PROCUREMENT:** Single stage - Two Envelop Bidding Procedure. **BIDDING / TENDER DOCUMENTS:** The Bidding document can be downloaded for [www.bppra.gov.pk](http://www.bppra.gov.pk) and the same can also be obtained from the office of the under signed upon payment of prescribed tender fee deposited in the head of account C-02716 NBP Bank green challan is verified by treasury. **DEAD LINE OF SUBMISSION:** Only E- Bid submit in the web site before 18, Oct, 2024 at 12:00 Hrs. Opening: "Technical Bids" will be opened on the same day i.e. 18, Oct, 2024, at 1:00 Hrs before procurement committee in the presence of bidders. **Address: Office of the Executive Engineer (Building) CWPP&H Department District Killa Saifullah**

Executive Engineer (Building) CWPP&H Department District Killa Saifullah  
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## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Officer District Council Musakhail invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates.

S.No	Scheme	Amount
1	REPAIR & RENOVATION OF DISTRICT COUNCIL 2997658/- OFFICE HALL MUSAKHAIL (TSE-242509560993)	

-Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least estimated Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm **Procedure of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 2,000 PKR in green challan deposited on NBP Musakhail A/c 4078939867. **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 21 October, 2024 during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The tenders must be submitted latest by 21 October, 2024 till 12:00 PM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 01:00 PM **Address:** Chief Officer District Council Musakhail Phone no: 0828611003 **Email:** awais@786.com

CHIEF OFFICER DISTRICT COUNCIL MUSAKHAIL  
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## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Officer District Council Sherani invites bids from Eligible bidders for execution of following works for the year 2024 based on CSR-2023 on percentage rates. Tender fee Rs. 1500/- and Bid Security 4% for each item.

S.No	Name of Schemes	E/Cost
1	PROVISION AND INSTALLATION OF PLATIC WATER TANK FOR 18 UNION COUNCILS OF DISTRICT SHERANI. TSE-242509560633	12,000,000/-
2	ROVISION AND INSTALLATION OF SOLAR HOME SYSTEM FOR 18 UNION COUNCILS OF DISTRICT SHERANI. TSE-242509561633	15,000,000/-

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **ELIGIBILITY OF BIDDERS:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 9,000,000 & 11,250,000 PKR Amount for work S #1 & 2 respectively in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-6 and above (Upto 25 million) in Relevant Category And Specialized Code is EE11(ii) (Solar Energy), EE11(iii) (Solar Energy system) for work at serial # 2. All bidder participates in bids must provide undertaking on Non Judicial Stamp paper that they will perform the work accordance with Contact agreement and specifications provided in PC-1/Estimate. Already engaged in similar nature of work shall provide performance certificate of that Agency. Pursuant to sub-Clause 43.1 of the General Condition of contract, the work shall be completed on or before the dated stated i.e 4 months, in case of non-compliance Liquidity shall be applied accordance to contract agreement. Written confirmation (Power of Attorney) authorized a person to submit the bids. The bid must accompany a power of Attorney issued by the authorized representative of the firm / company having the name & CNIC of the person to whom Power of Attorney has been issued to submit the bid to the Employee on behalf of the Firm/Company etc. Written confirmation from Authorized person on Rs. 100/- Non Judicial Stamp Paper that the Bidder/Firm shall not demand Mobilization Advance, due to INL rules. The bidder must have completed at least 2 assignments of specific nature & complexity of the 75% of the Total cost of the estimated amount of the tendered works in last 3 years. (Partial completion Project or substantial completed shall not be counted as completed). In case the rate offered by Bidder below than 10% of the Estimated cost, the bidders must be submitted rate analysis & performance guarantee in shape of CDR/Bank Guarantee with Financial bid, it is mandatory for all bidders to meet all the above mentioned requirements of eligibility, in case of non-meeting any single requirement, the Bid shall declare INELIGIBLE/NON-RESPONSIVE. **PROCEDURE OF PROCUREMENT:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **BID SECURITY:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 4% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **TENDER DOCUMENTS:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,500 PKR amount deposited through green challan in A/C # 9848-9 NBP Zhob. **ISSUANCE OF TENDER DOCUMENTS:** From the date of publication of NIT to 15 October, 2024 during office hours on working days **LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION:** The tenders must be submitted latest by 15 October, 2024 till 12:00 PM. **TENDER OPENING:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 01:00 PM **ADDRESS:** District Council Office Sherani Phone no: 0313-7000006

CHIEF OFFICER DISTRICT COUNCIL SHERANI  
AB No.347/30-09-2024  
[www.dpr.gov.pk](http://www.dpr.gov.pk) @dpr\_gob @dpr\_gob @dpr\_gob @dpr\_balochistan

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. The Executive Engineer Roads CWPP&H Department District Pishin invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates  
Tender Fee Rs.1500/- and Bid Security 3%

S#	Name of Work	E/Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF BT ROAD FROM SHARAN TO NEW KAREZ SPINMAJAT AT KHANOZAI DISTRICT PISHIN. PSDPN. 1516/2/2024.0520 TSE-242509561073	84,191 M

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 58,933,730 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Submission of Tender fee is required. The bidder must submit Bid Security in the shape of CDR / Bank Guarantee from a scheduled Bank **Procedure of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 3% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from [www.bppra.gov.pk](http://www.bppra.gov.pk) **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at [www.bppra.gov.pk](http://www.bppra.gov.pk) **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 16 October, 2024 till 10:30 AM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 11:30 AM on EPPS System **Address:** Executive Engineer Roads CWPP&H Department District Pishin Phone no: 0332804675 **Email:** pishinxeen@gmail.com

Executive Engineer (Roads) CWPP&H Department District Pishin  
PRQ No.1266/30-09-2024  
[www.dpr.gov.pk](http://www.dpr.gov.pk) @dpr\_gob @dpr\_gob @dpr\_gob @dpr\_balochistan

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Awaran invites sealed bids/tenders based on composite Schedule of rates 2023 Government of Balochistan from eligible contractors/ firms/manufacturers/authorities licensed by the Pakistan engineering Council in the relevant category C6 and having valid NTN, Sales Tax, BRA, specialization in CE-09, CE-10, EE-04, for the mentioned WSS Civil Works and Bore. Further more, the Solar System of Mentioned WSS are invites sealed bids/tenders from the reputable Dealer/Distributor having Three Last Year Work Orders which Hold (Thirty Millions), Goods Declaration Slip, Shipment Documents & its verification Letter, having valid NTN, Sales Tax, BRA and PEC licence till June 2025 with Specialization code CE04, and EE11 for the whole or single item work which will be completed in stipulated time. If any bidder not fulfilled the requirements are not eligible, the committee have authority to reject the Bidder. The details are given below. The Tender fee will be deposited through Green Challan in National Bank of Pakistan Branch under the head of Account No.#: CO-2726 Earnest Money 2% in shape of call deposit, Bidding document fee Rs.2000/- and Time for completion June-26 for each work

S.#	NAME OF WORK	E/Cost	E/Money
1	Rehabilitation of WSS Surab Bedil I Killi Mir Hashim		
i	Supply of Diesel Engine 60Kv TSE-242509561253	6300000	126000
ii	Supply & Installation of Turbine 30Hp TSE-242509561283	1982448	39649
iii	Civil Work TSE-242509561273	4406130	88123
iv	Pipe TSE-242509561263	1823887	36478

The procurement shall be made under BPPRA Rules 2014. Eligibility: The contractors must have registration with Tax authorities' i.e (NTN & Sales Tax department, BRA), Valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in Category who have deposited / renewal fee for the Year 2024-25, and Manufacture/Firms should be renewed from PEC Department Quetta Balochistan. Firms of Pipe must be manufacture, dealers other wise should not bother to participate in tendering process. Firms of Solar must be reputable Dealer/ Distributor, having Three Last Year Work Orders work with PHE Department in last Year 2024-2025. Goods Declaration Slip, Shipment Documents & its verification Letter. The contractor/Firm shall provide a port clearance certificate. verification letter of credit (LC)/IQRA Charges/ Bill of Lading all documents should be provide in the office of under signed, other wise should not bother to participate in tendering process. (Joint Venture is not allowed) the bidder must provide undertaking that his/their firm has not been black listed any where in Pakistan. the bidder/Contractor has an office in the province with representative office in the District/ Province. only complete bids received on due date and time shall be considered eligible. **Method of Procurement:** Single stage, One envelope. **Bid Security:** the bid must a company bid security in the shape of call deposit of amount specified above in the name of the under signed from a schedule bank. **Tender Documents:** The Contractor/Firm should Download Tender Documents by self from [www.bppra.org.pk](http://www.bppra.org.pk) **issuance of tender documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 18-10-2024 During office hours on week days. **Last date of Bid Submission:** The tender should be submitted on 18-10-2024 till at 11:00 AM at the office of under signed. **Opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of under signed at 12:00 AM. **Place of Issuance, submission inquires and opening will be:** Address: Public Health Engineering, Division Awaran. The terms and conditions can be seen / Obtain from the office of the under signed.

Executive Engineer PHE DIVISION AWARAN  
PRQ No.1254/30-09-2024  
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# President calls for making Pakistan more inclusive, age-friendly for senior citizens

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the world community observes the International Day of Older Persons on Tuesday, President Asif Ali Zardari has urged the countrymen to strive for making Pakistan more inclusive and age-friendly to honour and respect its senior citizens.

The president, in his message to the nation on the Day, annually observed on October 1, called upon the federal and provincial governments, as well as civil society, to prioritize better healthcare; strengthen social security; protect the rights of the elderly; and provide them a friendly and healthy environment.

Reaffirming the country's commitment to improving care and support systems for older persons, he said the Day was aimed at honouring the contributions of senior citizens for transferring their experience and wisdom to younger generations as well as their role in the progress and prosperity of the country.

President Zardari said that the senior citizens were not only the foundation of the society but were also a source of wisdom, knowledge, and experience.

"Our religion calls upon us to look after our parents and elderly people with love, compassion and utmost care.

Our parents and the elderly make tremendous sacrifices by investing time, love, energy and resources in bringing up children. It is our moral and religious obligation to treat them with respect and dignity, and take care of them in old age," he remarked.

The president said that the Constitution of Pakistan also placed a responsibility upon the state to provide necessities of life for all citizens who were permanently or temporarily unable to earn their livelihood on account of infirmity, sickness or unemployment.

Pakistan, he said, had taken a number of steps for the welfare of senior citizens.

"As populations age, they become dependent and their need for specialized care increases, and therefore, it is imperative to provide affordable and accessible medical facilities to our elderly," the president added.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam addressing a seminar titled "Resilient and adaptive population in disaster."

# Building resilience, adaptive capacity of people, infrastructure vital for resilient-society: Romina

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam said that empowering disaster-vulnerable communities with resources and skills to sustain the impacts of recurring and intensifying natural disasters in the country is crucial for reducing their vulnerability over time.

"Providing necessary training and resources help communities better prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters and this is inevitable for enhancing their climate-resilience. Because, equipping individuals with skills and resources can lead to sustainable livelihoods, helping communities bounce back economically, socially and psychologically after a disaster," she stressed.

Addressing as chief guest at a high-level dialogue "The Resilient Reflections" here on Monday, the Romina highlighted, "Communities, infrastructure and ecosystems are interconnected. Building resilience in one area positively impacts the others, creating a more sustainable and adaptive environment overall."

Highlighting the significance of community empowerment with resources, knowledge and skills for disaster resilience, Romina Khurshid remarked that when empowered with necessary resources and skills, the resilient communities are better equipped to withstand and recover from natural disasters.

However, "by fostering local leadership and providing education on disaster preparedness, resources and skills to recover, we can enhance the safety and well-being of our climate-vulnerable communities," she said.

The event was organised jointly by Islamic Relief, National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) and Asian Development Bank in support with Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Ministry and attended by senior officials of federal and provincial organizations, national and international non-governmental organizations.

# Ayaz extends greetings to leadership, people of China on National Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq conveyed heartfelt congratulations to the President of China, Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang, and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Zhao Leji, on the eve of the 75th Foundation Day of the Republic of China, which is celebrated annually across China on October, 1.

In his felicitation message, Speaker Sadiq lauded the exemplary leadership and wise vision of the late Chairman Mao Zedong, whose unparalleled contributions have propelled China to socio-economic excellence and established it as a leading economic power on the global stage.

"Sino-Pak friendship is testament to shared socio-economic and political stability," he stated.

The Speaker highlighted the transformative joint economic and infrastructure ventures between the two nations, particularly the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which is a flagship project of One-Belt and One-Road initiative.

"CPEC along with revolutionizing international trade will also elevate Pakistan's economy, harnessing its strategic location for greater global connectivity," he emphasized.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq further noted the deep-rooted and cordial diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, based on mutual respect and brotherhood. Over the years, this relationship has evolved into an All-Weather Strategic Co-operative Partnership, leading to the formation of a significant regional organization, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the shared unanimity of views on Climate-Change and other issues on multi-lateral forums. This alliance between Pakistan & China has played a pivotal role in fostering socio-economic and political stability in the region.

The Speaker stated that, the Sino-Pak friendship has created far-reaching positive externalities, benefiting not only the two countries but the entire region, creating opportunities that were previously unimaginable.



ISLAMABAD: Flags of Pakistan and Malaysia adorn Zero Point Interchange, welcoming Malaysia's Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim for his first official visit to Pakistan in the first week of October.

# Ambassador P.Khorev says Ukrainians attack attempts to undermine stable political situation in Russia

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Russia to Pakistan Albert P.Khorev on Monday said the Ukrainians attacked the Russian Kursk region in an attempt to undermine the stable domestic political situation in Russia.

Realizing that the strategic initiative "on the ground" is in Russia's hands along the entire line of contact, the Kiev regime unleashed large-scale military activities against the civilian population of our regions, and on August 6 this year the Ukrainian fighters invaded the peaceful, border region of Kursk, the Ambassador said.

Ambassador of Russia to Pakistan Albert said this while addressing to press conference on the situation in and around Ukraine war.

"I would like to reiterate that Russia is in favor of a political and diplomatic settlement of the conflict. The conditions for such a settlement, if you like, the "Putin formula", were set out in detail in a speech by the President of Russia on June 14 of this year at the Russian Foreign Ministry."

He said the withdrawal of Ukrainian armed forces from the territories of the Donetsk People's Republic, Luhansk People's Republic, Kherson and Zaporozhya regions of Russia, Kiev's refusal to join NATO, the abolition of all illegal sanctions against Russia adopted without the approval of the UN Security Council, and respect for the rights of the Russian-speaking population of Ukraine.

Russian envoy said that an early negotiated end to the conflict will benefit Russia and Ukraine, as well as countries in the Global South, including Pakistan.

He said that Russia is a reliable trade and investment partner that offers opportunities for equitable, mutually beneficial cooperation with Pakistan.

He said the lifting of illegal Western sanctions on the transportation of Russian products would significantly contribute to Pakistan's energy and food security, as Russia is the largest exporter of nitrogen, phosphate and potassium fertilizers and has vast oil and gas reserves.

# CDA, Chinese officials to explore collaboration on data centers

ISLAMABAD (APP): A virtual meeting was held between the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and the Chinese officials, to explore opportunities for collaboration in the field of big data and the establishment of Tier-Four Data Centers in Pakistan. The high-level meeting included the participation of executives from leading Chinese companies, and acting Chairman CDA Talat Mehmood Gondal, along with Member Technology and Digitalization Nauman Khalid and other senior officials.

Talat Mehmood Gondal underscored Pakistan's strong commitment to advancing its digital infrastructure and welcomed Chinese investment in the country's rapidly expanding digital economy, said a news release.

He highlighted the immense potential for growth in big data and digitalization, noting that this partnership would play a key role in positioning Pakistan as a hub for big data innovation.

# Islamabad Police directed to maintain smooth flow of traffic on roads

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police issued more than 20 thousand fine tickets to vehicles over hampering traffic flow and overloading. It was also decided to ensure smooth flow of traffic at major roads and to take stern action against those creating inconvenience for the road users, a public relations officer said.

He said that, Islamabad police are taking all possible measures to ensure a safe road environment in the city with maximum convenience to road users. The special enforcement squads have been constituted to ensure the implementation of traffic rules and smooth flow of traffic in rush hours, he added.

SSP Traffic Islamabad Muhammad Sarfraz Virk, directed officials to depute special squads at Islamabad Expressway, Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed road, Srinagar Highway and other important boulevards of the city to ensure smooth traffic flow.

Islamabad Traffic police officers were also instructed to ensure traffic discipline in the city and take action against violators without any discrimination.

Efforts are underway to ensure smooth traffic flow in the city and cooperation of road users is crucial to overcome the traffic related problems, he maintained.

# IHC serves notice to CDA against development charges in E-12

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday served notices to the Capital Development Authority (CDA) in a case against cancellation of plots in the Sector E-12 and notices of more development charges to the allottees. Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir, who heard the case filed by allottees of E-12 Muhammad Tazeem and others, also served notices to the respondents in the plea seeking a stay order against the CDA's decision. The petition stated that the civic body had added more development charges on the already charged ones while it could not complete the development work in over 20 years in the said sector.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Brazil to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Olyntho Vieira, called on Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on National Health Services.

# Governor Kundi stresses women empowerment, police recruitment in KP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Monday said that women empowerment was top priority, and all possible measures would be taken to support this initiative.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation from the social organization SSDO and USIP. It included SSDO Executive Director Syed Kausar Abbas, Director Shahid Jatoti, Program Director Maryam Jawad, USIP Program Manager Hamza Ijaz, Program Officer Bilal Khattak, and Moiz.

The meeting focused on promoting the recruitment of women in the police force in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

SSDO and USIP will run awareness campaigns to increase female representation in the police and will assist government institutions in policy-making.

Governor Kundi welcomed the inclusion of women in the police force, assuring his full support for initiatives aimed at increasing their participation.

He said that involvement of women in the police would not only protect women's rights but also enhance social balance and improve the justice system.

He expressed pride in the capabilities demonstrated by women in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa across various sectors, saying that their participation in the police force is a testament to the province's progress towards a more equitable society.

# S K Hydro (Private) Limited distributes Rs 4.615 mln grant among 12 students under CSR

ISLAMABAD (APP): S K Hydro (Private) Limited has distributed a grant of Rs 4.615 million among 12 local students under company's commitment to education and local welfare.

The company hosted the "Dreams Becoming Reality" CSR Activities Launch Ceremony at the Suki Kinari Hydropower Station construction site, said a press release issued here Monday.

Dignitaries including the Commissioner of the Hazara Division, the Deputy Commissioner of Mansehra District, local military officials, and leaders from the project company attended the ceremony.

In his remarks, the Commissioner of Hazara Division expressed his deep appreciation to S K Hydro (Private) Limited for its long-standing contributions to regional socio-economic development and its active involvement in social welfare initiatives.

He highlighted the company's commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR) by supporting education, constructing infrastructure, providing flood relief, and contributing to environmental conservation.

The Commissioner also praised the project for strengthening China-Pakistan friendship, stating that all levels of government in Hazara Division would continue supporting the construction, operation, and security of the Suki Kinari Hydropower Station.

# UNICEF delegation visits BISP office

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation from United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), visited the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) headquarters on Monday to study BISP's successful social protection and cash transfer programs for potential implementation of similar programmes in other countries as well.

The delegation included prominent representatives of UNICEF from various countries: Abdullah Fadel, Representative of Pakistan, Alice Akunga, Representative of Nepal, Andrea James, Representative of Bhutan, Cairan O Toole, Regional Chief of Programme, Christian Skoog, Representative of Sri Lanka, Cynthia McCaffrey, Representative of India, Edward Addai, Representative of Maldives, Noala Skinner, Deputy Regional Director.



ISLAMABAD: A view of massive traffic jam on Islamabad Expressway.

# Evidence-based policy key to solving Pakistan's education crisis: Sohail Akhter

ISLAMABAD (APP): Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MoFEPT) Sohail Akhter emphasized the Ministry's critical role in addressing Pakistan's urgent education challenges during his speech at the two-day workshop on "Facilitating and Communicating Research for Policy Planning and Decision-Making" held here on Monday.

The event was organized by the Pakistan Institute of Education (PIE) and Oxford Policy Management (OPM) under the Dare-RC project.

Akhter highlighted the importance of evidence-based policymaking in tackling systemic issues, including out-of-school children (OOSC), gender disparity in enrollment, and the rural-urban education divide.

He noted, "Our policies must be informed by thorough analysis, focusing on districts where female enrollment remains low and addressing foundational learning deficits worsened by the pandemic."

# NCHR elected to GANHRI Bureau

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) of Pakistan has been elected to the Bureau of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) for a four-year term.

"GANHRI is closely linked to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which supports the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) through technical assistance, capacity-building, and advocacy," an NCHR news release said on Monday.

The GANHRI Bureau serves as the management committee of GANHRI, which is the global body of NHRIs. Tasked with implementing the decisions of the GANHRI General Assembly, the Bureau ensures smooth operational management and strategic direction between General Assembly meetings. Additionally, it oversees the work of GANHRI's various sub-committees and working groups, which report to the Bureau, and reviews key issues, including statements to United Nations human rights bodies.

"This achievement is a prestigious recognition of NCHR's dedication to human rights, marking a significant milestone for both Pakistan and the broader Asia Pacific region," NCHR Chairperson Rabiya Javeri Agha said.



ISLAMABAD: CDA gardeners preparing the land for planting on the green belt at Kashmir Chowk in the Federal Capital.

# To empower future environmental leaders US, TRC launch Pakistan's first climate change curriculum

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United States (US) on Monday partnered with the Teachers' Resource Center (TRC) to launch Pakistan's first climate change curriculum for schools.

This programme will educate students from grades 1-10 on the science behind climate change and provide them with tools to protect the environment for future generations.

The curriculum, created by TRC under the Climate Change Awareness and Action for Nature, Diversity, Livelihoods, and Ecosystems (CANDLE) initiative, includes an interactive toolkit for teachers. It also features easy-to-use lesson plans covering essential topics such as climate science, the impact of climate change, and practical solutions for adapting to a rapidly changing environment.

Minister Counselor for Public Diplomacy at the US Embassy, Lisa Swenarski said, "By introducing climate education in schools, we're empowering young minds to take meaningful action."

"These students will grow up with a deep understanding of their role in protecting the environment, and that's where real change begins."

Senior federal and provincial education leaders, as well as representatives from both public and private sector attended the launch and emphasized the vital role education plays in addressing the climate crisis.

The new curriculum reflects the shared commitment of both the US and Pakistan to fostering a sustainable and resilient future.

# Int'l Translation Day: AIOU emphasizes importance of language

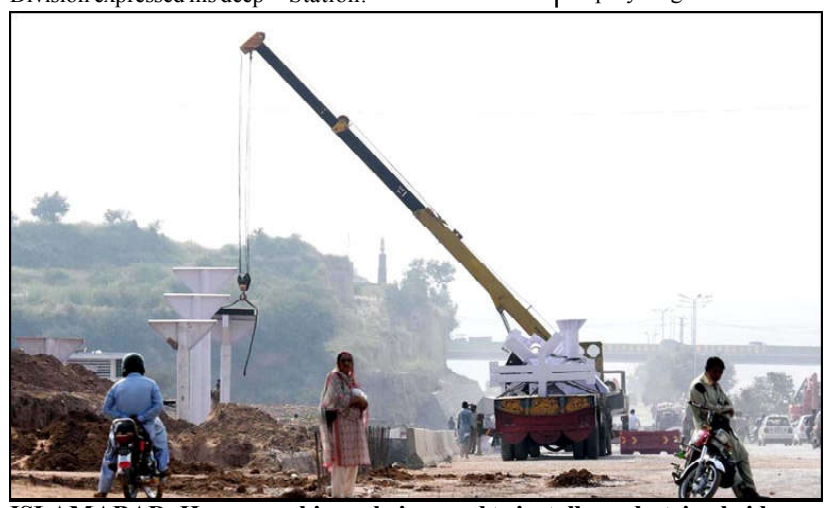
ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) recognizes the promotion of intellectual foundations, actively engaged in opening the closed doors of culture and civilization through translation.

These remarks were made by Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice-Chancellor AIOU, during a seminar held in celebration of International Translation Day.

He highlighted that the university is giving special attention to the promotion of languages and has established centres for Russian, Chinese, and Turkish languages, with a Japanese Language Center to be inaugurated soon.

The Vice-Chancellor also extended his congratulations to the Center for Languages and Translation Studies for organizing the successful event on International Translation Day.

Other notable speakers included Professor Dr. Alia Sohail, former Vice-Chancellor of Rawalpindi Women University; Brigadier Waseem Ahmed, former Director of ISPR; Dr. Asghar Nadeem Syed, Dean of Languages at University of Lahore; Dr. Qibla Ayaz, former Vice-Chancellor of University of Peshawar.



ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery being used to install a pedestrian bridge on Islamabad Expressway.

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

Tuesday October 01, 2024

**Legal games**

The ECP continues to dither. Despite the strong rebuke issued to it about two weeks earlier, it is still confused about how or whether the Supreme Court's verdict in the reserved seats case should be implemented.

Having delayed implementing the ruling straight away when it was issued, it has now found a new excuse — a law to deny the PTI its rightful share of reserved seats, bulldozed through parliament in the month of August — behind which to take cover. If the Supreme Court's verdict is implemented, it would be a violation of the Elections (Second) Amendment Act of 2024; perhaps the apex court should clarify the effect of this new law in the interests of justice first, the ECP is now arguing.

At the same time, it wants the Supreme Court to stay the operation of its clarification order, issued on Sept 14, till all 'confusion' is cleared up. Further, it has cited a letter from National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, which states that since the Supreme Court's ruling is based on 'an old law', it no longer needs to be implemented.

While the ECP has made a big show of its righteousness and respect for court rulings in its new petition, it has not explained why it reasoned that the detailed ruling issued by the Supreme Court goes against existing law. It is also strange for it to be relying so heavily on a letter issued by the Speaker to interpret what the new law states.

Is the National Assembly Speaker judge and jury or a court of law that his word will now prevail over legal judgments? The question of 39 lawmakers already notified by the ECP after the initial ruling as members of PTI's parliamentary party also remains. What is their status now? Has the ECP accepted the Speaker's letter as the word of the law and de-notified them?

Those who have been observing the ECP's conduct in these past few months believe that this fresh application for clarification has little to do with its respect for rules and procedures or concerns for democratic principles. They fear it is nothing more than a new ploy to buy both itself and parliament more time. They point to its refusal to implement the ruling in full when it was first released, which is what gave the government enough time to come up with new legislation aimed at rendering the verdict ineffective.

Now, a 'constitutional package' aimed at debilitating the judiciary is about to be reintroduced, after which the possibility of such 'inconveniences' being raised by the courts will be forever put to bed. The ECP should stop playing games and take a clear position. It should not expect sympathy from the courts at this point.

**Maleeha Lodhi**

The contrast could not have been more telling. In his farewell speech to the UN General Assembly last week, President Joe Biden spoke proudly about how he defended Ukraine and its people against Russian aggression. But speaking about the Middle East, he applied different principles. Israel was cast as the victim with barely any concern expressed for the plight of the Palestinian people facing aggression and oppression. He urged the world to help Ukraine win the war and said the US will not "look away" unless there was a just and durable peace based on the UN Charter.

On the Middle East, Biden focused on the "horrors of October 7" and hostages captured by Hamas, saying little about the death and destruction wrought by Israel's year-long, ongoing war on Gaza. The UN Charter was not invoked despite its countless violations by Israel. Biden mentioned the need for a ceasefire in Gaza and of averting a full-scale war in the region. But these words sounded hollow given the

role his administration has played over the months in the conflict.

That role is evident from the several times the US vetoed resolutions for a ceasefire in the UN Security Council and from its relentless arming of Israel. In the past year, Washington has given Israel over \$12 billion in arms supplies and deployed additional military forces in the region to "protect Israel". Last week, Israel secured an additional \$8.7bn in US military aid. Over the past 11 months, the Biden administration hardly spoke of the tens of thousands of innocent Palestinians killed — over 41,000 now — by Israel's military offensive and bombings. It never condemned repeated Israeli attacks on hospitals and medical staff, with official spokespersons often fumbling over media questions about assaults that are a blatant violation of international humanitarian laws.

This stance handed Israel a licence to carry out atrocities, ethnic cleansing and defy the UNSC's calls for a fighting pause to allow aid into Gaza. It also flouted rulings of the International Court of Justice.

Not only has Israel been emboldened to continue its genocidal war, it also felt encouraged to launch crackdowns in the occupied West Bank, assassinate Hamas and Hezbollah commanders in third countries and intensify assaults on Lebanon. Not a murmur was heard from Washington — and many Western capitals — when Israel carried out pager explosions in Lebanon. If any other country had done this it would have been denounced by the West as a terrorist attack, which is what it was. Israel ramped up deadly raids across the West Bank, resulting in scores of civilian deaths and unprecedented destruction of infrastructure.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has exploited the Biden administration's lame-duck phase and political considerations in America's election season to act with impunity and ignore warnings from Washington about the danger of a regional war.

He has also calculated that the US is unwilling to use its leverage (suspend weapon supplies) to restrain Tel Aviv, especially as it keeps reiterating sup-

port for Israel's "unconditional right to defend itself". Belated US efforts for a ceasefire and hostage deal but without exerting pressure on Israel meant it gave the Israeli government sufficient time to conduct a brutal war while pretending to pursue peace.

Netanyahu has shown no interest in a ceasefire or peace deal not least because his political survival depends on continuing the war. He faces charges of corruption. A defiant Netanyahu spurned international urgings for a ceasefire in his UNGA address. Meanwhile, some members of the Biden administration seemed to buy Israel's disingenuous 'escalate to de-escalate' argument in what it calls a "new phase" in the conflict. That is how Tel Aviv cast its multiple, devastating air strikes on Lebanon — the biggest in decades — which have already claimed over 700 lives. This has also sparked fears of a wider multi-front war that could engulf the entire region.

Iran's stance will be critical given the mounting pressure on its ally Hezbollah, especially after the assassination of

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah. So far Tehran has acted with restraint. President Masoud Pezeshkian has avoided falling for the Israeli bait to enter the war. He did not order any retaliatory response to Israel's assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh on Iranian soil. While attending the UNGA session in New York, Pezeshkian said Israel was trying to drag his country into a wider war that he had no wish to do. However, Iran will face a predicament if Israel, which ordered its troops to be ready for a ground offensive in Lebanon, crosses another red line.

While the UNGA session has seen an outpouring of international support for the Palestinians and strong denunciations of Israel from leaders of the Global South that does not obscure the hypocrisy and double standards practised by Western governments. With the notable exception of Western nations such as Spain, Ireland and Norway, the rest have shown utter disregard for international law and fundamental human rights in their blind support for Israel. They denounce Russian military

actions and targeting of civilians in Ukraine, but have refused to apply the same principle to Gaza. They never asked themselves if there is any justification to target civilians, kill children, bomb hospitals, displace people and starve a population in Gaza.

Instead, they have gone on and on about Israel's right to defend itself as if that gives Tel Aviv carte blanche to violate every international law and norm, commit war crimes, attack the sovereignty of states and seek to annihilate an entire nation. Far from assuring Israel security, that only multiplies its enemies and over time strengthens resistance to occupation.

Arab governments also haven't covered themselves in glory by failing to do anything to stop Israel from carrying on its genocidal war. Statements of condemnation have been aplenty. But their inaction has served as an enabler for Israel to continue military aggression. The Middle East stands at a dangerous crossroads. Israeli escalation has pushed the region to the brink of a full-scale conflict. -- Courtesy Dawn

**A dangerous moment**

**Life of the Constitution?**

**Umair Javed**

An effort to rush through a constitutional amendment was barely kept at bay, but statements from the ruling regime indicate that another attempt is likely within the next few weeks.

As of now, the JUI-F's reluctance remains the thin obstacle preventing an overhaul of constitutional provisions related to the selection of judges, the status of the chief justice, and the very structure of the higher judiciary.

Though muted compared to 2005-7, most of the legal community stands against the amendment, citing them as detrimental to judicial independence. While the concern remains valid, there is an even more fundamental aspect at risk here: the life of Pakistan's Constitution appears more uncertain now than at any point since 1973.

At first glance, this may sound hyperbolic given how the Constitution was mutilated by military dictators twice over the past 50 years. On both occasions, its basic political structure — a federal, parliamentary democracy — was undermined for greater centralisation through the

office of the presidency and for the denial of political rights to the provinces.

Yet it proved to be resilient enough to regain its original essence through a reversion or modification of form. The last episode of resilience took place in the aftermath of the Musharraf regime, with the passage of the 18<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment that cemented parliamentary federalism as a governing principle.

Why then would this constitutional amendment, which on the surface touches neither parliament nor federalism, signify its death knell? The answer lies in the two broader trends at work in the backdrop of this latest effort: the first is the consistent subjugation of parliament by the executive since at least 2018; and secondly, since 2022, how this is being done through the political parties that were the main custodians of the 1973 constitutional settlement.

Playing second-fiddle to the executive is nothing new for Pakistan's parliament. The colonial-era genes of the Pakistani state drive centralisation and authoritarianism, rather than deliberative democracy. In the past, the usual pro-

cess of subjugating parliament involved gaining judicial approval for ad hoc PCs and LFOs that mutilated the Constitution, followed by sham elections that turned the Assembly into a rubber-stamping body.

What's new, thanks to the workings of hybrid regimes of the past few years, is how parliamentary processes have been cajoled and coerced within the existing constitutional order. Mid-ranking officers coordinate Assembly activity and act as the government's chief whip. Drafts of key legislation are prepared and vetted not in parliamentary committees or even the civil secretariat, but in some office in Rawalpindi.

The executive — mainly the military establishment — now possesses the capacity to subjugate parliament without resorting to any wall climbing, or sanctifying legal acrobatics from an (occasionally reluctant) judiciary.

The net result is repeated abdications of civilian rule via the conjuring of laws undermining parliamentary oversight, increasing securitisation and surveillance (military courts and Peca), granting arbitrary extensions (Bajwa's second stint) and opaquely transferring resources to the military establishment (SIFC). In its last 15 days, the previous Assembly rushed through 25 pieces of legislation, many with far-reaching consequences. Accustomed to being a handmaiden of the executive, parliament now appears enslaved.

Any defence of the proposed constitutional amendment based on notions of parliamentary supremacy over the judiciary misses the point, either willfully or in ignorance. In the current context, no such intervention makes the judiciary accountable to parliament. This may be a worthy goal in the abstract given Pakistan's sordid history of judicial overreach, but in today's reality it only achieves judicial compliance towards the executive via a subservient parliament.

And the driving force is not lofty ideas of parliamentary oversight, but the crasser and contingent necessity of keeping the PTI out of power and Imran Khan under incarceration.

Subjugated parliaments were temporarily freed in the past, thanks to the efforts of those politi-

cal parties invested in the 1973 Constitution. But the current scenario poses a qualitatively different danger. Those who previously did politics on the sanctity of federal parliamentary democracy are the ones bulldozing the parliamentary part of it, in service of extending their tenure in government. The road back to resuscitating parliament from here is going to be nearly impossible, given the khaki patterns of control being exercised and the nature of laws recently passed.

There is another aspect that makes the current moment distinctive. In the past few decades, the PPP and (to a lesser extent) PML-N paid homage to parliamentary supremacy from the vantage point of being the popular opposition to military or hybrid regimes. In practice, this allowed them to generate electoral and societal acceptance for the 1973 constitutional order, especially before they stepped into government.

In contrast, the biggest oppositional force today, the one that commands the most popular legitimacy, the one that stands to benefit from a parliament based

on free and fair elections, and advocates for reduced interference of the military, has rarely hidden its indifference to the 1973 Constitution. At various points in the recent past, the PTI has advocated for greater centralisation, for a revision of federal finances, for technocracy, and for presidentialism. Its last manifesto proposed direct elections for the Prime Minister's Office, a straightforward mechanism to free executive rule from parliament.

Therefore, the road ahead can go in one of two directions. Either by some change of heart the PTI embraces the federal parliamentary essence of the 1973 Constitution and modifies its longstanding position on what it thinks the state should look like. Or, once back in power, it crafts a new constitutional order on the back of its popularity; one that reflects its ideas and corresponds to its own brand of politics. And if and when that happens, the other two parties will cry foul but without a leg to stand on, having undermined the constitutional essence they previously built their politics around.

**Ungoverned areas**

**Mohammad Ali Babakhel**

The war against terrorism has put ungoverned and weakly governed spaces into the limelight, and governance in such areas is being debated. Globally, various options, including kinetic, administrative, and constitutional steps, have been introduced. However, the consequences of kinetic approaches include the displacement of tribes and de-tribalisation.

In a changed situation, the question is whether merely rebranding the old apparatus will serve the purpose. The real challenge for any state is to convince the locals that the new arrangements are better than the previous ones. While dealing with such situations, states are under intense pressure as they have to establish the rule of law and ensure socioeconomic development. Furthermore, in an era of disinformation, governments also have to counter the propaganda of miscreants.

Establishing state authority in ungoverned or weakly governed spaces is a challenge for modern nascent states that requires a balance between establishing order and authority. A policy focused on a give-and-take relationship with a tribe, with more giving than taking, has proven to be the best approach. The state must consider its capacity to expand its authority — the lower the capacity, the longer it will take.

Ungoverned areas can be defined as geographic regions that are either beyond the access of central authority or have weak administrative control. Besides other reasons, the lack of state authority over its territory is a reason for the concentration of militants in ungoverned areas. The

existence of 'ungoverned spaces' within a state's borders challenges the state's authority, particularly its legitimate right to violence. Therefore, conflicts between tribes often seem uncontrollable, negatively impacting other parts of the state.

The last four decades have also witnessed the migration of transnational terrorist networks into areas lacking central authority. Therefore, in a few such states, there is a debate on how to supersede tribal customs with the rule of law. Establishing state authority in tribal regions remains challenging, as tribes accustomed to governing their own affairs often resist external control. The state's success depends on convincing these groups that national laws serve their interests better than traditional customs, while also managing conflicts that arise when tribes are forced to relinquish autonomy.

Pakhtun tribes can be classified as nomadic, sedentary hill tribes, or sedentary plains tribes. Nomadic tribes, as they remain in transit, never fully comply with state laws, while sedentary hill tribes adhere passionately to Pashtunwali and prefer to avoid state authority.

Due to their mobility and tightly knit social bonds, isolated tribes have historically resisted state authority. Even the Pakhtuns in plain areas resisted the use of force by outsiders, as independence has been their historical norm.

To manage the Pakhtun tribes, British colonial authorities introduced policies like the Close Border and Frontier Crimes Regulation, aiming to control hill tribes indirectly. These efforts, however, were met with resistance, as Pakhtuns rejected external authority and preferred tribal cus-

doms.

To strengthen the buffer between India and Afghanistan, a new Forward Policy was implemented, focusing on Balochistan and aiming to co-opt the tribes within designated settlement areas. The effectiveness of the policy could not be repeated in the NWFP, but it did result in establishing order among the tribes.

By delegating certain functions, political agents administered tribes through maliks who were paid allowances and incentives. The British underestimated the Pakhtuns' passion for independence, as the hill tribes viewed indirect rule as a way to provide administrative space to the British. The malik system helped them maintain an acceptable level of order but failed to establish authority and deterred them from directly engaging with the tribes, which contributed to its lack of success.

To address weakly governed areas in the NAP, the third point states that militants will not be allowed to operate; point 12 recommends Fata reforms, point 16 mentions operations in Karachi, and point 17 emphasises reconciliation in Balochistan. In the revised NAP, the first point stresses intolerance for militancy, point 10 focuses on reconciliation in Balochistan, and point 11 highlights reforms in the merged areas.

By drafting NAP, the state has fulfilled its legal obligation. Achieving such a goal is the joint responsibility of the federal and provincial governments. The post-18<sup>th</sup> Amendment scenario warrants magnanimity on the part of all stakeholders. National security and national interest are not to be interpreted narrowly; ideally, they are to be a collective resolve. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Taking back space**

**Huma Yusuf**

An anti-MAGA America First family. That's how an American friend recently described his family's politics: vehemently anti-Trump and opposed to his 'Make America Great Again' exclusionist rhetoric, but still pro-US and committed to defending its leading place in the world. This friend's family represents a growing trend among the Western world — the uptick in nationalism among left-leaning liberals ready to reclaim their governments and countries from the far-right political movements that continue to threaten Western democracy.

Recent electoral results in countries such as the UK, France, Poland and Spain reflect this trend at the macro level. But it's apparent in the details too. For example, the New Yorker recently published gushing coverage of the Sammies, an annual awards ceremony organised by the Partnership for Public Service, to recognise exceptional federal government employees. Taking a cue from the ceremony, the article lavished praise on US government workers, celebrated their ordinary heroism, and highlighted the many visible and invisible ways in which they contribute to American society. The unironic tone of the article was notable, a sign that American nationalism is becoming palatable beyond the confines of Trump rallies and white supremacist gatherings.

Pakistan is not immune to this global trend. We have seen our own amazing efforts to reclaim space from far-right — religious-nationalist or violent extremist — movements. The most recent was the civil society gathering in Umerkot to protest against extremism and

police complicity in the murder of a doctor accused of blasphemy.

All Pakistan's recent grassroots movements have been engaged in acts of reclamation. The PTM pushed back against the conflation of the Pakhtun identity with the threat from extremist and militant groups such as the TTP. It demanded that young Pakhtuns be granted their basic rights in a democratic system — freedom of movement, due process, dignity, safety.

The BYC is similarly reclaiming space from the militant violence of groups such as the BLA, and demanding fair treatment for the Baloch, including justice for the innumerable extrajudicial killings and an end to future disappearances and torture. They are also demanding that development be inclusive, and that the state deploy a less extractive mentality to CPEC and natural resources in the province, with more local involvement and wider sharing of economic benefits.

Here the trend of reclaiming space diverges in Pakistan as compared to the West where reclamation is a process of reclaiming the democratic process, government workings, the flag, the state — nothing less than national identity. In Pakistan, however, the effort to reclaim democratic norms is posited as anti-state — the best summary of Pakistan's predicament.

This is no fault of the grassroots movements themselves; elites that dominate our state and its institutions have framed these movements as threats to elite privileges rather than celebrate them as a chance to reclaim Pakistan from the violence rooted in sectarian or ethnic divisiveness.

How does a country

recover from this? The state should change its narrative, support these groups and engage with their demands. But social and political structures in Pakistan are too compromised; in Umerkot, the law enforcers were the lawbreakers, and public trust in the state is so weak that if the PTM or BYC worked alongside the government or military the movements would be de-radicalised with concerns about infiltration and co-optation.

The media could help shift the narrative by highlighting the positive aspects of state functioning, to remind us that reclamation is still possible. But again, the media has been so long censored and co-opted, that if a journalist praised a civil servant or public office, cries of 'lifafa' would resound.

So what's the answer? In the short term, collective action at the grassroots level may be the only way forward — small gatherings of locals, including representation from local groups (social movements, religious groups, marginalised communities, etc), district- or provincial-level state and judicial representatives, and the media, to identify common goals, rebuild trust, consider resource-sharing agreements, and agree on 'red lines' — for example, around what religious rhetoric is permitted in mosques.

But in the long term, Pakistan will have to accept that the national fabric is in tatters, and the only way to sew the pieces back together will be through a formal, sustained truth and reconciliation process. Sadly, there is a long wait for a leadership with the courage to initiate such a process — unless we decide to give more political space to the organic grassroots movements that are seeking to reclaim a Pakistan we can all believe in. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Future economy depends on technology: Prof. Ahsan Iqbal

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Measures Professor Ahsan Iqbal has said that future economy depends on technology that has to be introduced in every sector to compete with the world.

He said that the youth skilled in technology are a valuable asset of the country, preparing the youth to increase digital exports is the top priority of the government, under the vision 2025 and 2030, the government is taking steps to provide the latest knowledge to the youth.

He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony organized in honor of newly admitted students at the University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Narowal Campus at Narowal on Monday.

The Federal Minister explained, "Future economy depends on technology, the whole world has come a long way in the IT sector, our new generation has to come forward in this vital field."

"Pakistan stands at a critical juncture where it cannot afford to lag behind in adopting the latest technology, we have to introduce technology in every sector to compete with the world," he stressed.

Ahsan Iqbal said that modern technologies have the potential to revolutionize industries, enhance decision-making processes and create new economic opportunities. He also emphasized the need to equip the youth of the country with modern skills so that they not only earn good resources for themselves but also help them to play a key role in the socio-economic development of the country. In order to face the challenges and take full advantage of emerging technologies, he said, "We need to focus on artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain technology, open source intelligence, quantum computing, cyber security, digital media literacy, infrastructure development and education. Indeed, our youths have the potential to take Pakistan forward through digitalisation."

Federal Minister

Ahsan Iqbal said that the youth skilled in digital technology are the valuable asset of the country and the architects of our future, preparing the youth for increasing digital exports is the first priority of the government.

He said that the roadmap of Vision 2025 was chalked out keeping in mind the emerging technologies. He mentioned, the journey of development after 2018 was blocked by the so-called transformation, development is not possible without political stability.

He emphasized the need for e-governance and digitization of all public services, asserting that the government is determined to bring digital transformation in the country.

"In today's era, no country can develop without innovation and investment in various sectors of the economy. I want to say to the people related to technology that they should make their children educated in IT so that the country can progress towards development," he suggested.



ATTOCK: Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Barrister Danyal Chaudhry visited Asfandyar Bukhari District Hospital to inquire after the police personnels injured during the protest of a political party.

## CM assures PHC of legislation against rearrests after bail confirmation

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur on Monday appeared before the Peshawar High Court (PHC) where he was summoned in a missing persons case.

Chief Justice PHC, Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim during hearing a case of missing person summoned the Chief Minister for his comments that how a person is rearrested once his or her bail is confirmed by the court. The CJ PHC said it was a total violation of the court's order.

The court also questioned the SHO concerned if he rearrested the missing man after he secured bail from the court—upon which the SHO said he was not responsible for this specific arrest as he was not there at that time.

However, the court said police could not keep itself at distance from such cases and issued summon orders for the Chief Minister before allowing a break in the hearing.

After the break, the Chief Minister KP, Ali Amin Gandapur appeared before the Peshawar High Court (PHC) and said he himself was against such practices. He told the court that the provincial government was going to introduce amendments in the Police Act. A committee was being formed and a focal person from the government side will be deputed at the court-level.

## Sindh Ombudsman holds awareness meeting in Mirpurkhas

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Provincial Ombudsman of Sindh Dr. Muhammad Sohail Rajput on Monday chaired an awareness meeting to inform social workers about the office's services.

During the meeting, the Regional Director Zulfikar Ali Junejo addressed the attendees and highlighted the role of the Ombudsman's regional office.

He stated that the people can submit applications for the redressal of their grievances without any fee and the office will forward the application to the concerned institution for immediate resolution.

The Deputy Registrar Chief Ombudsman, Sajjad Soomro also spoke at the event.

## CM launches Punjab "Honhaar Scholarship Program"

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has launched the "Honhaar Scholarship Program," fulfilling another commitment to educational advancement.

Registration for this initiative has been officially started. The programme is tailored to address global job market demands, providing scholarships to 30,000 students annually across 68 disciplines.

Eligible candidates include students from 50 public sector universities, 16 medical colleges, and 131 graduate colleges.

Additionally, scholarships will extend to students at prestigious institutions such as LUMS, FAST, COMSATS, NUST, and the Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute, along with seven other top private universities.

Over the next eight years, the Honhaar Scholarship Program plans to distribute scholarships worth Rs 130 billion, benefiting 120,000 students in the coming four years. Interested students can apply at [honhaarscholarship.punjab.gov.pk](http://honhaarscholarship.punjab.gov.pk)

The CM said "Thanks to Allah, The Almighty, I have fulfilled another promise made in my first speech." Maryam Nawaz emphasized that this programme will ensure access to quality education for deserving and talented students. "The Honhaar Scholarship Program will eliminate financial barriers for intelligent students seeking higher education," she said.



LAHORE: Shafqat Abbas, Director General, PID Lahore on behalf of Attaullah Tarar, Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting presenting bouquet to Senior Journalist Mujeeb ur Rehman Shahi on his successful recovery from medical surgery.

## Development, prosperity without getting education is mere a dream: Meena

Independent Report  
PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa minister for higher education Meena Khan Afridi has said that the development and prosperity without getting education is mere a dream, adding that education is necessary for a nation to make place in the rank of developed countries.

The provincial minister expressed these views as a chief guest in a certificate and award distribution ceremony held at Beaconhouse School System, Frontier Campus for Boys. The ceremony was organized to honor the outstanding performance, dedication, and hard work of students during the academic session 2023-2024.

Headmistress, Nargis Iqbal, Saadia Yousaf, students and their parents participated in the ceremony.

The KP higher education minister distributed awards and certificates among the students recognized across several categories, including top two overall positions in their respective classes.

Subject-wise first positions for exceptional performance. Regularity awards for consistent attendance. Awards for best behavior and notable academic improvement. In addition, students who secured academic scholarships were awarded certificates of honor. To recognize the efforts of the faculty, certificates of recognition were also presented to teachers whose students excelled in the Cambridge International Examinations (CAIE).



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Information Azma Bukhari talking with renowned columnists and senior journalists. Secretary Information Tahir Raza Hamdani and DGPR Ghulam Sagheer Shahid are also present.

## Social media platforms must be regulated: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that social media platforms are making money in Pakistan but are not accountable to anyone.

She emphasized that if social media apps cannot be regulated, they should be shut down. She noted that social media is being regulated in the whole world except Pakistan. Speaking to the media during her appearance at the Lahore High Court, she said, "Despite my two to three months of struggle, I still have not received any relief. FIA officials come and complain that they cannot question social media apps due to lack of capacity. This highlights the state of social media in Pakistan, where everyone is free and unaccountable."

She remarked that KP House had become a stronghold of terrorists, where people commit crime and live without fear, challenging the writ of the state. "It is unacceptable to defame someone without any accountability," she added.

Azma Bokhari said that PTT's propaganda cell operates from abroad. She mentioned the difficulty of discussing fake videos and expressed her frustration over the inability to remove fake content from social media apps. "I have come here to seek justice. Discussing fake videos is very challenging and painful for me," she concluded.

## New Deans appointed in UET Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): In pursuance of the notification issued by the Higher Education Archives and Library Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with the approval of Honorable Governor/Chancellor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Prof. Dr. Rizwan Mahmood Gul has been appointed as Dean, Faculty of Mechanical, Chemical and Industrial Engineering (MCI), Prof. Dr. Bashir Alam, as Dean, Faculty of Civil Agricultural and Mining Engineering (CAM) and Prof. Dr. Amjad Ali as Dean, Faculty of Architecture, Allied Sciences and Humanities (AASH), UET Peshawar for a period of three years or till their retirement.

## Deputy Mayor Karachi chairs KMC Council meeting

KARACHI (APP): Deputy Mayor Karachi, Salman Abdullah Murad on Monday chaired the general meeting of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation-KMC Council at KMC council.

During the meeting, a total of 11 resolutions were approved, six of which were passed unanimously and five by majority vote. Additionally, the discussion and voting on five other proposed resolutions were postponed until the next meeting.

Among the resolutions passed unanimously, three identical resolutions expressed sorrow over the martyrdom of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrullah and his daughter in the Israeli attacks in Lebanon, the martyrdom of former Palestinian President Ismail Haniyeh and the martyrdom of former Iranian President Ibrahim Raisi in an air accident. The resolutions condemned the mass killings of oppressed Muslims in Gaza by Israel in the strongest terms. During the discussion, parliamentary leaders Najmi Alam from the Pakistan People's Party and Saifuddin Advocate from Jamaat-e-Islami expressed that the Israeli state, posed severe threat to global peace.

## Kumail Hyder calls on President Asif Ali Zardari

SUKKUR (APP): Chairman District Council Sukkur, Syed Kumail Hyder Shah, called on to President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari and briefed him about the performance of District Council Sukkur as well as various development projects in Sukkur.

According to handout, issued here on Monday, Syed Kumail Hyder Shah briefed the President Asif Ali Zardari on the district council's achievements and initiatives undertaken to improve public services in Sukkur. President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari praised the efforts of Chairman District Council Syed Kumail Hyder Shah.



KARACHI: Session of Baldia Uzma Karachi is being held in the municipal office under the chairmanship of Deputy Mayor Salman Murat.

## To promote health and cleanliness WASH programme is important for district Battagram: Asif Ali

BATTAGRAM (APP): Deputy Commissioner Battagram Asif Ali Khan on Monday chaired District Coordination Committee meeting to review ongoing efforts and future strategies aimed at improving health and cleanliness in the district, at his office.

It was attended by the heads of various departments and other key stakeholders. During the meeting, the Project Manager of the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) initiative by Human Appeal, in collaboration with UNICEF, provided a comprehensive update on the progress of the current sanitation projects.

He outlined that over the next three months, intensified measures would be implemented to further enhance cleanliness in the area. The project aims to eliminate the practice of open defecation and raise public awareness on health and hygiene issues.

Deputy Commissioner Asif Ali Khan commended the efforts of the WASH project, emphasizing the importance of such initiatives for the welfare of the community.

He urged all relevant departments to fully cooperate in these projects to ensure that Battagram becomes a cleaner and healthier district.

The committee members collectively expressed their determination to make Battagram an exemplary district in terms of health and sanitation.

They stressed the need to not only focus on improving infrastructure but also to run effective public awareness campaigns to engage the community in maintaining cleanliness.

## SAU completes greenhouse project with Turkish support

HYDERABAD (APP): The Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tandjoam has successfully completed its state of the art greenhouse project, generously funded by the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA).

Situated near the Faculty of Crop Protection, this advanced facility is designed to support groundbreaking research on climate adaptive and off season crops, fruits, vegetables and other plant species well suited to Sindh's unique environmental conditions.

According to a press release, a delegation from TIKA, led by Haleel Ibrahim Basaran and Fatima Aziz, visited the newly completed greenhouse on Monday. During the visit, the delegation observed the active experiments being conducted within the facility.

Haleel Ibrahim conveyed the deep connection between Turkia and Pakistan, referring to the greenhouse as a "gift from the Turkish people," and expressed optimism that it would become an essential hub for agricultural research benefiting experts, faculty and students at SAU.

## Ghost students, quality training issues discussed in NAVTTC meeting

KARACHI (APP): A consultative meeting of the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) and TVET Institute under PM's Youth Skill Development Programme, on Monday discussed the issues of ghost students, stipend to students for improving attendance, quality training and measures to motivate them in pursuance of their education and training.

The meeting under the chairmanship of NAVTTC Executive Director Mohammed Aamir Jan was held at the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI).

Aamir Jan said that the prime minister had directed him for the international certification specially in the fields of information technology, hospitality and trade. The federal government wanted to equip the workforce with modern skills. While stressing the need for ending 'taboos' of vocational training, he said that the efforts were being made to this effect, he added.



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) Leader, Syed Mustafa Kamal along with others planting a tree during Trees Plantation Campaign organized by Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan, held at Coastal area in Karachi.

## IGHDS stresses to give rights to older people

SUKKUR (APP): Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Inter Global Human Development Society (IGHDS), Advocate Jameel Ahmed Shakeel said that Ageing is not recognized explicitly in existing human rights standards, which makes it possible for ignoring people's rights as they grow older.

Speaking in an event, organized by IGHDS here on Friday, he said that Age is just a number adding that eliminating all forms of age discrimination and providing an environment in which older people are protected from violence and abuse will help them exercise their choices and contribute to society. He further said that the Sindh Province has taken some very positive steps in the form of legislation for the protection of the rights of older people. However, there is still a significant implementation gap between policy and practice. CEO Advocate Jameel Ahmed Shakeel further said that the senior citizens are considered the most revered members of our society but their treatment is quite the contrary.



SARGODHA: A large number of women gathered at the Benazir Income Support Program Distribution Center in Company Bagh to collect their payment.

## Commerce Minister assures, SCCI of trade-friendly policies

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Monday assured support to the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and pledged trade-friendly policies.

In a virtual meeting with the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, reaffirmed the government's commitment to implementing trade-friendly policies aimed at boosting industrial growth and enhancing trade volumes, said a press release issued here. Jam Kamal Khan assured the business community of full support

in addressing the challenges they face, with a focus on ensuring the growth of local industries and improving trade with Afghanistan and other neighboring countries.

During the meeting, SCCI President Fuad Ishaq raised pressing concerns about the escalating power and gas issues, which he said are gradually leading to the closure of industries.

He also highlighted the challenge of high tariffs, which are further burdening the industrial sector.

Fuad pointed to the decline in trade volume with Afghanistan. "In 2013-14, our trade with Afghanistan was valued at \$3 billion, but it has now plum-

meted to \$800 million," he said, underlining the significant drop. He urged the government to address the issues surrounding transit trade and bilateral trade with Afghanistan, which are negatively impacting the local business community.

The SCCI president further advocated for the establishment of a new industrial estate to support the business community and encourage industrial expansion, which he believes is critical for revitalizing the region's economy.

Minister Jam Kamal Khan expressed the government's strong commitment to protecting and supporting the business

community. He acknowledged the challenges faced by industries due to the economic situation and pledged to take necessary steps to resolve the issues related to power, gas, and tariffs.

Regarding the declining trade with Afghanistan, the minister emphasized the need to address the issue in order to improve access to Central Asian markets. The virtual meeting ended with a shared understanding of the urgency to resolve the business community's challenges and to work towards sustainable solutions that would bolster industrial growth and increase Pakistan's trade footprint regionally and globally.



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail addresses to gathering during ceremony on his visit to Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) in Quetta.



MULTAN: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani addressing during the oath-taking ceremony of the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association.

## US, UAE and UK top 3 destinations of Pakistani exports during July-August 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the first two months of the current financial year 2024-25, followed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and United Kingdom (UK).

Total exports to the US during July-August 2024-25 were recorded at US \$949.855 million against the exports of US \$934.666 million during July-August 2023-24, showing an increase of 1.62 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by the UAE, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US \$400.977 million against the exports of US \$295.563 million last year, showing an increase of 35.66 percent.

UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US \$366.370 million during the month under review against the exports of US \$351.186 million, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani exports to China stood at US \$323.435 million against US \$350.297 million last year, showing a decrease of 7.66 percent while the exports to Germany were recorded at US \$287.169 million against US \$253.155 million last year, data said.

During July-August 2024-25, the exports to Holland were recorded at \$247.343 million against \$226.624 million whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$186.984 million against \$195.539 million.

Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at

\$231.945 million against the exports of US \$242.201 million while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$146.655 million against \$88.393 million last year.

The exports to Bangladesh stood at US \$122.004 million against US \$98.589 million.

Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at US \$82.680 million against US \$91.043 million while the exports to Belgium stood at US \$100.402 million against US \$96.515 million.

Pakistan's exports to Saudi Arabia were recorded at US \$114.189 million during the current year compared to US \$95.174 million last year whereas the exports to Turkey stood at US \$64.812 million against US \$61.354 million.

## NAC revises GDP growth rate to 3.7% in Q4; 2.52% for FY 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Accounts Committee (NAC) on Monday approved revised quarterly Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rates for the fiscal year 2023-24, reflecting a significant improvement in the country's economic performance. "The updated provisional and revised growth rates for FY 2023-24 and FY 2022-23 are 2.52% and -0.22% compared to 2.38% and -0.21% approved in the previous NAC meeting," according to a news release.

The updated figures were ratified during a committee meeting at the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), chaired by Awais Manzoor Sumra, Secretary of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives.

According to the re-

vised estimates, the GDP growth rates for Q1, Q2, and Q3 have been adjusted to 2.69%, 1.97%, and 2.36%, respectively, from previously reported figures of 2.71%, 1.79%, and 2.09%. The Q4 growth rate is recorded at 3.07%.

The revised growth rates in the agriculture sector during Q1 (8.64% vs. 8.59%) and Q2 (6.12% vs. 5.83%) have improved, while growth in Q3 has slightly declined from 3.94% to 3.92%.

Industrial activities have shown downward revisions in all three quarters: Q1 from -2.44% to -2.66%, Q2 from 0.09% to -1.15%, and Q3 from 3.84% to 2.83%, mainly due to downward revisions in annual benchmarks for the electricity, gas, water supply, and construction industries.

## CM taking priority steps for prosperity of farmers: Kirmani

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani has said that Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif is taking priority steps for the prosperity of farmers and agricultural development.

During a meeting with the delegation of Pakistan Kisan Ittehad, here on Monday, the minister said that the deterioration in Agriculture sector was due to the failed policies of the previous governments. The government has allocated a huge amount of 64 billion rupees for the development budget of agriculture, which is 250 percent more than the previous financial year, he said.

The minister said that the unprecedented measures and mega projects that the present government has initiated for the development of agriculture in the short period of the last six months cannot be exemplified in the past. The Chief Minister Punjab has launched

the mega projects of Kissan Card, Green Tractor Scheme, Solarization of Tube wells to get rid of the high cost of electricity and diesel and provide interest-free agricultural loans under the Transforming Punjab Agriculture Programme, he added.

Kirmani said that according to the vision of the Chief Minister Punjab, practical measures are being taken for the provision of quality seeds, agricultural marketing and reducing the production cost of the farmers for development in agriculture sector.

On this occasion, President of Pakistan Kissan Ittehad Khalid Khokhar informed the minister about the problems faced by the farmers. He said that due to climate change, the agriculture sector is facing a crisis and this year the farmers have faced losses in cotton, rice, mango and sesame crops due to which they are suffering from economic crisis.



QUETTA: Newly elected President of Small Chamber of Small Industry, Haji Rauf Gul Barech is being seated by Senator Bilal Mandokhail, Adviser to Chief Minister Naseem Rehman Malakhal and other during ceremony held in Quetta.

## CCP initiates Phase-II merger review hearings for PTCL-Telenor acquisition

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has held its first hearing for the Phase II Merger Review concerning PTCL's acquisition of 100% shareholding in Telenor Pakistan (Private) Limited (TP) and Orion Towers Private Limited (OT).

The hearing was presided over by CCP Chairman Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, along with members Salman Amin and Abdul Rashid Sheikh, said a press release issued on Monday.

Senior Counsel Ms. Rahat Kaunain Hassan represented PTCL, emphasizing the potential economic benefits and growth opportunities the transaction could bring to Pakistan. Hatem Bamatraf, President

and Group CEO of PTCL, Robert Middlehurst, and PTCL's senior management also shared key insights into the merger.

The Commission then offered opportunity to M/s Wateen Telecom Limited, represented by Mian Sami-ud-Din. He concluded his preliminary submissions.

Other key attendees included Khurram Ashfaq, CEO of Telenor Pakistan, Andreas Hogberg, CEO of Orion Towers, Fawad Ahmad Khan, Group Director of Regulatory Strategy & Compliance (PTML), Amer Shahzad, DG Wireless Licensing (PTA), and representatives from Jazz, Wateen, Transworld Associates, Cm Pak LDI Ltd, and the Frequency Allocation Board.

## Gilani for revival of cotton to strengthen economy

MULTAN (APP): Senate Chairman Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani stressed the urgent need to focus on enhancing cotton production in the country.

He said this on the oath-taking ceremony of the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) here on Monday. Gilani stated that the country's economic future relied heavily on agricultural productivity, with cotton playing a pivotal role. "Our primary focus must be on increasing cotton yields, as the weakening of the cotton sector is already causing-

related economic losses," he observed. Gilani recalled that during his tenure middlemen's role was abolished and the support price for cotton was increased which provided relief to farmers. He assured the ginners that he would push for cotton to be a top priority for the government in order to revive the sector.

Talking about the issue of high markup rates raised by PCGA members, Gilani promised efforts to bring the interest rate down to single digit and hoped that it would facilitate remarkable growth for cotton-related industries. "The cotton revival

issue will be given precedence in the Senate, and we will work towards resolving challenges, including high financing costs, to boost production and support the ginners," he added.

Congratulating the newly elected members of the PCGA, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani reiterated that cotton was the backbone of the country's agriculture-driven economy, and any decline in its production would have far-reaching consequences. He urged all stakeholders to come together and ensure that the cotton sector is given the attention it deserves at both provincial and national levels.

## PSX loses 177 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bearish trend on Monday, losing 177.93 points, a negative change of 0.22 percent, closing at 81,114.20 points against 81,292.13 points on the last working day.

A total of 297,994,181 shares were traded during the day as compared to 339,323,128 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 14.103 billion against Rs 12.893 billion on the last trading day.

## LCCI new office-bearers take oath at AGM

LAHORE (APP): The newly elected Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Mian Abu Zar Shad, Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman and Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry took oath during the LCCI Annual General Meeting and pledged to work for the cause of business community and the economy here on Monday.

Former Presidents and senior group leaders of LCCI Mian Anjum Nisar, Muhammad Ali Mian, outgoing Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry,

outgoing Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt, Faheem Rehman Sehgal, Ali Hassam Asghar and Khawaja Shahzaib Akram addressed the gathering.

In his address, LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad reflected on his 28-year-long journey and lauded the historical victory of securing 32 seats in the chamber's election. He acknowledged the leadership of former Presidents Mian Anjum Nisar and Muhammad Ali Mian whose guidance has always been instrumental in advancing business interests.



Federal Minister for Privatisation, Board of Investment & Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan presided over meeting of Privatisation Commission Board in Islamabad.

## New wheat varieties imperative to increase productivity amid climate change: Dr Sajid

FAISALABAD (APP): New wheat varieties are imperative to increase productivity amid climate change and harsh weather conditions, said Dr Sajidur-Rehman, Director General Agriculture Research Punjab. Addressing the Annual Wheat Research Program 2024-2025 at Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (ARI) here on Monday, he said that AARI scientists have so far introduced more than 705 varieties of different crops and new seed varieties are contributing Rs.180 billion per annum to the national kitty.

He said that wheat is the major crop of Pakistan which was cultivated over more than 17.4 million acres of land in Punjab last year. He stressed innovation in the agriculture sector which was the baseline of national development.

He urged agri scientists to accelerate their research efforts and introduce new wheat varieties which have more resistance against climatic changes and give maximum production

even during harsh weather conditions.

Chief Scientist Wheat Department AARI Dr Javed Ahmad said that AARI scientists conducted 79 research experiments this year and introduced two new wheat varieties.

These varieties helped obtain 24 million tons wheat production this year by enhancing per acre yield up to 41 maunds in Faisalabad, Gujranwala and Sahiwal divisions which is record in the history of Punjab, he added.

## Textile millers demand restoration of RCET, EFS

LAHORE (APP): Newly-elected Chairman All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) Kamran Arshad has urged policymakers to reduce electricity tariff and restore Regionally Competitive Energy Tariff (RCET) besides reversing the government policy of curtailing gas supply to captive consumers from January 1, 2025, and include local yarn supply in the Export Facilitation Scheme (EFS) scheme.

These measures will revitalize the textile sector, boost economic growth, and create employment opportunities, he added.

Arshad also sought a cut in the interest rate for the industrial growth. He was addressing the Annual General Meeting of

the Association here at the APTMA office on Monday. Earlier, Mohammad Raza Baqir, Secretary General North Zone APTMA, opened the house while Umar Nazir Shah announced election results of the Association, declaring Kamran Arshad as central Chairman, followed by Muhammad Jameel Qasim as Senior Vice Chairman, Siddique Javed Bhatti as Vice Chairman and Shahzad Ahmed Shaikh as Vice Chairman (Value-added sector) for 2024-26. In the Northern zone, he said, Asad Shafi has been elected as Chairman, Anees M. Khawaja as Senior Vice Chairman, Ahmad Shafi as Vice Chairman, and Mohammad Qasim as Treasurer for the Northern Zone for 2024-26.

## Yousaf takes over as new OICCI president

ISLAMABAD (APP): President and CEO of Faysal Bank Ltd, Yousaf Hussain has been elected as the new president of the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI).

In addition to the president, Managing Director and CEO of Nestle Pakistan Ltd, Jason Avancena was elected senior vice president, while Managing Director and CEO of Pakistan Tobacco Company (Pvt) Ltd, Syed Ali Akbar will serve as vice president, said a news release.

The newly elected Managing Committee also included key business leaders from sectors such as banking, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, and manufacturing, further solidifying OICCI's position as a major player in Pakistan's economic landscape. The new Managing Committee for the 2024-2026 term included Yousaf Hussain, Faysal Bank Ltd, Jason Avancena, Nestle Pakistan Ltd, Syed Ali Akbar, Pakistan Tobacco Company (Pvt) Ltd, Amir Hafeez Ibrahim, Pakistan Mobile Communications Ltd. (Jazz), Ahmed Khan Bozai, Citibank NA, Pakistan, Asif Ahmad, IBM

Italia SPA, Farheen Salman Amir, Lipton Pakistan Ltd, Fahd K Chinoy, Pakistan Cables Ltd, Hafsa Shamsie, Roche Pakistan Ltd, Javed Ghulam Mohammad, Martin Dow Marker Ltd, M Adil Khattak, Attock Refinery and Muhammad Jawaid Iqbal, United Bank Ltd. leadership team would focus on shaping policies and fostering a more investment-friendly climate in Pakistan.

During his address to members, the president acknowledged the complex economic environment Pakistan faces, pointing to both challenges and opportunities. "Pakistan today stands at a critical crossroads. While inflation is easing and we're seeing a slight recovery in GDP growth, the country still faces structural challenges. However, these challenges also represent opportunities for pushing necessary reforms, driving innovation, and fostering a business environment that promotes sustainable development," he said. Outgoing president Rehman Shaikh, who will continue to serve as an ex-officio member of the Managing Committee, highlighted the Chamber's role in engaging with government bodies and offering strategic solutions.

## Consultative session on IT hardware production held

LAHORE (APP): A consultative session focusing on IT hardware production was successfully held here at Planning and Development Board (P&D) Complex on Monday.

The session brought together key stakeholders from the public and private sectors, academia, and industry to discuss strategies for enhancing the IT hardware manufacturing landscape in Punjab.

The session aimed to identify challenges and opportunities in the IT hardware sector, promote local manufacturing, and foster innovation.

Participants engaged in productive discussions on policy recommendations, technological advancements, and potential partnerships to strengthen the IT hardware ecosystem.

The local manufacturer of IT hardware shared insights on the latest trends in IT hardware, emphasizing the importance of research and development. They expressed their commitment to support the Government of Punjab in promoting local hardware manufacturing.



KARACHI: Executive Director of the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) Mohammed Aamir Jan chairing a meeting with TVET Institute under PM's Youth Skill Development Programme at FPCCI here on Monday. NAVTTTC Sindh Director General (DG) Aziz Chandio is also seen in the picture.

## Lebanon says over 100 killed in new Israeli strikes

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: Lebanon's health ministry said Sunday Israeli strikes killed more than 100 people, after Israel's military said it had kept up its bombardment of Hezbollah targets there and also struck Yemen. The health ministry in a revised toll issued late Sunday put the total killed at 105 and 359 wounded.

The attacks come after an air strike on Beirut's densely populated southern suburbs on Friday killed Hassan Nasrallah, the head of Lebanon's Hezbollah group which has engaged in cross-border fire with Israel for almost a year.

Hezbollah says it is acting in support of Hamas militants in Gaza, who attacked Israel on October 7, triggering the war in the Palestinian territory.

After Israel turned its focus north from Gaza to Lebanon and cross-border fire escalated, Israeli attacks have killed hundreds since last Monday, the deadliest day since Lebanon's 1975-

1990 civil war. Lebanon's health ministry said Sunday there had been deadly air raids near the main southern city of Sidon Sunday, while dozens more had died in the east, in the south and in and around Beirut.

France's foreign ministry said Sunday a second French national had been killed in Lebanon, after a woman died following a south Lebanon blast on Monday. The announcement came as French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot arrived in Lebanon, the first high-level foreign diplomat to visit since the Israeli air strikes intensified.

Barrot spoke earlier with Prime Minister Najib Mikati and said Paris sought "an immediate halt" to Israeli strikes.

France also appealed for Hezbollah and its backer Iran to abstain from any action that could lead to "regional conflagration".

Pope Francis, asked about Israeli air strikes on civilians, said a country

"goes beyond morality" when defence is not proportional to the attack.

Israeli military operations in Lebanon seek to downgrade Hezbollah's capacity to attack Israel, eliminate the group's military leadership and "clean" the border areas from fighters, an Israeli security official said Friday. Israeli leaders say they want their citizens displaced from the north to be able to safely return. Israel's military said dozens of its warplanes had attacked targets of Iran-backed Houthi rebels in war-ravaged Yemen Sunday, including around Hodeida port, a key entry point for fuel and humanitarian aid.

Houthi media reports said the strikes had killed four people and wounded 33. The Yemen raids came a day after the Huthis said they targeted Israel's Ben Gurion Airport with a missile, trying to hit it as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu returned from New York.



People pass by buildings damaged in an Israeli strike, amid ongoing cross-border hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, in Kola, central Beirut, Lebanon.

## Russia targets 11 Ukrainian regions as it steps up its drone attacks

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Russia fired missiles and drones at 11 regions of Ukraine, the Ukrainian air force said Monday, in a 33rd consecutive night of aerial attacks behind the front line and set a new monthly record of drone barrages.

In Kyiv, multiple explosions and machine gun fire could be heard throughout the night as the Ukrainian capital's air defenses fought off a drone attack for five hours.

No casualties were reported in Kyiv or elsewhere, though a "critical infrastructure object" caught fire in the southern Mykolaiv region, Gov. Vitalii Kim said, without

elaborating.

Russia has increasingly deployed Shahed drones, rather than more expensive missiles, in its aerial bombardment of Ukrainian cities since its full-scale invasion of its neighbor in February 2022.

It launched more than 1,300 Shahed drones at Ukraine in September alone — the highest number of drone attacks in a single month since the war began.

Ukraine, too, has developed a new generation of drones for the battlefield and for long-range strikes deep inside Russia. More than 100 Ukrainian drones were shot down over Russia on Sunday, Russian officials said.

## Israel's Netanyahu strengthens his hold on office by adding a rival to his Cabinet

**Monitoring Desk**  
JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appointed a former rival, Gideon Saar, as a member of his Cabinet on Sunday, expanding his coalition and strengthening his hold on office. Under their agreement, Netanyahu said Saar would serve as a minister without portfolio and serve in the Security Cabinet, the body that oversees the management of the ongoing war against Israel's enemies across the Middle East.

Saar, 57, had hoped to

replace Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, another rival of Netanyahu's. But a deal to become defense minister fell through several weeks ago after fighting intensified with Hezbollah along Israel's northern border, leaving the popular Gallant in office for the time being.

Saar has had a strained relationship with the prime minister. He was once a rising star in Netanyahu's Likud party, but angrily left it four years ago after accusing the prime minister of turning

## Eight killed in Colombia military helicopter crash

**Monitoring Desk**  
BOGOTA: Eight Colombian soldiers died when the helicopter transporting them on a humanitarian mission crashed near the border with Venezuela early on Sunday, authorities said.

The eight were on a mission in the eastern department of Vichada, President Gustavo Petro wrote on X.

The Air Force said the helicopter was found after a search in a rural area in the municipality of Cumaribo.

## Fire breaks out at Chinese battery giant's plant

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: A fire broke out on Sunday at a factory belonging to Chinese battery giant CATL, which supplies electric vehicle makers including Tesla, but only a "relatively small" impact on operations is expected, the company said. A CATL spokesperson said no injuries or casualties had occurred at the plant in the coastal city of Ningde, and that "the reasons behind this accident are still under investigation". Emergency services were sent to the plant to fight the fire and to organise the evacuation of any people who were inside the 15,000 square metre.

## Japan's next PM aims for snap election, stocks sink

**Monitoring Desk**  
TOKYO: Japan's incoming prime minister Shigeru Ishiba said on Monday he aimed to call snap elections for October 27, as equities plunged on a strong yen and fears that tax hikes are on the cards.

Ishiba, who was set to be formally appointed as premier on Tuesday after winning the leadership of the ruling party, supports the Bank of Japan's drive to hike interest rates and has said "there is room" to raise corporate levies.

The leadership contest for the Liberal Demo-

cratic Party (LDP), which has governed almost uninterrupted for decades, went down to the wire on Friday, with right-winger Sanae Takaichi tipped to win when markets closed.

With Takaichi a fan of former prime minister Shinzo Abe's unorthodox "Abenomics" economic policies of ultra-low interest rates and tax cuts, the prospect of her winning sent stocks higher and the yen lower. Takaichi, an arch-nationalist, would also have been the first woman prime minister in a country where men still dominate politics.



Head of Freedom Party (FPÖ) Herbert Kickl speaks, as vote projections show that FPÖ won the general election, in Vienna, Austria.

## 100 dead in storm Helene damage, flooding across US southeast

**Monitoring Desk**  
FLORIDA: At least 100 people have been killed after destructive floods ripped through the US southeast, officials said Monday, with the emergency response effort fast becoming a political football in a region that could decide the presidential election.

Rescue operations sought to find survivors and deliver supplies across Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee in areas where torrential rains brought by Hurricane Helene caused havoc.

Residents face power cuts, supply shortages, blocked roads, and broken communication lines in often mountainous terrain.

Republican candidate

Donald Trump will visit Valdosta in Georgia — an epicentre of the flooding destruction and also a key state in the tight election being held in just five weeks' time.

Trump's Democrat opponent Vice President Kamala Harris cancelled campaign events to return to Washington for a briefing on the federal response, while President Joe Biden is due to speak from the White House.

Biden, who has approved federal aid for several states in the wake of the disaster, plans to travel to hard-hit areas this week, "as soon as it will not disrupt emergency response operations," the White House said Sunday, adding that Harris would do the same.

## Biden approves \$567 mln in defense support for Taiwan

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden approved \$567 million in defense support for Taiwan, the White House said, the latest move by the United States to boost the island's military in the face of rising tensions with China.

The United States is Taiwan's most important international backer and arms supplier even in the absence of formal diplomatic ties. China has repeatedly demanded Washington stop selling weapons to Taipei, which it claims as its territory. In a statement, the White House said Biden had delegated the Secretary of State the authority "to direct the draw-down of up to \$567 million in defense articles.



Protesters demonstrate against Israel following the killing of Lebanon's Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in an Israeli air strike in Beirut, near the Israeli Consulate in Istanbul, Turkey.

## 3 policemen killed in Iran, Jaish al-Adl claims responsibility for two of the attacks

**Monitoring Desk**  
TEHRAN: At least three policemen were killed in separate attacks by militants and gunmen in Iran's southeastern Sistan-Baluchistan province, state media reported on Monday.

One of Iran's poorest regions, Sistan-Baluchistan has long been plagued by unrest involving drug-smuggling gangs, rebels from the Baloch minority, and extremists.

"A border guard was killed a few hours ago in a clash with gunmen in Hirmand in Sistan-

Baluchistan province," the official IRNA news agency reported. A separate attack on law enforcement in the same region on Monday left another border guard killed and two others wounded, IRNA said. The news agency also reported that a member of the police special force was killed in the town of Khash, also in Sistan-Baluchistan.

Pakistan-based militant group Jaish al-Adl (Army of Justice in Arabic) claimed responsibility for the last two attacks in a message on Telegram.

## Iran will not leave Israel's 'criminal acts' unanswered, says foreign ministry

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Iran will not leave any of "the criminal acts" of Israel unanswered, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani said on Monday, referring to the killing of Hezbollah's chief and an Iranian Guard deputy commander in Lebanon.

Brigadier General Abbas Nilforoushan was killed in Israeli strikes on Beirut.

## UN authorises Haiti security force for another year

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: The United Nations Security Council unanimously agreed on Monday to extend for another year its authorisation of a Kenyan-led international security force helping fight armed gangs in Haiti.

Haitian leaders last week warned of worsening insecurity in the Caribbean country. Powerful gangs, armed with weapons largely trafficked from the United States, have united in the capital under a common alliance and now control most of the city and are expanding to nearby areas. The security assistance mission, while approved by the UN Security Council.

## Lebanese arrive in Turkey shaken by war, hope for quick return

**Monitoring Desk**  
ISTANBUL: Some of the hundreds of Lebanese citizens who arrived in Istanbul on Monday after fleeing Israeli airstrikes in the homeland said they were shaken but hoped to return home soon.

Israel has struck targets in Beirut and elsewhere in Lebanon during a two-week wave of attacks that has killed several Hezbollah commanders and also some 1,000 other people, according to the Lebanese government. Many more have fled their homes.

All Middle East Airlines flights from Beirut to Istanbul were sold out on Monday, the company's website said. Turkish Airlines and Pegasus Airlines have cancelled their flights to Beirut in the coming days.

"The situation in Lebanon is very bad. The war is increasing dramatically and lots of bombings happen in Beirut. We are hearing the (military) flights all night... in the sky," said Aref Arhad, 33, a Beirut resident who arrived in Istanbul on Monday on a Middle East Airlines flight.

He said he hoped to be able to go back to Beirut in a few days if the situation improves.

Lina Diab, a Lebanese journalist, said the area where she lives was still safe but she decided to leave as a precaution.

"We don't want to live (with) the stress, so I prefer to come to Istanbul, stay for a while, watch what will happen," she said waiting for luggage. "Hopefully we go back soon to Lebanon."

## France's Le Pen denies wrongdoing as she and her party go on trial accused of embezzling EU funds

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: French far-right leader Marine Le Pen denied violating any rules as she and her National Rally party and two dozen others went on trial on Monday, accused of embezzling European Parliament funds, in a case that has the potential to derail her political ambitions.

Arriving at the court in Paris, Le Pen said she remained confident as "we have not violated any political and regulatory rules of the European Parliament" and vowed to present the judges with "extremely serious and extremely solid arguments."

Le Pen and other National Rally members casually greeted each other before sitting down in the first three rows of the packed courtroom.

The nine-week trial will be closely watched by Le Pen's political rivals as she is a strong contender in the race to succeed Emmanuel Macron when the next presidential election takes place in 2027.

It comes as a new government dominated by cen-

trists and conservatives just came into office in the wake of June-July legislative elections. Some observers expect the trial could prevent National Rally lawmakers, including Le Pen herself, from fully playing their opposition role in Parliament as they would be busy focusing on the party's defense.

Since stepping down as party leader three years ago, Le Pen has sought to position herself as a mainstream candidate capable of appealing to a broader electorate. Her efforts have paid off, with the party making significant gains in recent elections at both the European and national levels.

But a guilty verdict could seriously undermine her bid to take the Elysee.

The National Rally and 27 of its top officials are accused of having used money destined for EU parliamentary aides to pay staff who instead did political work for the party between 2004 and 2016, in violation of the 27-nation bloc's regulations. The National Rally was called National Front at the time.

## US touts 'robust' military presence in Mideast as crisis grows

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: The United States said Sunday that it had a strong military presence in the Middle East after deploying reinforcements amid Israel's widening of the war to include hundreds of targets in Lebanon. With Israel pressing on with a bombing campaign against Hezbollah and with its campaign in Gaza, White House national security spokesman John Kirby characterized the US deployment as "robust," without providing details.

"There is already a very robust military capability to defend ourselves and to help defend Israel," Kirby said on US broadcaster ABC, adding that more forces had been sent since Iran launched hundreds of missiles and drones against Israel in April.

In a statement, the Pentagon on Sunday said an aircraft carrier strike group and a Marine expeditionary unit have been ordered to keep operating in the eastern Mediterranean and that these forces were backed by an "elevated presence" of warplanes.

The United States "will further reinforce our

defensive air-support capabilities in the coming days," Pentagon spokesman Major General Pat Ryder said.

Kirby reiterated that the United States was concerned about a widening of the conflict in the Middle East, but also asserted Israel's right to "eliminate this threat to their people and to their land," referring to Hezbollah. "We've been concerned, almost since the beginning of this conflict, about it broadening, widening, becoming a regional war," Kirby said.

Fears are growing that Israel might launch ground operations in Lebanon, capitalizing on its momentum and US support after killing Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and other top figures in the armed group. Despite the atmosphere of acute and growing crisis, Kirby said the United States had no imminent plans to evacuate its citizens from Lebanon, but urged its people to get out while they can. He said it was too early to say who would assume the leadership of Hezbollah after Israel killed Nasrallah in an air strike in Beirut on Friday.

## Nepal surveys flood wreckage as death toll reaches 192

**Monitoring Desk**  
KATHMANDU: Search and rescue teams in Nepal's capital picked through wrecked homes on Monday after waters receded from monsoon floods that killed at least 192 people around the Himalayan republic.

Deadly floods and landslides are common across South Asia during the monsoon season from June to September, but experts say climate change is making them worse. Entire neighbourhoods in Kathmandu were inundated after the heaviest rains in more than two decades, with the capital temporarily cut off from the rest of Nepal after landslides blocked highways.

"Our focus is on search and rescue, including people who have been stranded on highways,"

home ministry spokesman Rishi Ram Tiwari told AFP.

"192 people have been reported dead, and another 31 are missing," he added.

At least 35 of those killed were buried alive when earth from a landslide careened into vehicles on a highway south of Kathmandu, Nepal Police spokesman Dan Bahadur Karki told AFP. Rescuers in knee-high rubber boots, meanwhile, were using shovels to clear mud from the worst-hit riverside neighbourhoods around Kathmandu, many of them unauthorised slum settlements. The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, a Nepal-based think tank, said the disaster had been made worse by unplanned urban encroachment around the Bagmati River.

## Cash-strapped Sri Lanka records first deflation in 39 years

**Monitoring Desk**  
COLOMBO: Cash-strapped Sri Lanka's economy recorded falling consumer prices for the first time in 39 years, official data showed on Monday, with the September inflation figure dipping to negative 0.5 per cent. Census and Statistics Department data showed price drops in both food and non-food goods contributing to deflation in September, compared to inflation of 0.5pc in August.

Sri Lanka last recorded deflation in October 1985 with a figure of negative 2.1pc. Inflation peaked at 69.8pc two years ago at the height of an unprecedented economic crisis in the island nation. Acute shortages of food, fuel and medicines led to months of protests that eventually forced then-president Gotabaya Rajapaksa to temporarily flee the country and resign in July 2022.

## Powerful Typhoon Krathon forecast to hit Taiwan's populated west coast

**Monitoring Desk**  
TAIPEI: Taiwan issued a warning on Monday ahead of the arrival of Typhoon Krathon, which has strengthened into the equivalent of a Category 4 hurricane and is expected to cross the densely populated western coast bringing torrential rain and strong winds.

Taiwan regularly gets hit by typhoons but they generally land along the mountainous and sparsely populated east coast facing the Pacific.

Krathon is forecast to hit the major port city of Keelung early on Wednesday afternoon, then

work its way across the centre of Taiwan heading northeast and cross out into the East China Sea, the Central Weather Administration (CWA) said.

The typhoon has strengthened into the equivalent of a Category 4 hurricane, packing powerful winds of more than 210 kph (125 mph) near its centre, according to Tropical Storm Risk. "The impact is getting bigger and bigger," said Gene Huang, forecaster at the CWA, pointing to threats to Taiwan's southwest and adding it was "rare" for such a powerful typhoon to make a direct hit to the island's western plains.



People salvage their belongings along a street as the floodwater recedes in an area that was flooded by the overflowing Bagmati River following heavy rains in Kathmandu, Nepal.

# PPP won't yield to any pressure on contentious judicial package: Bilawal

**Independent Report**  
**QUETTA:** As the coalition government has yet to gain enough parliamentary strength for its contentious constitutional amendments, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari reiterated his party's firm stance to bring judicial reforms without accepting pressure from any side.

"This not possible that we do not accomplish a necessary task by succumbing to someone's pressure," said Bilawal while addressing an event of the Peoples Lawyers Forum in Quetta on Monday.

He claimed that the PPP was told to withdraw the recently proposed constitutional amendments or in another case, it should take back the 18th Amendment. The PPP chief claimed that his party had achieved successes via 18th constitutional amendment, including by renaming

Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP) as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province among others.

He said that the existing mechanism of judicial appointments was not in favour for the nation but only for judges. He stressed the necessity of reforms citing the existing procedure of appointments in the judiciary.

He further emphasised forming a parliamentary committee comprising the treasury and the opposition lawmakers to decide on judges' appointment. Bilawal suggested that a judge would not be appointed if the recommended name fails to win a majority in the committee.

He went on to say that the country's judicial system could not serve justice to the victims of terrorism and also highlighted the huge pendency of cases in the different courts.

The PPP chairman ad-

vocated the formation of a constitutional court in the country with equal representation of all provinces. He added that the time has come to rectify the judicial shortcomings.

He was of the view that not only in Islamabad, constitutional courts should also be established in provinces which is a necessary step to dispatch timely justice on a provincial level.

He, however, clarified that consensus on the mechanism for provincial constitutional courts is yet to be developed. Bilawal said that they "only criticised due to political differences" when responding to the opposition's criticism of the proposed constitutional amendments. The PPP chief said Maulana Fazlur Rehman-led Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam-Fazl (JU-I-F) along with political parties part of the ruling alliance have had same stances on constitutional courts.



**QUETTA:** Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti addressing cheque distribution ceremony among flood affectees

## NA Speaker denounces growing Israeli adventurism in ME

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has strongly condemned Israel's increasing adventurism in the Middle East, while stating, "Such actions jeopardize regional peace & threaten global security."

The Speaker expressed profound grief over the ongoing loss of innocent civilian lives, including women and children, due to Israeli military operations in Gaza and Lebanon.

"This growing Israeli adventurism is a blatant breach of human rights and a direct threat to the stability and peace of the Middle East," said the Speaker in a statement here on Monday.

He lamented that na-

tions which claim to uphold democracy, justice, and human rights are silent which is dismaying.

Speaker Sadiq urged the international community, including the United Nations, human rights organizations, and world powers, to take immediate notice of the situation and intervene to stop Israel's continued brutality. He also extended his condolences to the people of Lebanon who have lost their lives.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support for the people of Gaza and Lebanon, affirming that Pakistan will continue to advocate for the protection of human rights and for the restoration of peace in the region.

## Thanks Chairman PPP for presenting Province's affairs in federation well: Viable projects to be completed for development of Balochistan under guidance of Bilawal: CM

**Independent Report**  
**QUETTA:** The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has stated that the viable projects would be completed for development of the province under guidance of the Chairman, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

He thanked the Chairman PPP for presenting the province's affairs and adopting principled stance in the federation well. He said that steps would remain continued for raising standard of life of common men.

The Chief Minister was addressing the ceremony of distribution of grants among flood affected people for reconstruction of the houses and livelihood here at the Chief Minister's

Secretariat on Monday.

The Chairman of PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was the chief guest on the occasion.

Also present on the occasion were the senior leader of PPP and Member National Assembly, Mir Ejaz Jhakrani, former Deputy Chairman Senate, Sabir Baloch, Provincial Minister Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Advisor to CM, Mir Ali Hasan Zehri, Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, Deputy Speaker of Provincial Assembly, Ms. Ghazala Gola, other provincial ministers, advisors, parliamentary secretaries, members of the provincial assembly and other high ups.

Mir Sarfaraz Bugti said

that the long term planning is being made to cope with the challenges of climate changes the province is facing.

He said that the sustainable rehabilitation and assistance of the flood affecteds of Sindh and Balochistan was made possible from the international grant brought by the Chairman PPP as the then Foreign Minister for the assistance of affectees of 2022 floods.

The Chief Minister said that the loans which were acquired from the international institutions for rehabilitation projects in the flood affected areas due to the interest of Chairman PPP were given to Balochistan in form of the grant.



**BEIJING:** Ambassador of Pakistan to China H.E. Khalid Hashmi with Air Marshal Jia Zhigang, Deputy Commander Peoples Liberation Army (Air Force) of China cutting the cake at a solemn ceremony commemorating Defence & Martyrs Day honoring the bravery and sacrifices of the Pakistan Armed Forces.

## Pakistan launches cell to assist nationals in Lebanon amid Israel attacks

**ISLAMABAD (INP):** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has activated its Crisis Management Unit (CMU) to aid Pakistani nationals and their families impacted by Israeli attacks in Lebanon.

Following recent Israeli airstrikes, many Pakistani families found themselves stranded due to suspended flight operations.

"The ministry in Islamabad and the Pakistani embassy in Beirut are continuing their efforts to assist Pakistani nationals impacted by the situation in Lebanon," Foreign Office spokeswoman Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a statement.

"For the last several days, Israeli forces have engaged in unacceptable violation of the sovereignty of Lebanon, relentlessly targeting civilian population

centers, and undermining its stability and security," the FO spokesperson said.

"We extend our deepest condolences to the families of the victims of Israeli aggression and the people of Lebanon."

She encouraged Pakistani nationals impacted by the situation to reach out to the CMU at Islamabad's landline 051-9207887 or via email at cmu1@mofa.gov.pk.

They reported that the land route for exiting Lebanon is closed due to safety concerns in Syria.

Pakistan had issued a warning for its citizens to exit the country on September 26. The Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a statement urging citizens to avoid traveling to Lebanon due to the current security situation.

## Court acquits Mandviwala in Kidney Hills reference

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** An Accountability Court (AC) on Monday acquitted former Senate deputy chairman Saleem Mandviwala and others in the Kidney Hills reference.

Accountability Court Judge Nasir Javed Rana approved the application of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and returned the reference.

The NAB, in its plea, stated that Mandviwala had no connection with the case. Moreover there was no loss to the government treasury, rather it was a private party which suffered the losses.

The Bureau pleaded the court to acquit the accused.

The NAB said that the reference was filed on January 19, 2021 against seven accused. The matter was presented before its executive board in September (2024), which reached a conclusion that the reference could not be made as per the facts, it added.

The court, subsequently, approved the request of NAB and acquitted the seven persons.

## CM Bugti says SMBZAN ICT will be developed into a model cardiac facility like NICVD Sindh

**Independent Report**

**QUETTA:** Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan institute of cardiology providing excellent medical services, will be developed into a model cardiac facility like NICVD Sindh to ensure quality heart care for the people of Balochistan.

These views were expressed by Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, made an announced visit to the Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Institute of Cardiology on Monday night to assess the medical services being provided to patients.

During his visit, he interacted with patients, inquired about their well-being, and extended prayers and good wishes for their recovery.

The hospital administration briefed the Chief Minister on the various departments and services of the institute.

While addressing the staff, Bugti expressed satisfaction with the facilities and pledged to elevate the institute to the level of NICVD Sindh, making it a model cardiac care center for the people of Balochistan.

He emphasized that this would reduce the need for patients to travel to distant cities for quality cardiac treatment.

He directed the provincial health minister to visit the institute and present a detailed report. Bugti assured that the provincial government would provide all necessary resources to make the institute a state-of-the-art hospital.

## Gilani urges UN to take action to end Israeli aggression

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Monday strongly condemned Israeli attacks on Palestine, Yemen, and Lebanon, urging the United Nations to take immediate notice of the atrocities committed against civilians and take action to end its aggression.

Gilani also called on the Islamic nations to break their silence and speak out against Israeli aggression.

The Senate chairman, in a statement, expressed deep sorrow over the brutal violence and the loss of innocent lives.

He also conveyed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, expressing his grief over the massacre of innocent people in Palestine and Lebanon.



**OMAN:** Federal Minister for Religious affairs and inter-faith Harmony Chaudhary Salik Hussain meeting with Oman's Minister of Auqaf and Religious affairs Mohammad bin Said bin Khalfan Al-Mamari during his three day visit to Oman.

## Chaudhry Salik Hussain says Pakistan, Oman to strengthen interfaith harmony through MoUs, bilateral cooperation

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Monday emphasized the need for Pakistan and Oman to work together in promoting peace, education, religious harmony, and the eradication of Islamophobia.

He expressed these remarks during a meeting with Special Assistant to the Grand Mufti of Oman, Sheikh Dr. Kahlan Al-Kharusi.

Salik highlighted that fostering interfaith harmony was a key characteristic of Pakistani society and a top priority for the government. He reiterated that promoting interfaith

harmony was not only a hallmark of Pakistan but also central to the government's agenda.

Salik said Pakistan and Oman shared deep cultural, historical, and religious ties, making their collaboration in religious education and the exchange of scholars and important texts. He stressed the importance of highlighting shared human values across different religions and working together to advance religious tolerance.

Salik said the two countries were also prepared to formalize their cooperation through memoranda of understanding (MoUs) and other bilateral agreements.

## Renowned scholar Dr. Zakir Naik arrives in Islamabad

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** Eminent religious scholar and preacher Dr. Zakir Naik was warmly received by Additional Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Inter-



faith Harmony Dr. Syed Attaur Rehman on his arrival at Islamabad International Airport on Monday.

According to the ministry spokesperson, Parliamentary Secretary for Religious Affairs Shamshir Ali Mazari and Prime Minister Youth Program Chairman Rana Mashhood were also present at the airport to welcome Dr. Naik. His visit, Dr. Zakir Naik is scheduled to address public gatherings in Islamabad, Karachi, and Lahore and will also lead Friday prayers and address gatherings during his stay in Pakistan.

In addition to public events, Naik is expected to meet senior government officials and participate in various public engagements as his visit is scheduled to continue till October 28, 2024.

## MD BTEVTA signs MoU with NAVTTC

**QUETTA (APP):** Managing Director of the Balochistan Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (BTEVTA), Tariq Javed Mengal signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) on Monday.

The statement read that this strategic partnership aims to establish Centres of Excellence and

Model Technical Training Institutes in Balochistan, transforming the province's technical education landscape, said a press release.

The signing ceremony was attended by distinguished guests, including Ms. Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, Minister of Education Balochistan, Federal Secretary of Education, and other government officials.

This development promises to enhance the skills and employability of Balochistan's youth.

## PHC reshuffles 165 KP Judges

**PESHAWAR (APP):** The Peshawar High Court on Monday issued a notification regarding transfers and postings of 165 judges in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to the notification, issued with the approval of Chief Justice Peshawar High Court, Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim, 165 judges of different cadres have been transferred and posted across the province.

It said that 50 additional sessions judges, 16 sessions judges, 75 civil judges and 24 senior civil judges were among those transferred and posted at new places.

## Aged man dies in Wadh firing

**QUETTA (APP):** Unknown armed men shot dead an aged man in Wadh area of Khuzdar district on Monday.

According to Levies sources, the victim identified as 60-year-old Haji Noor Ahmed was on way to some where when armed assailants opened fire at him near Tak area of Wadh and fled from the scene.

As a result, he died on the spot after receiving bullet wounds.

The body of the deceased was handed over to the heirs after completion of medico legal formalities.

Levies force has registered a case.

## BFA fines 20 shopkeepers on substandard edible items in Balochistan

**QUETTA (APP):** Balochistan Food Authority (BFA)'s inspection teams fined owners of more than 20 food and cold drink shopkeepers on selling out substandard edible items in respective areas of Balochistan.

According to BFA's spokesman, BFA's inspection teams conducted raids at food and shopkeepers in respective areas of Balochistan including Quetta, Panjgur, Muslim Bagh, Hub and Loralai and confiscated large quantities of unregistered and defective beverages including expired and prohibited products.

He said that a major attempt to supply non-standard cold drinks in the western bypass area of Quetta was foiled by BFA team during operation.

About 1200 bottles of

substandard and illegal drinks were seized from a cold drink factory located in the Bypass area, he said adding that a heavy fine was imposed on the factory owner by confiscating defective cold drinks and labeling equipment from the factory.

He said that the factory owner was warned to fulfill all legal requirements including registration before manufacturing and supplying cold drinks.

The spokesman, the authority's zonal inspection teams at Hub, Panjgur, Muslim Bagh and Loralai examined the quality of milk and the quality of food items sold in various food centers.

During the inspection, expired edible products and banned items were impounded from several centers and destroyed later.

## Three held with bike, pistol, narcotics during operation in Loralai

**QUETTA (APP):** Police arrested a robber among three and recovered stolen motorbike, pistol, and narcotics from their possession in conducting raids different areas of Loralai district on Monday.

According to police sources, on a tip off, police team conducted raid at Bypass area and apprehended a bandit named Niaz Muhammad along with stolen bike, pistol and shotgun. He said that arrested bandit told the police that he was involved in group of bike snatcher in the area during investigation. Shahid Hussain was detained along with narcotic one Kg by police team during second raid in the area. Police team arrested Zulfiqar along with over one kg chargs in third raid in the area.

Police are investigating three of them after registering cases against them.



**QUETTA:** Provincial Advisor Naseem ur Rehman Mulakhail addressing inaugural ceremony of a project organized by Dar-ul-Amal Welfare Organization

## PPP Chairman receives warm welcome in Quetta

**Independent Report**  
**QUETTA:** Provincial Health Minister, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, extended a warm welcome to Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari upon his arrival in Quetta. Kakar emphasized the deep connection between Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Balochistan, stating that the PPP chairman truly understands the province's issues and is committed to finding solutions.

Kakar highlighted PPP's prioritization of

Balochistan's welfare and development, citing past initiatives in healthcare, education, and provision of basic amenities. He reassured that the party will continue to address the province's challenges in the future.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also addressed the gathering, outlining his party's services and future plans for Balochistan. He expressed his commitment to tackling the province's challenges, ensuring that the people of Balochistan feel invested in the state.

## Nisar Khukhro call for double track railways line Larkana to Quetta under CPEC

**LARKANA (APP):** Chairman of Public Accounts Committee Sindh, President of People's Party Sindh MPA Nisar Khukhro has said that it was important to lay a double railway line from Larkana to Quetta under the CPEC project.

He expressed these views on Monday while talking to the media at the reception ceremony of the newly elected officials of the Larkana Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He said that China had planned mega projects in the country under the CPEC project. He said that China will invest in the land and Pakistan will benefit from the development process.

"We also need a friend

who will invest in the development of Pakistan. "Not surprisingly, there were some governments in the past that downplayed the importance of CPEC projects."

He said that "if there was a double railway line from Larkana to Quetta under the CPEC, we would not have complained today."

In the road sector, the motorway was built from Multan to Sukkur, but the motorway from Sukkur to Karachi was not connected to the CPEC.

He said that there was a facility of transportation by cargo train in major countries and it was difficult to lay a train line here.