

# Independent

Member APNS &amp; CPNE

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www.dailyindependent.com.pk Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vdt XXVI No. 50, Rabi-us-Sani 07, 1446 AH Friday October 11, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs.15

## Nawaz, Bilawal meet to explore solutions for Pak current situation

**Bilawal confident on approval of constitutional amendments by all parties**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, met with former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Thursday to discuss the country's current situation and explore solutions to the challenges it faces.

The meeting took place at Punjab House, Islamabad, where Pakistan Muslim League-N President Nawaz Sharif warmly welcomed Bilawal Bhutto upon his arrival.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction over the inflation rate drop from 32% to 6.9%, the reduction in the policy rate, overall economic progress, and the continuous improvement in economic indicators, including the record \$8.8 billion sent by overseas Paki-

stanis. The two leaders expressed optimism about the swift relief for Pakistan and its people, calling it an auspicious sign, while also welcoming the arrival of the Saudi investor delegation and the hosting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in the federal capital.

The two leaders agreed that these activities mark a highly positive development for Pakistan's international standing and economic progress.

Nawaz Sharif stated that time has proven the 2006 Charter of Democracy (CoD) to be a historic and timely decision. He credited the charter with stabilizing democracy, allowing

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari meets with President PML-N, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at Punjab House.

## Five IPPs contracts terminated to save Rs411 bln: Shehbaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government on Thursday announced the termination of the power purchase agreement with five Independent Power Producers (IPPs) which Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said it would provide Rs60 billion annual relief to the electricity consumers and cumulatively save Rs411 billion to the national exchequer.

The prime minister, in his remarks at the meeting of the federal cabinet he chaired, said the termination of agreements, signed between the Task Force on Power Sector Reforms and IPPs owners, was part of the efforts to reduce the burden of capacity payments being borne by the consumers and that it would also reduce the electricity prices.

The owners of five

IPPs agreed to terminate the contracts preferring the national interest to their own.

This is the first rain-drip. This will follow the rain to green the whole region," he remarked and thanked his team members including the task force on power sector reforms, President Asif Ali Zardari and Chief of the Army Staff for their efforts and PML-N president Nawaz Sharif for constant push.

He told the cabinet members that the power tariff would be reduced after a gradual review of contracts with other IPPs.

Under the agreement, the IPPs whose contracts had been terminated including Roush Power, Saba Power, LALPIR, HUBCO and Atlas Power, would be

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: A delegation led by Forum for Dignity Initiatives (FDI)'s Uzma Yaqoob called on Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Quetta Master Plan should be completed earliest:

## Comprehensive planning and coordinated strategy direly needed for sustainable development of any city, CS

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan has stated that comprehensive planning and coordinated strategy is direly needed for sustainable development and construction of any city so as to fulfill all needs of the citizens.

The Chief Secretary exhorted to all concerned institutions to play their role for providing basic needs and facilities to the new generations by preparing comprehensive planning keeping in view the future requirements.

The Chief Secretary was chairing meeting on Quetta Master Plan here on Thursday.

The meeting was at-

tended by the Secretary Transport, Hayat Kakar, Secretary Urban Planning, Umeed Ali Khokhar, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat Director General QDA and other concerned high ups.

The Chief Secretary maintained that the provincial government is taking steps to resolve the important and serious issues of Quetta so as to minimize public issues.

He directed to complete the Quetta Master Plan project at the earliest.

He said that such steps should be taken for development of the city, which are seen practically on the ground.



A delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia led by Investment Minister H. E. Mr Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz Al Falih called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad.

## Pakistan, Saudi Arabia sign MoUs valuing \$2.2bln in multiple sectors

**PM terms Saudi delegation's visit as key milestone in strengthening ties**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on Thursday signed 27 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) valuing US \$2.2 billion in various sectors including industry, agriculture, Information Technology (IT), food, education, mine & minerals, health, petroleum, energy and other areas of mutual cooperation.

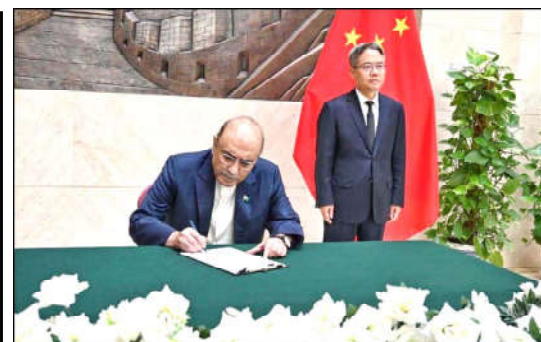
Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif accompanied by Saudi Investment Minister Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz Al Falih and Chief of Army Staff Lt. General Syed Asim Munir witnessed the exchange of the signed copies of the MoUs.

Addressing on the occasion, the prime minister said the visit of Saudi busi-

## SC suspends order for re-polling in PB-45

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Thursday suspended a decision regarding re-polling in 15 polling stations of the PB-45 Balochistan. The court reinstated the victory of PPP's candidate Ali Madad Jatak and served notices to respondents for comments.

A three-member bench headed by Justice Amin ud Din Khan heard the appeal against the decision of election tribunal for re-counting in aforesaid constituency. The appeal was filed by PPP's candidate Ali Madad Jatak. During hearing, the petitioner's lawyer contended that the election tribunal has ordered for re-polling on contradiction in forms 45 of candidates.



KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari visits the Chinese Embassy to offer condolences over the killing of Chinese citizens in a terrorist attack.

## President visits China embassy to condole killing of Chinese citizens

ISLAMABAD (APP): Talking to Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong, President Zardari said that the Chinese government and people had contributed to the socio-economic development of Pakistan and the enemies of both countries could not want to see the growing bilateral partnership.

He stated that such cowardly acts by the hostile elements could not weaken the bonds of friendship between the two time-tested friends.

The president reiterated Pakistan's commitment to ensure the safety and security of the Chinese nationals residing in Pakistan.

## Public-private partnership essential to cope with challenges of global warming, emphasizes Governor

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has emphasized that public-partnership is essential to move ahead the public friendly policies and cope with the challenges of global warming.

He insisted that the message can be reached to every homeboy including the subject of environment in curriculum.

The Governor was speaking to a delegation

he remarked.

The prime minister hoped that in future there would be many more such ceremonies both in Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

He assured the Saudi delegation that the MoUs signed today would be fully materialized and there would be no delay or red tape-ism in the implementation process.

Recently, he said that Pakistan had secured the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme which he hoped would be the last programme.

He thanked the Saudi leadership for their support in having the programme as without their support, the programme could not have materialized.

"Finally this

programme is through, but we hope that this will be the last programme as we have already through a wonderful team work, managed to improve our economic indicators, inflation came down from 32% to 6.9% this month, our policy rate has come down from 23% to 17.5%, exports are increasing, foreign remittances are also increasing", he said.

Additionally, he said the government was moving towards deep rooted reforms in the country's economy through very stringent measures and there was no compromise on these decisions.

The prime minister also conveyed his warm re-

Continued on page 2

## Faith in Khatam-e-Nabuwat integral part of Muslim's definition: SC

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** The Supreme Court of Pakistan has stated in Mubarak Sani's detailed judgment that 'complete faith in Khatam-e-Nabuwat' is an integral part of the definition of a Muslim.

A three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Amin ud Din Khan and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan issued the order.

## Two cops martyred in terrorist attack on police van

**TANK (INP):** Two policemen were martyred while three were injured in a terrorist attack on a police van in the limits of SMA police station near Pathankot in Tank on Thursday.

According to police, the terrorists made their escape good after committing the crime.

The police said that the van was on a routine patrol when the terrorists targeted the vehicle.

## COAS, Saudi delegation discuss bilateral ties

**General Asim underscores deep respect & affection that people of Pakistan hold for the KSA**

RAWALPINDI (APP): Minister of Investment, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Khalid Bin Abdulaziz Al Falih, accompanied by a high-level government cum business delegation, met with Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir here on Thursday.

The meeting focused on matters of mutual interest, particularly initiatives to strengthen ever growing brotherly bilateral cooperation in a variety of sectors, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The COAS expressed his profound appreciation and gratitude for unflinching support for Pakistan

from King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and the Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman." Manifestation of one of the largest business delegations' visit to Pakistan reaffirms the enduring and fraternal ties between Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," he said.

He underscored the deep respect and affection that the people of Pakistan hold for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The COAS further assured the delegation of Pakistan's full support and commitment and conveyed his optimism for the promising outcomes that would mutually benefit both nations.



RAWALPINDI: Minister of Investment, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Khalid Bin Abdulaziz Al Falih, accompanied by a high-level government cum business delegation, meet with General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS).

## Kundi emphasizes peace in provincial jirga

**Interior Minister represents Federal Govt at Grand Jirga in CM House**

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Thursday highlighted the significance of peace in the province during a jirga held at the Chief Minister's House.

Addressing the gathering, he expressed gratitude to the provincial government for organizing the event and to Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi for his presence.

Governor Kundi acknowledged existing political differences and stressed that the safety and prosperity of the province remain the top priorities.

He asserted that negotiations are essential for resolving issues, particularly

in light of ongoing challenges, including the situation in Afghanistan.

Referring to a recent tragic incident in district Khyber, he underscored the urgency of addressing security concerns, saying that many areas in the province are still considered no-go zones.

He called for unity among all stakeholders, including the provincial and federal governments, to establish peace.

The Governor emphasized the need for dialogue with those who respect the country's constitution and laws, urging participants to collaborate on finding solutions.

Continued on page 2



PESHAWAR: Federal Interior Minister, Mohsin Naqvi participating in Grand Jirga organised by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government.

## Reconstruction of Dozan bridge done: Train service to be restored from Quetta to rest of country after one and half month today

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The train service is due to be restored from Quetta to rest of the country today (Friday) as the reconstruction of Dozan railway bridge completed in Bolan area.

The Pakistan Railway authorities confirmed that the Jaffar Express is scheduled to depart from Quetta Railway Station for Peshawar at 09:00 AM today.

Similarly, the Bolan Mail is scheduled to depart for Karachi from Quetta on October 13.

Meanwhile, the trial of engine and train was done by crossing the same from

Dozan railway bridge.

The Divisional Superintendent of Pakistan Railways Quetta, Imran Hayat personally monitored the trial of train at the bridge.

As the trial remained successful, it was decided to restore the train service from Quetta to other parts of the country.

It may be recalled that the Dozan railway bridge was destroyed by some unknown miscreants in subversive act on August 26, 2024.

After destruction of the railway bridge, the train service was suspended from Quetta for rest of the country.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan presides over the meeting regarding Quetta Master Plan.



## Reform implementation must for continued economic recovery: WB

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's economy has continued to stabilize from the recent economic crisis, with growth recovering to 2.5 percent in the fiscal year ending June 2024, says the World Bank (WB) in its latest country economic update on Thursday.

The report on "The Pakistan Development Update: The Dynamics of Power Sector Distribution Reform", finds that following recession in FY23, economic activity strengthened in FY24 reflecting strong agricultural output, lower inflation, prudent macroeconomic measures, and reduced political uncertainty.

But this level of growth is not sufficient to

bring down poverty rates, which increased from 40.2 percent in FY23 to 40.5 percent in FY24.

"Pakistan's stabilizing economy is on a path of recovery. To sustain and strengthen that positive momentum, steady implementation of the government's structural reforms plan that aims to address long-standing constraints to faster growth will be key.

These include reforming an inequitable and distortive tax system, reducing inefficient expenditures and untargeted subsidies, lessening the large state presence in the economy, reducing barriers to trade and investment, and reducing losses in the en-

ergy sector" said Najy Benhassine, World Bank Country Director for Pakistan. "Implementation of planned structural policy reforms supported by a strong national political consensus and increased private sector participation, is critical to mitigate risks, support stronger private-led growth and poverty reduction," he added. As the economic stabilization continues, macroeconomic risks remain high reflecting high financing needs, modest foreign exchange reserves, high debt and debt servicing costs, financial sector vulnerabilities, and a loss-making power sector that continues to weigh on public finances.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

## Ahsan chairs meeting for establishment of Pakistan's Sovereign Wealth Fund

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level meeting to discuss the establishment of Pakistan's Sovereign Wealth Fund (PSWF) was convened on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof Ahsan Iqbal. According to press release issued by the ministry of planning, the meeting was attended by a delegation from consulting company Alvarez and Marsal that included MD and Global Practice Leader, Dr. Reza Baqir; MD, Abdalla El Ebiary and Senior Associate, Amine Yaaqoubi.

The key focus of the meeting was the development of the Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund, modeled after the Egyptian ex-

perience, with the goal of attracting significant foreign direct investment (FDI) and reinforcing the country's foreign exchange reserves.

The Egyptian model, known for its effectiveness in driving economic growth, was highlighted as a potential template for Pakistan to ensure sustainable economic stability and growth through the PSWF.

On the occasion, Ahsan Iqbal underscored the importance of expanding Pakistan's export base to achieve the ambitious target of \$100 billion in exports over the next eight years. This target aligns with the objectives set out in the government's 5Es program, which focuses on economic empowerment through exports.

## Syedaal says: Empowering youth can transform nation's fate

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman of the Senate, Syedaal Khan said on Thursday that the youth of any country are a valuable asset, and empowering them can transform the nation's fate.

He expressed these views during a meeting with Senator Haji Hidayatullah Khan, Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Narcotics Control, Senator Abdul Shakoor Khan, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Government Assurances, and other officials.

He said, that the government is taking measures to prevent drug abuse, particularly in educational institutions nationwide. The Senate Standing Committee on Narcotics Control, in collaboration with the Ministry of Narcotics Control, is developing an effective strategy to protect the youth from drugs and harness their potential as valuable assets for the country.

He added that the current government is implementing all possible measures to provide relief to the public. The Prime Minister of Pakistan is actively promoting trade, investment, and international engagement, as evidenced by events such as the SCO Conference.

## Five IPPs..

Continued from page 1

liable to receive their arrears sans mark-up.

It was told that the Roush Power unit was established under the Build, Own and Operate (BOP) basis, so its ownership would be transferred to the government for its onward privatisation by the Privatisation Commission. The ownership of the rest four IPPs would remain with their respective owners and after the contract termination, the government would not be liable to pay any charges.

Expressing gratitude to the people who faced the inflation with patience, said the time had come to address their woes and mentioned the reduced inflation from 30% to 6.9% - a target achieved within seven months, far before the commitment for 2025.

He said the economy was improving fast and the government had made untiring efforts to fulfill its manifesto of public relief.

Prime Minister Shehbaz also mentioned the federal government's Rs50 billion subsidy for power consumers using up to 200 units and the other announced by Punjab government to support those using 201 to 500 units during the summer.

He lauded the expatriates for sending a record \$8.8 billion foreign remittances during the previous fiscal quarter which was also the manifestation of their trust in the government policies.



ASHGABAT: Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers/ Deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenistan Batyr Amanov welcoming President Asif Ali Zardari upon his arrival at Ashgabat Airport.

## Islam grants fundamental rights to all irrespective of gender: Ayaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Thursday said that Islam stressed upon the provision of all basic rights to girl child irrespective of gender.

While referring to the profound sayings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), who advocated for empowerment of women and declared them as blessings from Almighty Allah, he said that the teachings of Islam urged for the protection and welfare of girl children.

He said the teachings of Islam provide unequivocal rights to women, including the right to inheritance of property and access to education, which underscores their dignity and status in society.

He also highlighted the essential rights and privileges granted to girl children through religion and culture, particularly within Islam.

Ayaz Sadiq expressed these views, in his message, on the eve of the 'International Day of the Girl Child', which will be celebrated with the theme of 'Girls' vision for the future', on October 11 under the auspices of the United Nations. He urged the nation to treat girls and boys indiscriminately while stating that the women comprise half of the country's population and their empowerment is crucial for socio-economic progress of the country.

He said that girls should be considered as in-

tegral for future success because their contributions and vision completes the recipe for sustainable growth and progress.

Ayaz Sadiq reiterated that providing equal opportunities to girls, especially educational opportunities, is vital for the well-being of future generations.

He reaffirmed the importance of inheritance laws and social safety nets designed for women and girls, stating that our society, especially the Muslim Ummah, honors the girl child, providing her with social and financial comforts alongside necessary protection. "Our culture and religion encourage us to consider every girl child as an integral member of society," he added.



MULTAN: England bowler Chris Woakes is congratulated by teammates after dismissing Pakistan's Abdullah Shafique on day four of the First Test at Multan Cricket Stadium. Woakes' key wicket shifted momentum in England's favor in this intense contest, with both teams battling hard for control.

## Nawaz, Bilawal meet..

Continued from page 1

Parliament to complete its term, and uniting political parties against non-democratic forces that promoted sit-ins and unrest.

Muhammad Nawaz Sharif emphasised the need for a justice system where institutions and public opinion hold more weight than individual influence.

Nawaz stressed the importance of preventing any single individual from dominating and potentially destabilizing Pakistan's democratic system. He advocates for a system where no one person has the authority to undermine the democratic process at will, ensuring the country and its people are protected from being led into darkness by individual ambitions.

Today's economic success relies heavily on political unity and agreement, said Nawaz adding in fact, the Charter of Democracy emphasizes the impor-

Continued from page 1

tance of all forces working together to achieve economic and political stability in Pakistan, ultimately leading to a prosperous nation.

Nawaz Sharif stated that PPP and PML-N are united in promoting political tolerance, morality, constitution, law and parliamentary supremacy.

He praised the 18th Amendment for strengthening institutions and democracy, and commended Bilawal Bhutto's political efforts, emphasizing collective progress over individual interests.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari praised the historic contributions of Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif in advancing Pakistan's democracy, emphasizing the need to continue this journey.

He commended Nawaz's invaluable experience, vision, and leadership, stating that Pakistan greatly benefits from his political expertise.

## Pakistan..

Continued from page 1

gards to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, acknowledging their leadership and support in enhancing bilateral relations. Earlier, addressing the ceremony, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan's economic indicators have improved manifold in recent months due to prudent economic policies of the government, and the cooperation of friends like Saudi Arabia and China.

He mentioned that our foreign remittances and exports are witnessing a surge, while inflation has decreased to 6.9 percent from 32 percent this month.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan is moving towards deep-rooted reforms in its economy through stringent measures. He said while Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have always supported each other through thick and thin, time has come now.

## England tightens grip on Multan test

MULTAN (APP): England took firm control on the fourth day of the first Test at the Multan Cricket Stadium, as Pakistan ended the day at 152/6, still trailing by 115 runs and facing the prospect of an innings defeat.

The hosts, who began their second innings with a daunting deficit of 267 runs, faltered early, losing six wickets for just 82 runs in 24.2 overs.

Salman Ali Agha (41 not out) and Amir Jamal (27 not out) provided some resistance for Pakistan, adding an unbeaten 70-run partnership for the seventh wicket. However, their efforts could not mask the damage already inflicted by England's bowlers, with Brydon Carse and Gus Atkinson claiming two

wickets each to leave the hosts on the back foot.

Earlier in the day, England resumed their first innings at 492 for three, with Joe Root and Harry Brook building on their monumental partnership. The pair added a record-breaking 454-run stand, marking the fourth-highest partnership in Test history. Root played a commanding knock of 262, his sixth double century and second against Pakistan, while Brook made headlines with a sensational 317, becoming only the sixth England player to score a triple century. England declared their innings at 823 for seven, posting the fourth-highest team total in Test cricket. For Pakistan, Naseem Shah and Saim Ayub managed to pick up two wickets each.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Haji Muhammad Khan Lehri and Mir Shoukat Bangulzai meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

## JI Emir denounces ban on PTM as unjust, illegal; condemns KP police attack

LAHORE (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman has denounced the ban on the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) as unjust and illegal, condemning the KP police's attack on a PTM rally that resulted in the deaths of three protesters. Speaking at a press conference at Mansoorah on Thursday, he said, "The KP government is responsible for this." He expressed hope that the All Parties Conference (APC), called by KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to address the issue, would be helpful in resolving the matter. Rehman emphasized that every individual and party has a constitutional right to hold peaceful protests, but warned that no one would be allowed to chant anti-Pakistan slogans. "Pakistan was achieved through the struggle of millions of Muslims in this region, and the nation cannot tolerate an anti-Pakistan narrative," he added.

He said the end of these agreements would benefit the national exchequer by 411 billion rupees, and urged that this financial relief should directly translate into a reduction in power tariffs for the public. He also called for the termination of all agreements with IPPs and demanded the imposition of taxes on feudal lords, criticizing Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's recent statement, in which she referred to small farmers as a "mafia." Rehman further condemned Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz's statement advocating for "environmental diplomacy" with India, asserting that she should focus on her role as chief minister and avoid engaging in diplomacy. He stated that the people of Pakistan could not tolerate trade or diplomatic relations with India while it continues to oppress the people of Kashmir. Additionally, Rehman criticized KP spokesperson Barrister Saif for allegedly allowing Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar to address a PTI rally, saying he was waiting for PTI Chairman Imran Khan to take action against Saif.

**TENDER NOTICE**

The Executive Engineer Road CWPP&H Department District Chaman Only Electronic bid 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 Govt. of Balochistan as required from interested contractors / firms for the work listed below under BPPRA Rule. Bid Security 2% Tender Fee Rs.2000/-

S.No.	Description	Amount
1	REHABILITATION/WIDENING OF BOGHRA ROAD INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION OF ROUND ABOUT CHAMAN. TSE-242510570713	95,235 M

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 Envelope Bidding Procedure. **BIDDING / TENDER DOCUMENTS:** The Bidding document can be downloaded for [www.bppra.pk](http://www.bppra.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 chalan is verified by treasury. **DEAD LINE OF SUBMISSION:** only E- Bid submit in the web site before 28, Oct, 2024 at 11:30 Hrs. **Opening:** The Technical Bids will be opened on the same day i.e. 28, Oct, 2024, at 12:30 Hrs before procurement committee in the presence of bidders. Address: The Executive Engineer Road CWPP&H Department District Chaman

Executive Engineer (Road)  
CWPP&H Department District  
Chaman

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**TENDER NOTICE**

The Chief Officer Municipal Committee Saranan invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following objects. Tender Fee Rs. 1000/- for each work.

S.No.	Name of Object	BID Security
1.	Providing And Supplying Of Solar Panel (170 Watt) For Ward No.1,2,3 & 4 Of Municipal Committee Saranan TSE-242510569903	2%
2.	Providing And Supplying Of Solar Panel (170 Watt) For Ward No.6,7,8,9 & 10 Of Municipal Committee Saranan TSE-242510569923	2%
3.	Providing And Supplying Of Solar Panel (170 Watt) For Ward No.11, 12, 14, 18 Women Member Bibi Tamama & Bibi Fatima Of Municipal Committee Saranan TSE-242510569883	2%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:-** Eligibility Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed upon payment (non refundable) bidding document fee (amount mentioned above) through cash deposit in account 4079170499 NBP Pishin Branch / (The NIT & Bidding Document can also be downloaded from [www.bppra.org.pk](http://www.bppra.org.pk)) **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of **Deposit at Call of amount mentioned above** specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 28 October, 2024 during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 28 October, 2024 till 10:00 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:00 AM Address: Main Chaman Road Municipal Office Saranan. Phone no: 3337866216 Email: [aalishan31@gmail.com](mailto:aalishan31@gmail.com)

CHIEF OFFICER  
MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE  
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**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Executive Engineer Irrigation Department Zhob invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and Bid Security 3% for each work.

S.No	Name of Work's	E/Cost
1	FLOOD PROTECTION WALL IN ZHOB CITY EAST AREA DISTRICT ZHOB PSDP NO 3248 (2024-25) TSE- 242510570053	17,820,000
2	FLOOD PROTECTION WALL IN KILI TAKAI TEHSIL ZHOB PSDP NO 3246 (2024-25) TSE- 242510570043	14,850,000
3	FLOOD PROTECTION WALL IN UC SHAGHOOL, TEHSIL KAKAR KHURSAN DISTRICT ZHOB PSDP NO 3243 (2024-25) TSE- 242510570033	18,810,000
4	FLOOD PROTECTION WALL IN ZHOB CITY WEST & NORTH AREA DISTRICT ZHOB PSDP NO 3228 (2024-25) TSE- 242510570013	17,820,000
5	FLOOD PROTECTION WALL IN UC VYALA WAKRAM & VIYALLA SHERK & KILI MARRYAM TEHSIL ZHOB PSDP NO 3226 (2024-25) TSE- 242510570003	14,850,000
6	FLOOD PROTECTION WALL IN UC ASHIWAT, TEHSIL KAKAR KHURSAN PSDP NO 3181 (2024-25) TSE- 242510569643	18,810,000
7	FLOOD PROTECTION WALL IN KILI BRUNJ TEHSIL ZHOB PSDP NO 3037 (2024-25) TSE- 242510569573	14,850,000
8	FLOOD PROTECTION WALL IN KILI KHUZAKAI, KILI TAKARAI ZHOB PSDP NO 3008 (2024-25) TSE- 242510569493	18,810,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Eligibility Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents. **Bidding Procedure:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure (TSE- 242510570053, TSE-242510570043, TSE-242510570033, TSE-242510570013, TSE-242510570003, TSE-242510569643, TSE-242510569573, TSE-242510569493) **Tender Documents:** The Bidding document can be downloaded from [www.bppra.gov.pk](http://www.bppra.gov.pk) (free of cost) and the same can also be obtained from the office of the under-signed upon payment of prescribed tender fee. **Last Date and Time of Bid Submission** 25 October, 2024 at 09:30 AM and will be opened on same day at 10:30 AM **Address:** office of Executive Engineer irrigation Zhob Phone no: 0331247696 Email: [fazalrehmanir@gmail.com](mailto:fazalrehmanir@gmail.com)

PRQ No.1399/10-10-2024  
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EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT ZHOB

**TENDER NOTICE**

The Chief Officer Municipal Committee Saranan invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following objects. Tender Fee Rs. 1000/-

S.No.	Name of Object	BID Security
1.	Repair and Renovation of Municipal Committee Office Saranan TSE-242510569823	2%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:-** Eligibility Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed upon payment (non refundable) bidding document fee (amount mentioned above) through cash deposit in account 4079170499 NBP Pishin Branch / (The NIT & Bidding Document can also be downloaded from [www.bppra.org.pk](http://www.bppra.org.pk)) **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of **Deposit at Call of amount mentioned above** specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 28 October, 2024 during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 28 October, 2024 till 10:00 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:00 AM Address: Main Chaman Road Municipal Office Saranan. Phone no: 3337866216 Email: [aalishan31@gmail.com](mailto:aalishan31@gmail.com)

CHIEF OFFICER  
MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE  
SARANAN

AB No.379/10-10-2024  
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**TENDER NOTICE**

The Executive Engineer (Building) CW PP&H Department Musakhail 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.1000/- and Earnest Money 2%

S.No.	Name of Work	E/Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF UP-GRADATION AT BHU TO RHCAT RARASHAM DISTRICT MUSAKHAIL (PSDP No 2510. Z2024.0841) TSE-242510568823	29,714 M

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 Envelope Bidding Procedure. **BIDDING / TENDER DOCUMENTS:** The Bidding document can be downloaded for [www.bppra.pk](http://www.bppra.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 chalan is verified by treasury. **DEAD LINE OF SUBMISSION:** Manual Bid submit in the office of executive engineer building CWPP&H Department before 28, Oct, 2024 at 11:00 Hrs. **Opening:** "Technical Bids" will be opened on the same day i.e. 28, Oct, 2024, at 12:00 Hrs before procurement committee in the presence of bides. Address: **Office of the Executive Engineer (Building) CWPP&H Department District Musakhail**

Executive Engineer (Building)  
CWPP&H Department District  
Musakhail

PRQ No.1413/10-10-2024  
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## Pakistan committed to improving mental health of nation: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday said that Pakistan was committed to improving the mental health of the nation and enhancing the mental health facilities.

"On this day, I encourage everyone to adopt healthier lifestyles, stay connected with loved ones, and engage in regular physical activity to manage stress and anxiety. Together, through our individual and collective efforts, we can build a healthier nation," the president said in a message on World Mental Health Day being observed on October 10 (today).

Today, he said they observed World Mental Health Day to raise awareness about mental health and the need to provide counseling and support to those in need.

This year's theme, "Mental Health at Work", highlights the importance of

creating healthy work environments that protect and support mental well-being.

"According to the World Health Organization, almost 60% of the world's population is in the workforce, therefore, addressing mental health at work has become more urgent than ever," a press release quoted the president as saying.

The president said that harassment at the workplace and poor working conditions not only affected workers' mental health but also caused a decline in productivity.

It was, therefore, imperative that employers and other stakeholders build a healthy and conducive working environment to improve mental health and boost productivity at work, he stressed.

He said Pakistan was committed to improving mental health and has launched the National Mental Health Helpline

(1166) which underlined their dedication to providing accessible support.

This helpline connected individuals to essential services, including local treatment facilities and support networks.

Moreover, he said, Pakistan was proud to be the first country to develop a cost-benefit package for essential health services, including mental health interventions at both primary healthcare and community levels.

"Other key initiatives include the establishment of a National Task Force for Mental Health, which provides oversight, promotes mental well-being, and advocates for better care and human rights for those affected by mental disorders. We have also integrated mental health education, into the Lady Health Worker training curriculum to enhance early detection of the problem," he further noted.



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi overseeing the preparation for SCO Summit in Islamabad City.

## Naqvi reviews arrangements for SCO Summit in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited key areas of Islamabad on Thursday to review the city's preparations for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Islamabad next week.

The minister conducted a comprehensive inspection of critical sites, including D-Chowk, Constitution Avenue, Murree Road, and the Islamabad Expressway, to assess the beautification and cleanliness efforts being undertaken for the high-profile event.

During the visit, Minister Naqvi stressed the

importance of completing all construction and beautification tasks ahead of the summit. He issued specific directives to the relevant authorities, urging them to ensure that preparations meet the highest standards.

"The entire city of Islamabad, particularly the VIP routes and the Red Zone, must be thoroughly cleaned," he said, underlining the importance of presenting a polished image of the capital during the summit.

In addition to these preparations, the minister ordered the immediate removal of any encroachments along the designated

summit routes, ensuring unobstructed and well-maintained pathways for international delegates.

Minister Naqvi highlighted that the natural beauty of Islamabad would be showcased during the event and that every effort should be made to reflect the prestige of the SCO Summit in the city's appearance and arrangements.

Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, briefed the minister on the progress of construction projects, while Naqvi provided further instructions related to beautification and sanitation efforts.

## Russia Ambassador lauds SCO, 'Council of Heads of Government in Islamabad'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Russia to Pakistan, Albert P. Khorev Thursday hailed the meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government to be held in Islamabad on October 15-16, 2024.

The Russian Federation, for its part, will continue to steadily work for further consolidation of the SCO by joining efforts with all its member States and enhancing its international standing, Ambassador of Russia to Pakistan, Albert P. Khorev told APP here.

Today, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has become a truly powerful institution, which accounts for over 30% of global GDP and almost half of the world's population, he said. The Ambassador said the SCO has great potential for development and the ability to transform itself in the face of rapid global changes. He said that on July 4th, 2024, the SCO Council of Heads of State approved the first package

of measures to comprehensively modernize the organization's activities about the current geopolitical realities.

It is about strengthening the role of the Association in international affairs, giving additional impetus to the work of the SCO bodies, creating new mechanisms for countering security challenges and threats, and reformulating the algorithm of interaction with the SCO dialogue partners and observers, he said.

"We expect these issues to be at the forefront of the upcoming meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government, to be held in Islamabad in less than a week under the chairmanship of Pakistan," he said.

Russian envoy emphasized the need to find optimal formulas for promoting economic cooperation and coordinating efforts in such promising areas as connectivity, energy and food security, high technology and innovation, digitalization, and artificial intelligence.



ISLAMABAD: Archbishop of Catholic Diocese of Islamabad/Rawalpindi, Dr. Joseph Arshad inaugurates the Islamabad Convent School H-8/4 Campus Afternoon Shift.

## Officers of 36th SMC visit BISP office

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of 17 officers from the 36th Senior Management Course (SMC) of the National Institute of Management (NIM) visited the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) headquarters on Thursday to gain insights into the program's operations and its impact on vulnerable communities across Pakistan.

Amer Ali Ahmad, Secretary BISP briefed the delegation on BISP's core initiatives, including Kafaalat, Taleemi Wazaif, Nashonuma, the Undergraduate Scholarship, and the National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER).

He told the delegation that once one becomes part of this organization he is able to recognize the significance, spread and impact of BISP on the marginalized communities of the country.

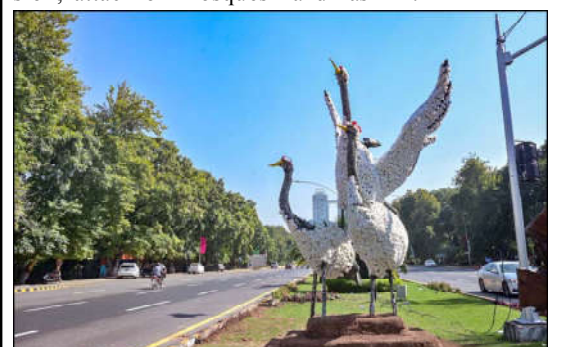
## Modi has made India unsafe place for Muslims, other minorities: Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): Modi has made India an unsafe place for Muslims and other minorities as the RSS-backed Indian regime is on a mission to purge India of its minorities.

A report released by Kashmir Media Service, today, said Muslims and other minorities are living in a perpetual state of fear in India, adding they are attacked with impunity.

It said forcible conversion, attack on mosques

and churches and lynching of Muslims by Hindu fanatics is common in Modi's India. Persecution of Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and low-caste Hindus has increased manifold since Bharatiya Janata Party came to power in India, it added. The report said the global experts on genocidal violence have warned that India was preparing for a genocide of Muslims in India and occupied Jammu and Kashmir.



ISLAMABAD: A view of birds replica installed at Constitution Avenue for beautification of Federal Capital in connection with Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit.

## AIOU & Sheher Saaz ink MoU to promote disaster awareness

ISLAMABAD (APP): Of-

Director, Almas Shakoor, signed the agreement.

Speaking at the event, Professor Dr. Syed Amir Shah, Director Administration emphasized that humans, as Allah's vicegerents, achieve true greatness by helping others and find deep satisfaction in serving during difficult times. Almas Shakoor, Executive Director of Sheher Saaz, emphasized their disaster awareness campaigns in educational institutions, highlighting the importance of preparedness to reduce loss. Sheher Saaz also donated first-aid kits to the university's medical center. Participant Bibi Yasmeen shared a story of rescuing a bird, later linking the act to divine protection when she narrowly averted a kitchen fire.

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar, inaugurates the "PASSAGES OF LIGHT" exhibition, showcasing vibrant paintings by Sri Lankan artists Mueen Saheed and Bilaal Raji Saheed, at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts.

## NA Speaker stresses collective efforts for thriving Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq on Thursday reaffirmed the government's commitment to achieving a healthy and prosperous Pakistan through collective efforts and divine guidance.

"We will soon achieve this mission with Allah's guidance and our collective efforts," the speaker stated in his message on World Mental Health Day being observed on Oct 10 (Thursday). He stressed the importance of taking proactive steps to curb the rise of mental health issues, adding, "Now, more than ever, there is an urgent need for comprehensive and effective action to tackle mental health challenges."

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq emphasized the critical role of mental health in national development, stating, "A healthy mind is the cornerstone of a prosperous nation." He highlighted the impact of supportive workplace environments in alleviating stress and anxiety. He also noted that health is a divine blessing and that mental well-being is essen-

tial for personal growth, adding, "It is through a healthy mind that individuals are able to think, understand, and innovate."

Citing the World Health Organization (WHO), Speaker Sadiq pointed out that over one billion people globally suffer from mental health disorders. He also outlined the key contributing factors, including injustice, mistreatment, loneliness, intolerance, anxiety, unemployment, poverty, and insufficient healthcare.

Speaker Sadiq expressed profound concern over the mental suffering of Palestinians amidst the ongoing Israeli aggression, noting that they are enduring immense psychological distress alongside other hardships. "Our Palestinian brothers and sisters face severe mental anguish due to Israeli brutalities," he remarked. He also condemned the atrocities in Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing the devastating psychological toll on the Kashmiri people.



ISLAMABAD: Art enthusiasts keenly observing the collaborative exhibition titled "Diptych" by artists Sarah Hopkins and Muhammad Atif Khan at Tanzara Gallery Saidpur Village.

## NA body told Pakistan to host three events daily at COP29 Pavilion in Baku

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan has planned to host three events per day at its pavilion to be established at the multilateral climate moot COP29 being held in Baku, Azerbaijan from November 11th that would convene international experts deliberating on growing climate vulnerability and global needs to step up action against adverse impacts of global warming and environmental degradation.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination officials informed the National Assembly Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, led by Chairperson Munaza Hassan here on Thursday.

The Ministry officials outlined the core pillars of Pakistan's participation at COP29, which will feature three daily events at the Pakistan Pavilion. These events will cover crucial topics such as climate justice, energy transition, and gender-responsive climate policies. Projects like Living Indus and Recharge Pakistan were highlighted as central to the country's efforts in climate adaptation and sustainability.

The Committee under the chair conducted a comprehensive review of Pakistan's preparations for the upcoming COP29 whereas the Ministry officials briefed the committee on major streams for COP29.

## Govt. allocates Rs.60 mln for non-Muslim students' scholarships

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony has allocated Rs. 60 million as scholarships for non-Muslim students during the current fiscal year.

According to the ministry's spokesperson Muhammad Umar Butt, applications for the scholarships will be submitted online through the ministry's official website. He informed that the process requires minority students to provide an income certificate, verification from their educational institution, and details of their personal or joint bank account.

Umar said the scholarships will be available to students studying in government institutions, ranging from the primary level up to professional studies. Only non-Muslim students enrolled in government schools and institutions will be eligible for the scholarships, the spokesperson added.

## CDA chairman confident about facilities at SEO venue

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa has expressed confidence on the facilities to be provided to the foreign delegates at Jinnah Convention Centre during Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit.

The CDA chairman visited the venue on Thursday to inspect the renovation work. The Member Engineering and relevant officers were also present during the visit.

Randhawa directed that the cleaning and finishing work at the Jinnah Convention Center should be completed as soon as possible.

He also inspected modern conferencing systems, lighting, high-speed internet, and sound systems. It is noteworthy that the main Hall of the convention center has already been handed over to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

He expressed displeasure, stating that if the de-

## SC removes all decisions issued by it from its website

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has removed all the decisions issued by it from its website.

The name of judges who authored decisions, subjects of decisions and list of cases have been given but no space is left in connection with details of the decisions.

It is written all decisions were there earlier and they could be down loaded and read. The decisions were being reported in media regularly.

The decision given by

Justice Muneeb Akhtar was reported in media that he had issued this decision after seven months.

Justice Muneeb Akhtar decision regarding levy tax on industries was issued after seven months.

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by Justice Muneeb Akhtar had held last hearing of the case on February 29, 2024.

Appeals against the decision related to levy tax on 43 industries were filed before 2-member bench of Lahore High Court therein.

## PPP chief condoles death Hayat

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Thursday expressed deep sorrow and grief over the demise of senior leader of PPP Attock Chapter, Sardar Sikandar Hayat.

In his condolence message, Bilawal Bhutto shared his heartfelt sympathy with the bereaved family, stating that he stands with them in this moment of grief. "Sardar Sikandar Hayat's services to the party will always be remembered," said Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, acknowledging the significant contributions.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Amer Ali Ahmad in a group photograph with officers from the 36th Senior Management Course (SMC) of the National Institute of Management (NIM), Islamabad at BISP Headquarters.

## Committee advocates for enhanced research and coastal erosion solutions

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Science and Technology in a meeting held here Thursday advocated for enhanced research, quality standards and coastal erosion solutions. The meeting, presided over by Senator Kamil Ali Agha, held a comprehensive discussion on the implementation status of the recommendations made during its meeting on September 25. The Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology updated the Committee members, informing them that all funds for the Science Expo have been refunded to the respective firms and organizations.

Secondly, regarding the PSQCA's submission of a report on the number of cases where fines were imposed, the Chair suggested providing a comprehensive report on the department's current activities.

He expressed displeasure, stating that if the de-

partment remains inactive, it would be better to shut it down.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha added that the PSQCA was established in 1996, and after 28 years, no consideration has been given to the total expenditure on 31 inspectors. He also inquired about their remunerations and suggested digitizing the entire system.

Regarding the compliance report for standards and quality assurance in the cement sector, the Chair recommended that the Attorney General may handle it.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha commented that this is not merely a matter of money; it concerns construction materials.

He emphasized that the government should ensure the protection of quality. Concerning the report on the restructuring process of STEDEC as IRADA, Senator Kamil Ali Agha also recommended expediting the process of restructuring STEDEC as IRADA.

## IHC orders to de-seal KP House

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has ordered to de-seal KP House.

The petition against sealing KP House Islamabad came up for hearing before Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamer Farooq Thursday.

CDA took the plea illegal construction was made. Some dues are also outstanding. First notice was given in 2014.

CJ IHC Aamer Farooq ordered to de-seal the KP house. The court while addressing CDA counsel remarked you can do this according to rules and regulations. If there is something then see it and inform us, we will see it. It should not look so that you are targeting someone. I am giving decision. You should de-seal KP House.

The petition against sealing KP house was filed in IHC a day before.

KP government had filed petition through secretary admn making law ministry, interior ministry, DG Rangers, FIA, CDA and Police respondents.



Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Senate standing Committee on Science and Technology presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Parliament House Islamabad.



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

Friday October 11, 2024

**Mental wellness**

World Mental Health Day, observed on Oct 10 each year, is an opportunity to focus on an oft-neglected aspect of one's well-being. The theme for 2024, 'Mental Health at Work', highlights the urgent need to address mental well-being within professional environments.

With a significant portion of adult life spent at work, creating healthy workplaces becomes not just an ethical responsibility but also an economic necessity. Workplaces that fail to prioritise mental health can contribute to burnout, anxiety, depression, and other serious issues, while those that do foster mental well-being help employees thrive both professionally and personally. Workplace stress and mental health issues have gained increasing attention in recent years across the globe, but the situation is concerning in Pakistan. The prevalence of mental disorders in Pakistan is estimated to be as high as 10pc, affecting approximately 20m people. Despite such staggering numbers, mental health remains a stigmatised topic, particularly in professional settings where discussing mental well-being is often viewed as a sign of weakness. The challenges of job insecurity, excessive workloads, and limited access to mental health resources exacerbate the problem, leaving many employees to struggle in silence.

For a developing country like ours, where the workforce is already strained due to economic pressures, addressing mental health at work is critical. Low wages and poor working conditions, especially in sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, and even the burgeoning digital economy, only intensify the crisis. In many cases, employees hesitate to seek help for fear of being judged or seen as incompetent. This reinforces the cycle of untreated mental health issues that can lead to reduced productivity, absenteeism, and high turnover rates, all of which affect the national economy.

Pakistan suffers from a lack of institutional support and policies that address mental health in the workplace. Unlike many developed nations, where employee assistance programmes, flexible work arrangements, and mental health awareness training are becoming standard, such initiatives are rare in our corporate and industrial sectors. This gap underscores the need for both a cultural shift and legislative reforms to promote mental well-being at work. The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of mental health in every aspect of life, including the workplace. As remote work becomes more common, especially in the IT and services sectors, the boundaries between work and personal life have blurred, leading to heightened stress. The emphasis on mental health at work could not be more timely, urging employers to rethink how they support their employees. On this World Mental Health Day, the message is clear: mental health at work must become a priority. There must be a concerted effort in Pakistan to initiate conversations about mental health in the workplace. It is only by addressing these issues that we can create an inclusive, productive, and healthier workforce.

Everyone with an opinion has a right to express their views. We might, however, learn a lesson from the Japanese. A visitor there once noticed a trio of Japanese factory workers standing outside the gate. They held placards listing their demands. When asked, they explained that they were on strike on behalf of all their colleagues. There was no need for the rest of the workers to strike. They would continue working so that production would not be interrupted.

With us, protest is synonymous with disruption. We cannot complain without causing chaos. A prequel to the Lahore Biennale compressed Lahore's past into its present. It was an art exhibition held in the house off Temple Road where the author Ved

**Ali Tauqeer Sheikh**

A recent article by Nathan Porter, IMF's Pakistan mission chief, on 'Revitalising Pakistan's economy' in Dawn provided a comprehensive overview of the key considerations and decisions vis-à-vis the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) that will guide our economic reform challenges up to October 2027. However, a crucial element was overlooked — climate change.

Pakistan cannot afford to delay climate action any longer. The absence of any mention of climate risks highlights a significant gap in the Fund's approach to Pakistan's economic turnaround. This oversight is particularly concerning since our fiscal policy is not designed to support climate resilience and mitigation efforts while pursuing macroeconomic stability.

Despite the success of the recent Stand-by Agreement (SBA), we still grapple with resource scarcity, which makes it challenging to address development and climate resilience. We have thus far not integrated climate considerations into budgetary pro-

cesses, revenue generation, and expenditure management.

The article rightly mentions that Pakistan faces significant fiscal constraints, including high public debt, budget deficits, and limited revenue collection — constraints that limit our ability to allocate resources for climate adaptation and mitigation.

Given its high vulnerability to climate disasters, Pakistan faces further straining of its fiscal resources. The floods of 2022 vividly illustrated this vulnerability, affecting over 33 million people and causing damage estimated at \$30 billion, equivalent to nearly 10pc of GDP. This single event underscores the magnitude of climate-related fiscal risks. More floods on this scale would wash away any gains made under the SBA and promised under the EFF.

There is a clear link between fiscal policy and exposure to climate-triggered disasters, chiefly manifested through fiscal policy trade-offs. The binding constraints force policymakers to prioritise between the immediate financial crunch and long-

term resilience investments. This necessitates integrating climate risk into all aspects of policymaking, while seeking innovative financing mechanisms, and strengthening capacity to access and utilise domestic and international climate finance to expand the narrow fiscal space. Instead of pursuing a blindfolded reform agenda, a case can be made that Pakistan needs to implement well-planned fiscal and institutional reforms that balance economic growth with climate resilience.

The linkages between climate vulnerability and climate finance are many, and reflect our need to address immediate exposure while building long-term resilience. Recognising and leveraging these linkages can lead to more effective and integrated approaches to building overall resilience. Both vulnerability reduction and climate finance need to prioritise community resilience. The challenge is to balance the immediate response to extreme weather events with long-term resilience investments.

Integration of climate considerations into fiscal

risk management has become increasingly important. Pakistan's Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, developed by the Planning Commission after the 2022 floods, created a bridge between immediate recovery efforts and longer-term resilience building. Why, then, was the EFF not climate-proofed?

Likewise, the debt management office at the Finance Division should incorporate climate-related fiscal risks into its debt sustainability analyses and long-term projections. This could involve scenario planning that accounts for potential climate shocks and their impact on Pakistan's ability to service its debt. There may still be an opportunity for the Planning Commission and DMO to engage the IMF for their Climate Change Capacity Building and Management Programme that is designed to enhance the capacity to address climate challenges effectively in countries like Pakistan.

Under the SBA, Pakistan signed the Climate-Public Investment Management Assessment in December 2023. It is an IMF-designed framework to

evaluate a country's capacity to manage climate-related public investments; it seeks to integrate climate considerations into the existing public investment management assessment framework that has traditionally focused on general public investment processes. Under C-PIMA, the Planning Commission is now mandated to climate-proof development and embed resilience in the PSDP. A handbook on climate risk screening has already been notified but implementation has not begun. Likewise, the debt strategy still isn't fully aligned with climate-smart fiscal policies. Pakistan's approach to debt and climate finance requires a paradigm shift that recognises the intricate connections between fiscal policy, debt management, and climate resilience. For starters, the government must integrate climate considerations into all aspects of economic planning. Also, new and innovative financing mechanisms should be explored to bridge the gap between climate finance needs and fiscal constraints.

By adopting this holistic approach, Pakistan

can focus not only on its immediate economic challenges but also on long-term resilience against the slow onset of climate change. Our economic future depends on the ability to harmonise its fiscal, debt and climate strategies.

The IMF is a late entrant in the climate space but has made some impressive strides in shaping the global climate discourse, particularly in taking forward the debate on debt trap and debt restructuring, as raised by Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley, whose Bridgetown Initiative seeks to reform international financial systems to better support developing nations facing debt stress and climate vulnerabilities. While Barbados is implementing its EFF agreement with the IMF, it has also negotiated its access to the Fund's Resilience and Sustainability Trust, which provides long-term financing to build resilience against climate impacts. Pakistan also needs to find ways of addressing its economic reform challenges while enhancing resilience to climate-related risks. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Lopsided economic reforms****Rule by consultants****Khurram Husain**

It is odd that the government has recruited former State Bank governor Reza Baqir as a consultant to work on building its Sovereign Wealth Fund. Baqir has little experience building organisations. Besides, his tenure at the State Bank has left a legion of unanswered questions.

Baqir entered the State Bank amid high inflation and an abrupt change of guard at the finance ministry, when Asad Umar was ousted unceremoniously to be replaced with Hafeez Shaikh. Pakistan signed an IMF programme within a fortnight of Shaikh's arrival, something Umar had struggled with for almost seven months.

Interest rates were already high in those days since Pakistan was still recovering from severe balance-of-payments stress as well as a period of high inflation fuelled by record-high printing of money. Direct government borrowing as a proportion of total

broad money supply crossed 50 per cent in May 2019, having spiralled from early 2017.

The State Bank had already hiked interest rates all through the preceding year, but from May raised them by 250 basis points to 13.25pc where they stayed till Covid-19 hit. Baqir took a hit from all directions for this aggressive monetary policy. He had a hostile reception from the business community, and rumours swirled that at one event some attendees tried to physically accost him. His attempts to explain the high interest rates were not working, but he himself remained steadfast about the need for a tight monetary policy in order to combat inflation.

It worked. Inflation came down, and by early 2020, the economy was beginning to stabilise, in a situation very similar to the one we are in now, with inflation coming off its peaks, the primary deficit closing, reserves stabilising, the current account deficit narrowing but growth still re-

maining moribund. Is Pakistan ready for growth? I asked Hafeez Shaikh during those days. His answer was no, not yet.

But then, Covid-19 hit and everything changed. Immediately, the IMF programme was suspended, a \$1.4 billion emergency funding line was thrown to Pakistan by the Fund, with more dollars from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, a debt service suspension initiative was availed by the country and interest rates were slashed to 7pc in a historic series of rate cuts. A string of subsidised credit schemes were announced by the State Bank that were premised on printing money. The idea was to support the economy during the period of lockdowns. However, in Pakistan, the government of the day took the money from the international community but lifted the lockdowns after barely a fortnight.

What ensued was one of the sharpest growth rebounds in the country's history, taking

everyone by surprise. Flush with liquidity, both domestic as well as foreign, coupled with large idle capacity, economic growth registered the strongest revival ever in Pakistan's history, going from nearly zero to 7pc in one year.

The elation in the government was also historic. Rarely have I seen ministers from government and supporters of a political party celebrate the return of growth with such exuberant fanfare. But there was a problem: it was all temporary. Months into the revival of growth, Shaikh began talking once more to the Fund for the revival of the programme, and by March of 2021, around the same time as the growth figures were coming in for the post-Covid year, the first programme revival was negotiated. The whole stimulus-led growth euphoria was set to end, almost as soon as it began.

But Khan fired Shaikh within days of the programme revival and replaced him with Shaikat Tarin. And

thence began the problem. Nobody was in the mood to unwind the stimulus and return to the Fund programme now that the Covid threat had passed, and Baqir obliged. Nobody wanted interest rates hiked or the exchange rate devalued. In May of 2021, the first signs of instability landed on Pakistan's shores as the exchange rate began gyrating and inflation began registering hikes once more.

This was the moment for Baqir to urge the government to return to a saner monetary policy coupled with sound fiscal bases. Instead, through those months, even as Tarin announced an outlandishly extravagant budget, the State Bank kept interests low, even as the system began gyrating with price instability with each passing month. By November 2021, the State Bank moved into emergency mode as inflation turned into a raging fire, but it was too late. By 2022, when he left, Pakistan was on its way to being engulfed by a ferocious inflationary

fire. While he blamed this on global factors, indicators showed Pakistan's inflation was far more aggravated than its peers, in the region or its own credit rating or any other category. South Asia had exchange inflation of 7pc in 2023, where Pakistan saw more than 25pc. All this was on the former SBP governor's watch, whose central bank touted its monetary stimulus being equal to 5pc of GDP as one of its signature successes. The resultant inflationary fire was ours to handle.

Baqir had begun his tenure amid high inflation, caused by large-scale money printing, requiring high interest rates. He left behind an inflationary inferno fuelled by money printing the scale of which has few precedents in our history, necessitating interest rate peaks that were also the highest we've seen. Today, he is back to advise the government on how to build a Sovereign Wealth Fund. My only wish is that history should not be made again.

**Stressed hospitality****F.S. Aijazuddin**

In Pakistan we plan with finesse, and then execute in distress. Some still recall the obstacles placed by the then chief minister Punjab in the way of the Lahore LitFest in earlier years. Annoyed at the criticism of his Orange Line (a permanent unsightly scar across the face of once lovely Lahore), he withdrew permission at the penultimate minute for the LLF to be held at the Lahore Arts Council.

Hurriedly, the LLF had to relocate to a local hotel. To the chagrin of the audience, attractions like the Indian film star Shar-mila Tagore could be barely heard over the noise of generators in makeshift auditoria.

This year, the opening of the Lahore Biennale 2024, which by its definition takes more than a year to plan, fell victim to politics. What should have been a momentous, joyous event for our country was crippled by a dharna by a disgruntled party.

Everyone with an opinion has a right to express their views. We might, however, learn a lesson from the Japanese. A visitor there once noticed a trio of Japanese factory workers standing outside the gate. They held placards listing their demands. When asked, they explained that they were on strike on behalf of all their colleagues. There was no need for the rest of the workers to strike. They would continue working so that production would not be interrupted.

With us, protest is synonymous with disruption. We cannot complain without causing chaos.

A prequel to the Lahore Biennale compressed Lahore's past into its present. It was an art exhibition held in the house off Temple Road where the author Ved

Mehta grew up in the 1940s.

Ved's family lived in a mohalla known then as Mehta gali. He made his father's house famous the gate still has the marble plaque bearing the name 'Dr. Amolak Ram Mehta' in his autobiography Face to Face (1957). The house remains as his family left it in 1947, sans contents and sans its soul.

Each room had been converted into a mini gallery, showcasing the talent of individual artists. The inner courtyard where Ved played became a theatre. For an hour, Lahore's past was recalled by a film — Life in the Walled City of Lahore — made by Shireen Pasha in 1991.

Shireen studied at the National College of Arts, Lahore where her talent as a painter glistened like gold in a class of dark lignite. She leaped from the limitation of a canvas to the big screen, and from there to the welcoming arms of the West.

Her film on Lahore is Kiplingesque. It shows the daily routine of wrestlers, the round of milkmen, the gleeful, competitive abandon of kite-flying, the rhythm of workers hammering silver into wafer-thin slivers, the monotony of baking endless moons of naans, and the heavy breakfasts on cold Lahori mornings.

Shireen interspersed these images with recollections by elderly residents of the old city — geriatrics to whom the havelis were home and anything beyond a foreign, inhospitable land. The film concluded with shots of a younger Nusrat Fateh Ali before fame gripped his throat.

The Lahore Biennale 2024 crisscrossed Lahore's geography, including events at Sha-limar Gardens, the Lahore Fort, and Brad-laugh Hall which history has forgotten.

Because of the political dharna, the meticulously crafted schedule had to be rearranged at short notice. That it was held at all is a tribute to the tenacity of the organisers. They saw Lahore as an artistic tapestry, a historical continuum, not the stunted span of an elected or selected government.

Participants at another moot — the SCO gathering of biggies in Islamabad — have their own problems, their own variants of dissent. They will though be treated here with liberal hospitality.

Flush with the prospect of \$7 billion from the IMF, our Foreign Office has asked the Pun-jab government for "15 VVIP vehicles, including bulletproof cars, for deployment with the 12 prime ministers attending the SCO conference". In response, the Punjab government announced plans to purchase "79 new luxury vehicles for provincial ministers, parliamentary secretaries ... and VVIP protocol duties". The cost? A paltry Rs612 million.

Wasn't it Thomas Jefferson who advised paupers like us: "Never spend your money before you have it."

One recalls the 1974 Islamic Summit in Lahore when Mr Bhutto commanded the residences of the rich and their luxury cars for visiting VIPs. These included Saudi King Faisal and Libya's Col Qadhafi. They made no complaints. In 2008, before the SCO meeting in Dushanbe, the Chinese gifted the host Tajikistan 105 vehicles, including 80 buses and 20 luxury cars for the visiting heads of state. We still owe the Chinese \$3bn deposited to window-dress our reserves. We did not need to rice-paper our poverty with conceit. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Gaza's children****Aamnah Arshad Kamal**

As we mark one year since the onset of the conflict in Gaza, the devastating toll on children's mental health there continues to unfold. More than 42,000 people have been killed in Gaza since the start of the conflict, according to the Gaza health ministry, with the majority of identified victims being women and children. This prolonged conflict, marked by air strikes, displacement, and the loss of family and homes, has left deep psychological wounds on children and the youth.

World Mental Health Day, observed each year on Oct 10, is a crucial time to raise awareness about the mental health crisis being faced by children living in war zones. The children of Gaza have been confined to a narrow strip of land, which has been blockaded for 15 years, and along with the rest of the inhabitants, have faced a number of intense periods of assault by Israel, from 2008 to 2024. The current attacks have so far proved to be the most devastating for Gaza's 2.3 million people. Besides the huge death toll, thousands of people are missing, many of them perhaps dead under the rubble.

Keeping in mind the demography, we can assume that a little under half the casualties are children. However, it is quite clear that all children in Gaza have experienced the trauma of war and it is no wonder that the Gaza Strip has been called the "most dangerous place in the world to be a child" by Unicef spokesperson James Elder.

Large numbers of children in Gaza are in-

jured; they have been left without parents and shelter, without vital medical aid, and without sufficient food and water. Before they can recover from their previous scars, they are re-traumatised — on a daily basis — and are left with no sense of security. They are in a state of toxic stress, as they live under the constant terror of bombardment and firing.

There are many studies to support the evidence of mental health disorders including post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety and depression among the children. One such study, conducted after past conflicts in Gaza, is the 'Consequences of war-related traumatic stress among Palestinian young people in the Gaza Strip: a scoping review', published in Science Direct. It concludes that the majority of children in Gaza exhibited symptoms of PTSD: "The mental health of children and young people in the Gaza Strip is a pressing public health concern, particularly PTSD, depression and anxiety."

Psychologist Iman Farajallah has conducted a number of studies on childhood trauma focused on Palestinian children. For her 2016 doctoral dissertation titled Children of War: Psychological Impacts of War and Post-war Trauma on the Palestinian Children in the Gaza Strip, Dr Farajallah interviewed children and their families in the area. She found that anger and aggression were common among them as a result of witnessing Israeli bombings take the lives of close family members. Among the signs of mental trauma and PTSD displayed by children were: depression, anxiety, continuous traumatic stress disorder, hyperactivity, a

preference for being alone, aggression, screaming, nightmares and bed-wetting, frightening thoughts and flashbacks of traumatic events.

Watching people around them die, especially parents and close family members and friends, makes the children in Gaza very afraid, lonely and depressed. They do not receive the emotional support or psychological care needed, thus these negative feelings exacerbate their mental health issues. The lack of security resulting from losing family members, homes and safe places to live, prolongs the stress they suffer.

Intense conflict has destroyed schools and recreational structures in Gaza, disrupting children's education, which in turn impacts their cognitive development and learning. Besides not being able to go to school, children also lose out on discovering their talent, interests and skills.

As a result, their future progress is hampered, adding to their feelings of depression and hopelessness.

Interventions that focus on reducing the effect of war on children's mental health are crucial to helping the affected youngsters manage the adverse psychological effects in the long term. However, effective intervention and treatment of the mental health problems of Gaza's children is only possible when there is peace in the region and the infrastructure is restored. Since the healthcare system has collapsed, no treatment is even partially possible until the war completely stops and reconstruction of infrastructure is carried out. -- Courtesy Dawn



## CM, WB delegation review \$ 3.124 bln development projects in Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and the World Bank delegation, headed by Country Director Najib Benhassine thoroughly reviewed the \$3.124 billion Sindh portfolio to establish new deadlines for various development projects.

The high-level meeting, which took place at the CM House on Thursday was attended by provincial ministers, the Chief Secretary and other key officials, while the World Bank team included sector heads to assist in the review process.

The active Sindh portfolio includes 13 development projects, of which \$1.36 billion has already been disbursed by the World Bank. The projects span a wide range of sectors, including water management, infrastructure, solar energy, education and health services. Some of the key initiatives under review were the Karachi Mobility Project (KMP), Sindh Flood Emergency Rehabilitation Project (SFERP), Sindh Flood Housing Reconstruction Project (SFHERP), and Karachi Water and Sewerage Services Improvement Project (KWSSIP).

Sindh Flood Emergency Rehabilitation Project (SFERP) aimed at rebuilding infrastructure and providing livelihood support to areas affected by the 2022 floods and focuses on improving Sindh's capacity to respond to climate-related disasters. The \$500 million project consists of four major components: Infrastructure Rehabilitation, Livelihood Support, Institutional Strengthening and Project Management. It was noted in the meeting that payment backlogs have been significantly reduced and they are expected to be cleared by the end of the month.

Sindh Flood Housing Reconstruction Project (SFHERP) is working towards multi-hazard resilient housing reconstruction in flood-hit areas. With a budget of \$500 million, the project has three main components: Housing Reconstruction Grants, Institutional Strengthening, and Project Management. The meeting revealed that landless individuals have been granted land and their titles are being transferred to them as part of the project's broader effort to secure housing for flood victims.

Karachi Mobility Project (KMP) is aimed at improving mobility and safety along key corridors in Karachi, includes the construction of the Yellow Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system. This project has three components: Urban Road Infrastructure, BRT System Development and Capacity Building. Significant progress has been made on the Yellow Line, with contracts signed in August 2024.



LAHORE: A delegation of HER Market Place Leaders Club led by Founder President Leaders Club, Sana Khan, in a group photo with Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

## Empowered women play vital role in development of any society: Governor

LAHORE: A delegation of HER Market Place Leaders Club led by Founder President Leaders Club, Sana Khan, called on Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, Sana Khan informed the Governor of Punjab about the initiatives taken by the Leaders Club regarding women's financial independence and business development.

Talking on this occasion, Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that empowered women play an important role in the development of any society. He said that women are not only take care of their families, but they are also contributing to the society by working shoulder to shoulder with men in various fields. Governor Punjab said that women are proving their mettle in various fields.

He appreciated the vision of Leaders Club to empower women by providing business opportunities to them. He said that Leaders Club is playing a positive role in the development of the country by providing business opportunities to women.

On this occasion, the delegation briefed the Governor Punjab about HER Market Place and Second Emerging Women Awards 2024. The delegation also invited the Governor of Punjab as a special guest at the Women Emerging Awards ceremony of the Leaders Club to be held at Aiwan-e-Iqbal Complex, Lahore on 16 November.

Dr. Aamir Khan, Founder Leaders Club, Anam Tariq Khan, Dr. Humayun Iftikhar, Dr. Ijaz Sindhui and Irfan Khan were also present on this occasion. In addition, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan attended the Chehlum ceremony of his mother in law in Malal, Attock District and prayed for the higher ranks of the deceased. On this occasion, former Federal Interior Minister, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, Sardar Muhammad Ali, Sardar Faizan Haider, Sardar Hasan Ali and a large number of local dignitaries were present.

## CM KP authorized to hold jirga for solution of all matters with peaceful negotiations

PESHAWAR (APP): The provincial peace jirga attended by the leadership and representatives of all religious and political parties here Thursday authorized the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to hold a Jirga for resolution of all matters through peaceful negotiations.

The Spokesman of KP Government in a statement here said the grand provincial jirga was attended by Federal Minister for Interior Syed Mohsin Naqvi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, CM KP Ali Ameen Gandapur Federal Minister Engr Amir Muqam, Speaker KP assembly Babar Salim Swati, leaders and representatives of religious and political leaders including Aimal Wali Khan of ANP, Professor Ibrahim Khan of Jumate Islami, Mohsin Dawar, Mian Iftikhar Hussain of ANP, Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha of PPP, Sikandar Hayat Sherpao QWP, Dr Ebad Khan of PMLN and others here at Chief Minister House.

The Provincial Assembly including leadership of all religious-political parties assigned CM KP the responsibility of conducting a peace jirga with concerned for solution of all matters through consultation and peaceful means. The CM KP has accepted the responsibility of conducting a peace jirga and thanked the participants for reposing trust in him.

The spokesman said the process of consultation and strategy for solution of all matters would soon be completed. On this occasion, Chief Minister KP has announced to hold a peace jirga as host.



HYDERABAD: President of PPP Sindh, Nisar Ahmad Khorro, addressing a press conference at the Qureshi House.

## Senior minister meets WB carbon consultant

LAHORE (APP): Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb met with World Bank Carbon Consultant Mr. Morton, on Thursday.

On this occasion, bilateral discussions were held regarding important measures regarding green carbon credit, industrial emission control system, development domestic carbon credit and anti-smog program.

Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has been taking steps for six months to protect her people from the negative effects of smog. Punjab is currently going through a transition phase. CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif wants to invest in the development of energy, transport and forests, she added. She said that with the support of Australian firm, discussions are also going on about bio-refinery for environmentally friendly destruction of crop residues. The senior minister said Punjab Climate Policy and Framework after the formation of the Punjab government has entered the implementation phase and is always trying to eliminate pollution. Smog is a challenge for the people of Punjab in every way, they are benefiting from the successful experiences of other developed countries, she added.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah along with others attend funeral prayer of senior politician Ellahi Bux Soomro, held at his residency in Karachi.

## CM Maryam welcomes Saudi Arabia's trade delegation to Pakistan

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif welcomed the trade delegation of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan and said that the trade delegation is welcomed from the core of heart to Pakistan. Saudi Arabia lives in the heart of every Pakistani.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "Pak-Saudi relations are touching the heights of closeness. The leadership of PML-N is fully determined to make Pakistan attractive for the investors. The Saudi investors will be provided complete assistance for corporate farming."

The Chief Minister added that there are lucrative investment opportunities for Saudi investors in Punjab. "Punjab provides excellent investment opportunities for Saudi infrastructure in agriculture, livestock, IT and telecom.

We will provide complete facilitation and assistance to the Saudi investors in the energy, industry, tourism and textiles sectors.

Saudi Arabia holds the position of an elderly brother and Saudi cooperation is unprecedented in every difficult hour," she said.

## Three shot dead over enmity

FAISALABAD (APP): Three people were killed over enmity near Tandlianwala on Thursday.

According to Rescue-1122, Haq Nawaz s/o Sakhawat, Maqsood s/o Alam Sher and Waqar s/o Muhammad Azam (rickshaw driver) were on their way to the court to appear in a case when armed rivals opened fire on them. As a result, they all died on the spot.

Rescue team moved the bodies to Tandlianwala city police.

## Two dead bodies found in Karak

PESHAWAR (APP): Two dead bodies were found in the Sirajkhel area of tehsil Takht Nusrati in district Karak on Thursday.

Local police said some unknown accused dumped the bodies of the girl and a boy after killing them somewhere else. Police said the incident was likely to be the result of an honor killing. The bodies of the boy 24 and the girl 18 were shifted to THQ hospital for medico-legal procedures. Takht Nusrati police have started an investigation.

## Motorcyclist killed in road accident

CHICHAWATNI (APP): A motorcyclist died in a road mishap on GT Road here on Thursday.

According to a police spokesman, a 50-year-old man, namely Rustam, was riding a bike on GT Road when a truck hit his bike. A result, he died on the spot.

## Veteran politician Elahi Bux Soomro laid to rest

KARACHI (APP): Veteran politician and former Speaker National Assembly Elahi Bux Soomro was laid to rest after funeral prayer offered here on Thursday.

The funeral prayer was attended by the Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, former President Dr Arif Alvi, provincial Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah and other prominent personalities.

Earlier, senior politician Elahi Bux Soomro breathed his last on Wednesday night after protracted illness at the age of 98 years.

Soomro, belonged to influential political family of Shikarpur and Jacobabad districts. He also served as Speaker National as well as federal minister in different cabinets. He had been elected as member of National as well as provincial assemblies.

Meanwhile, Sindh Chief Minister and Governor expressed grief and sorrow over sad demise of senior politician Elahi Bux Soomro.

According to separate statement issued from CM and Governor Houses, they offered condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for the departed soul to be in eternal peace.

## DPO reviews progress on criminal cases

SARGODHA (APP): District Police Officer (DPO) Dr. Asad Ejaz Malhi conducted a meeting with sub-divisional police officers (SDPOs) and station house officers (SHOs) across the district at his office on Thursday.

He reviewed progress on heinous criminal cases, arrest of wanted suspects and fugitives and recovery of stolen properties. The recovered valuables were handed over to the owners and orders were issued for investigating cases on merit. The DPO conducted a comparative review of 15 calls regarding implementation of timelines.

## MRS responded to over 2.6 mln emergencies in 7 years in punjab

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Emergency Services Khawaja Salman Rafique congratulated all District Emergency Officers and the staff of the Motorbike Rescue Service (MRS) on completing seven successful years of service.

Speaking at the cake-cutting ceremony for the 7th anniversary of the Motorbike Rescue Service, the minister praised Rescue 1122 as one of the most disciplined organizations. He commended the Rescue 1122 team, under the leadership of Dr. Rizwan Naseer, for swiftly launching the Air Ambulance Service and the Pak Life Saver Program, both of which beneficial for the people of Punjab. He further said that Rescue 1122 not only provides a sense of safety to the people of Punjab but also extends its expertise through the Emergency Services Academy, which has trained over 26,000 emergency professionals from across the country, to establish the emergency system in neighboring provinces.

On the completion of 7 years of Motorbike Rescue Service, a ceremony was held at the Command and Control Centre, Lahore in which Provincial Minister for Emergency Services, Khawaja Salman Rafique was the chief guest while the founder of Emergency Services in Pakistan, Dr. Rizwan Naseer attended the ceremony along with the Divisional Emergency Officer, Dr. Fawad Shahzad Mirza, District Emergency Officer Lahore Shahid Waheed Qamar, Deputy Director Community Safety and Information, Madam Diba Shahnaz Akhtar, Spokesperson Rescue Punjab, Farooq Ahmed and a large number of rescuers.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Rizwan Naseer appreciated the services of the staff of Motorbike Rescue Service who have responded to over 2.6 million emergencies in traffic jams and congested areas with narrow streets with an average response time of 4 minutes which is an achievement even internationally.



LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique watching the stalls on the eve of World Mental Health Day ceremony at Punjab Institute of Mental Health.

## Police arrest 21 outlaws in DIKhan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Dera police during the successful operations against the criminal elements arrested at least 21 outlaws and recovered weapon, and drugs from their possession in the limits of Paharpur and Shorkot police stations here on Thursday.

According to the police spokesman, on the direction of District Police Officer, Dera Nasir Mahmood, operations against criminal elements are going on indiscriminately throughout the district.

Shorkot police station led by SDPO Imanullah Khattak along with SHO Manzoor Khan conducted a search and strike operation in different localities. During the raid the police team arrested the accused Muhammad Salim son of Falakshir resident of Mandran Kalan, who was wanted in the murder case. The police recovered 9mm bore pistol with ammunition from the possession of Nimatullah. While one 30 bore pistol with ammunition recovered from the possession of Hikmatullah. Abdullah son of Nazar.

## KMU hosts ceremony for MDCAT 2024 toppers

PESHAWAR (APP): The Adviser to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Finance, Muzammil Aslam on Thursday emphasized that health and education are the highest priorities of the government.

He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of a five-week training program for provincial nurses in collaboration with the provincial health department and a consortium of British universities and an event honoring the top position holders of MDCAT 2024 organized by Khyber Medical University (KMU) Peshawar.

He remarked that today's event is a clear testament to the provincial government's commitment to elevating the health sector to international standards.

The introduction of British-level nursing training will significantly enhance the quality of nursing, fostering overall growth in this vital profession.

The successful and transparent conduct of the MDCAT examination is a major achievement, providing all students with an equal opportunity to perform based on merit.

The government remains dedicated to ensuring equal opportunities for the talented youth of the province, recognizing that the first right to the province's resources belongs to its younger generation. This right is being realized through the provision of high-quality educational facilities.

The ceremony was attended by key officials including the Provincial Minister for Social Welfare, Syed Qasim Ali Shah, Secretary Higher Education Department Kamran Ahmad Afridi, Vice-Chancellor of KMU Prof Dr Zia Ul Haq, Dr Ijaz Hussain, Director General Health Services, Director PHSA, and Chief HSRU.

In his address, Mr Aslam highlighted the noble nature of the medical profession, noting that whether one is a doctor, nurse, or paramedic, their service to humanity is invaluable.



KARACHI: Dr. Amir Khalil, a veterinarian from the global animal welfare group, Four Paws, speaks to media after visit landscape of the elephant enclosure at the Safari Park, to relocation of elephant Madhubala to Safari Park from Karachi zoo in Karachi.

## KPCVE organizes seminar on prevention of drug abuse

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Centre of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism (KPCVE) on Thursday organized a one-day seminar at Government College Peshawar on the issue of drug abuse and the social problems arising from it.

The seminar was to develop strategies to prevent drug addiction and raise awareness among students and the broader community about its dangers and consequences.

Prominent experts from various fields, including Deputy Director HED Zakaria Khan, Professor Dr Nadia Khan Betani, KPCVE Principal Research Officer Muhammad Uzair, Chairman of the Islamic Studies Department at Government College Peshawar, and Deputy Director of the Student Society, along with leading professionals from education, healthcare, and drug prevention & rehabilitation sectors, addressed the seminar.

Professor Dr Usman Shah, Chairman of the Character-Building Committee at Government College Peshawar, in his detailed presentation, highlighted the alarming rise in drug abuse among youth in Pakistan, particularly in KP. He emphasized the socio-economic and psychological factors contributing to drug addiction and called for immediate attention and joint efforts. Psychology expert Professor Dr Behroz Khan participated in a panel discussion along with medical experts specializing in drug treatment and social workers.



LAHORE: Members of All Pakistan Clerks Association (APCA) are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products and inflation price hiking, at Civil Secretariat in Lahore.



## Saudi Minister highlights Pakistan as “prime investment destination” at Business Forum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Saudi Minister for Investment, Sheikh Khalid bin Abdul Aziz Al Falah, on Thursday said that Pakistan has the potential to become a high-return, low-risk investment destination, making it highly attractive for Saudi investors.

Speaking at the Pakistan-Saudi Arabia Business Forum, the minister commended Pakistan's initiatives and reforms, highlighting the establishment of a special one-stop shop, a single-window system, and the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) as pivotal factors in streamlining investment processes. He expressed optimism about the 27 agreements, amounting to \$2 billion, expected to be signed during the ongoing forum, with many more currently under negotiation. He emphasized that these agreements emerged organically, reflecting the strong facilitation efforts underway. The minister acknowledged the Ministry of Commerce's commitment to enhancing trade relations between the two countries, noting that bilateral trade has already surged by approximately 80 percent, rising from \$3 billion in 2019 to \$5.4 billion today. He also highlighted the significant increase in Pakistani investment licenses, which have more than doubled, demonstrating the Saudi government's encouragement.

Sheikh Khalid expressed enthusiasm about the announcement from the Saudi Crown Prince regarding a \$5 billion investment in Pakistan, revealed during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit shortly after he took office. "I'm delighted to have the Public Investment Fund (PIF) represented among us," he remarked.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Ministers and private sector leaders in meeting with Saudi Investment Minister H.E. Eng. Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falah to discuss enhancing trade and investment.



Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal meeting with delegation from the China Asia Economic Development Association (CAEDA) here in Islamabad.

### Provision of affordable electricity to consumers govt's top priorities: Awaiz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Power Division Sardar Awaiz Ahmed Khan Leghari on Thursday said that reduction in power tariff and provision of electricity to the people at affordable price were government's top priorities.

Addressing at press conference here, the minister said that various pragmatic measures were being taken to slash electricity prices in order to provide maximum relief to the masses.

He said the electricity price should reduce Rs 10 per unit for which agreements with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) were mutually revised and reassessed.

He said the prime minister set up a National Task Force to bring reforms in the power sector. Five IPPs were identified and negotiation were started with them, he added.

He said every section of the agreements were thoroughly studied and then mutually reached an agreement to terminate the power purchase agreements with 5 IPPs. The Minister said that it would help save around Rs 60-70 billion annually and cumulative benefit of Rs 411 billion to the national kitty.

He appreciated the owners of five IPPs to terminate the contracts in larger national interest. The Chief of Army Staff (COAS) also supported the National Task Force, he added.

He said that the agreement would be materialized in next few days.

He paid rich tribute to entire Task Force, National Coordinator Lt Gen Zafar, Special Advisor to Prime Minister on Power (SAPM), representative of CPPA, PPIB, NEPRA for doing this job to provide relief to the masses.

Awaiz also announced setting up of Independent Market Operator System in the power sector. A full-fledged institution was being set up which would be fully operational in January 2025, he said.

### 03-day investor weekend 2024 event starts today

ISLAMABAD (APP): Three-day Investor Weekend 2024 event, organized by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and the Central Depository Company (CDC), in collaboration with leading Asset Management Companies (AMCs) and brokerage houses, is set to kick off on Friday.

The event is part of CDC's special initiative to mark World Investor Week 2024, a global campaign by the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) aimed at promoting investor education and protection, according to a news release.

The inauguration will be led by SECP Commissioners Abdul Rehman Warraich and Mujtaba Ahmad Lodhi, along with CDC Chairman Farrukh H. Sabzwari, CDC CEO Badiuddin Akber, and representatives from top asset management companies, brokerage firms, and other financial institutions.

Investor Weekend 2024 will showcase the role of Pakistan's capital markets, led by the CDC and SECP, alongside prominent AMCs and brokerage houses.

### Reforms to encourage more investments into Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Investment, Privatization and Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan, said here on Thursday that the institutional and policy reforms introduced by the incumbent government would further encourage more Saudi investor to invest in Pakistan.

"I am confident that with institutional and policy reforms, we have introduced, more Saudi investors will be encouraged to invest in Pakistan," the federal minister said while addressing Pakistan-Saudi Arabia Business Forum.

He said, the business forum provides unique opportunity to build deeper commercial ties between the two brotherly countries and invited Saudi Businessmen to explore wide range investment opportunities Pakistan has to offer.

He said, the government was fully committed to support and facilitate foreign investors in every sector, adding Pakistan and Saudi Arabia would further strengthen cooperation to promote mutual growth and prosperity.

He appreciated, the ongoing sessions of the forum, exchanges of visits and Saudi Arabia's commitment towards strengthening economic engagements within Pakistan. He also thanked the leadership of Saudi Arabia for extending valuable support and assistance to Pakistan.

The minister expressed the hope that government and private sector delegates would have the opportunity to take forward some of these discussions held during this visit and congratulated teams of both sides for B2B Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) and agreements they were signing during this forum.

### Pakistan at good place on economic front, open for business, Finance Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Thursday expressed optimism about Pakistan's prospects, stating the country was at a good place on economic front and open to business.

Addressing the Pakistan Saudi Arabia Business Forum, Aurangzeb highlighted government policies aimed at strengthening the private sector to lead the country's business and economy.

The minister emphasized that the government's role was not to do business but to facilitate the private sector.

He welcomed Saudi Arabian delegates to promote trade and investment through a Business-to-Business (B2B) model.

Aurangzeb cited significant progress in macroeconomic stability over the past 12-14 months. Pakistan achieved a primary surplus, reduced its current account deficit to less than \$1 billion, stabilized its currency, and increased foreign exchange reserves to cover two months of imports.

The minister noted that these gains have been consolidated in the current fiscal year, with strong remittances, export growth, and a reduction in inflation from 38% to 6.9%. The decrease in policy rates has also benefited businesses.

Pakistan's credit rating has been upgraded however more was to be done to get the rate at B+ at least.

He said institutional flows were coming back to the country on both the debt and equity sides.

The Islamabad Stock Exchange reached a record high, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) board approved an extended program for the country.

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Aurangzeb cited significant progress in macroeconomic stability over the past 12-14 months. Pakistan achieved a primary surplus, reduced its current account deficit to less than \$1 billion, stabilized its currency, and increased foreign exchange reserves to cover two months of imports.

The minister noted that these gains have been consolidated in the current fiscal year, with strong remittances, export growth, and a reduction in inflation from 38% to 6.9%. The decrease in policy rates has also benefited businesses.

Pakistan's credit rating has been upgraded however more was to be done to get the rate at B+ at least.

He said institutional flows were coming back to the country on both the debt and equity sides.

The Islamabad Stock Exchange reached a record high, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) board approved an extended program for the country.

### PSX loses 216 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend, losing 216.06 points on Thursday, a negative change of 0.25 percent, closing at 85,453.22 points against 85,669.28 points on the last trading day.

A total of 503,750,595 shares were traded during the day as compared to 596,052,076 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 27,912 billion against Rs 31,341 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 313 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 115 of them recorded gains and 189 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 9 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were PTCL with 52,237,770 shares at Rs 14.52 per share.



LAHORE: Labourers collecting bundles of sugarcane at the bank of River Ravi to supply near the Vegetable Market in the Provincial Capital.

### CM Maryam focusing to ensure agriculture development: Kirmani

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Agriculture Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani said on Thursday that till now 1.25 million farmers had got their registration done for obtaining Punjab Chief Minister's Kisan Card. He said this while presiding over the meeting held in Deputy Commissioner's Toba Tek Singh office, said a press release.

The meeting reviewed arrangements regarding Punjab Chief Minister's visit to Toba Tek Singh and kisan card activation ceremony. The minister said that after printing of kisan card its provision was ongoing. He further said that Punjab Chief Minister was taking all possible measures to ensure agriculture development.

He said that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz would be chief guest of Kisan Card launching ceremony in Toba Tek Singh. Kirmani said that under the scheme, a subsidy of Rs 1 million would be provided to farmers for getting tractor under green tractor scheme.

### Pak wants to transform ties with SA into development partnership: Dr. Musadik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik, said on Thursday that Pakistan aims to transform its longstanding historical and cultural ties with Saudi Arabia (SA) into a partnership focused on growth and development.

Addressing the Pakistan-Saudi Arabia Business Forum, he emphasized the importance of strengthening bilateral relations and Pakistan's desire to foster closer cooperation with Saudi Arabia to promote mutual economic and developmental progress.

"Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have deep historical ties. Saudi Arabia has been a steadfast ally, and both countries continue to enjoy strong economic and strategic relations," he added.

He expressed Pakistan's interest in further developing cooperation in key areas such as food security, economic growth, and energy security.

### Rupee sheds 07 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Thursday depreciated by 07 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.79 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.72.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs278.25 and Rs279.75 respectively.

The price of Euro decreased by 73 paise to close at Rs303.69 against the last day's closing of Rs304.42, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs1.86, whereas a decrease of 16 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs363.22 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs363.38.

Referring to Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, Dr. Musadik Malik highlighted the Kingdom's goals of achieving growth, diversification, and innovation-driven, energy-intensive development.

He also spoke about Pakistan's robust strategic and implementation framework, the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

### PR to construct rail line connecting Thar Coal mines to Port Qasim

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways (PR) is planning to the construction a 105 kilometre railway line that will intend to link Thar Coal mines with the Port Qasim.

"The department has already awarded the contract which will schedule to complete by October 2025," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

He said that the aim for bolstering the nation's bulk transportation capabilities, aligns with broader economic growth objectives and facilitate coal transportation across the country.

The official said the project is a joint venture which is financed by both the Sindh and federal governments.

The new rail link from Islamkot to Chhor will facilitate in coal transportation across the country, supporting key industries like cement and textiles by providing a more cost-effective fuel alternative, he added.

He said the construction will include a 24.58-kilometer loop-line and an 18-kilometer double line track extending from Bin Qasim railway station to Port Qasim, with additional 4.20 kilometers of loop-lines designed to handle significant freight volumes.

After the completion of the project, he said the rail network is expected to have the capacity to transport 10 million tons of coal annually, shifting the country's power generation reliance from imported to domestic coal sources.

He said the project will see the establishment of seven new railway stations along the route, with two major stations at Thar coal mines and new Chhor station and five intermediate stations to facilitate efficient coal transport.

### ANF seizes 65 kg drugs in four operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting four operations managed to recover 65 kg drugs worth Rs 5.2 million and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday. He said, in an operation, 13.2 kg hashish was recovered from a rickshaw intercepted near Sangiani toll plaza and two accused were arrested. 308 grams hashish was recovered from an accused netted near a major educational institution in Karachi. The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to students of educational institutions.

He informed that in other operations, 9.6 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused arrested near Pirwadhai Bus Stand, Rawalpindi. 42 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted near Babu Petroleum in Faisalabad and two accused were arrested during the operation.

### Chinese PM's visit to boost economic prospects: LCCI

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) has expressed the optimism that the Chinese Prime Minister's visit will boost economic prospects of Pakistan.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad, Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman and Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry said, "The visit signifies a critical opportunity to boost Pakistan's economic prospects by attracting more Chinese investment."

They said that the relationship between Pakistan and China had been marked by strong economic ties but this visit takes it a step further.

They added that the business community expect to see a wave of investment in critical sectors such as energy, technology, infrastructure and manufacturing.

They further said that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had already laid a solid foundation. Such collaborations were vital for the progress of local industries and for improving Pakistan's trade balance with China by enhancing exports, they added.

The LCCI office-bearers highlighted the importance of China's role in fostering the growth of Pakistan's small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). They said that Chinese investment and expertise could provide a much-needed boost to the SMEs, helping them modernize and increase their competitiveness on the global stage.

They also emphasized that Lahore, as an industrial and commercial hub, offered an ideal platform for Chinese companies to explore business opportunities.

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SINGAPORE: Pakistan High Commissioner to Singapore, Ms. Rabia Shafiq in a group photo with the representatives of Pakistan's Tech Companies who participated in Tech Week Singapore 9-10 October.



QUETTA: National Exporter Training Program Country Manager, Afshan Aroosa addresses during the training program, at Quetta press club.

### PCGA for immediate measures to boost cotton production

MULTAN (APP): Chairman Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (CGGA) Dr Jassu Mal expressed concern on lowering cotton production and termed taxation on agriculture inputs, high interest loans and cultivation of other crops in cotton zones as basic reasons behind low production.

He said this while addressing a press conference here on Thursday. Dr Jassu Mal observed that cotton production declined from 14 million bales to 5 million bales. He said that climatic situation in the country resembled the climate of the neighbouring country but the production was on continuously rise therein.

Cotton is backbone of the country's economy. It is major contributor in exports.

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# US calls out Israel at UN for 'catastrophic conditions' in Gaza

**Monitoring Desk**  
UNITED NATIONS: Israel needs to address urgently "catastrophic conditions" among Palestinian civilians in the besieged Gaza Strip and stop "intensifying suffering" by limiting aid deliveries, its ally the United States told the UN Security Council on Wednesday.

Referring to reports of squalid conditions in south and central Gaza, US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield said: "These catastrophic conditions were predicted months ago, and yet, have still not been addressed. That must change, and now." "We call on Israel to take urgent steps to do so," she said in a blunt statement.

The 15-member Security Council met over the humanitarian crisis a year after a deadly attack by Palestinian militants Hamas on southern Israel sparked the war in Gaza. Israel has

since laid to waste much of the enclave and almost the entire population of 2.3 million has been displaced.

Israel says Hamas killed some 1,200 people on Oct. 7, 2023, while health authorities in Gaza say nearly 42,000 people have been killed so far during Israel's retaliation.

Thomas-Greenfield also addressed a recent Israeli order for civilians in Gaza's north to evacuate again, saying they must be able to return to communities to rebuild.

"There must be no demographic or territorial change in the Gaza Strip, including any actions that reduce the territory of Gaza," Thomas-Greenfield said.

Philippe Lazzarini, the head of the UN Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA, told the Security Council: "Hundreds of thousands of people are again being pushed to move

to the south, where living conditions are intolerable.

"Yet again, Gazans are teetering on the edge of a man-made famine," he said.

The UN has long complained of obstacles to getting aid into Gaza and distributing it during the war.

Reuters reported last week that food supplies to Gaza have fallen sharply in recent weeks because Israeli authorities have introduced a new customs rule on some humanitarian aid and are separately scaling down deliveries organized by businesses.

"We need to see fewer barriers to the delivery of aid, not more of them," Thomas-Greenfield said.

Israel's UN Ambassador Danny Danon defended his country's record: "Israel imposes no restrictions on humanitarian aid. In fact, 82% of all requests for humanitarian coordination have been approved and implemented."



Palestinians gather to receive food cooked by a charity kitchen, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, in the northern Gaza Strip.

## Iran-Russia alliance rattles the West

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: The burgeoning alliance between Iran and Russia, which has already seen Tehran assist Moscow in its war against Ukraine, is increasingly troubling the West as tensions reach new highs in the Middle East.

The Islamic Republic and Russia have in the last months put aside centuries of regional rivalry going back to the imperial era to focus on a shared confrontation with the West.

In a new symbol of their relationship, Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian is due to meet Russian leader Vladimir Putin on Friday in Turkmenistan for their first face-to-face meeting and is also due to visit Russia later in the month.

The West accuses Iran of supplying Russia with lethal drones and now bal-

listic missiles, cheap and readily available weapons that are playing a crucial role in supplying the Russian war machine in the invasion of Ukraine.

But with Iran and Israel now risking a descent into a spiral of retaliatory strikes, the alliance could yet grow even tighter as both Tehran and Moscow seek a way out of international isolation.

"The transfer of ballistic missiles points to a deepening defence partnership that extends beyond drones and now includes more advanced weaponry," Nicole Grajewski, a fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, told AFP.

Western countries have accused Iran of delivering Fath-360 ballistic missiles to Russia which are believed to have a range of

## Mumbai declares day of mourning for Indian industrialist Ratan Tata

**Monitoring Desk**  
MUMBAI: Crowds of mourners gathered in India's financial capital Mumbai on Thursday for the funeral of industrialist Ratan Tata, hailed as a "titan" who led one of the country's biggest conglomerates.

Tata, who died aged 86 on Wednesday, transformed the Tata Group into a sprawling international enterprise, with a portfolio ranging from software to sports cars.

His coffin, draped in an Indian flag, was flanked by a guard of honour, with a marching band of trumpets and drums accompanying the procession. Mumbai has declared a day of mourning, with the funeral rites to take place on Thursday afternoon.

## Han Kang of South Korea wins Nobel literature prize 2024

**Monitoring Desk**  
STOCKHOLM: South Korean author Han Kang won the 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature for "her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life", the award-giving body said on Thursday.

The prize is awarded by the Swedish Academy and is worth \$1.1 million.

"She has a unique awareness of the connections between body and soul, the living and the dead, and in her poetic and experimental style has become an innovator in contemporary prose," Anders Olsson, chairman of the Academy's Nobel Committee, said in a statement.



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy shake hands on the day of a bilateral meeting inside 10 Downing Street in London, Britain.

## At least 192 killed in wave of violence between drug gangs in northwest Mexico

**Monitoring Desk**  
CULIACAN: At least 192 people have been killed in a wave of violence that began last month between warring drug gangs in Mexico's northwestern state of Sinaloa, the State Public Security Council, a local civilian-led watchdog, said.

The council, which consists of members of Sinaloa society such as academics, business representatives and nonprofits, said that to date, nearly 200 mur-

ders and 226 disappearances have been reported since the onset of the violence on September 9. Around 200 families have fled the violence, with 180 businesses closing and 2,000 jobs lost amid the armed conflict between the leading factions of the Sinaloa Cartel.

Following the arrest of notorious drug kingpin and Sinaloa Cartel co-founder Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada on July 25, a violent shift in the power dynamics of the cartel founded by Zambada.

## One in eight girls and women raped or sexually assaulted before age 18, UNICEF says

**Monitoring Desk**  
UNITED NATIONS: More than 370 million girls and women alive today, or one in every eight worldwide, experienced rape or sexual assault before the age of 18, the United Nations children's agency said on Wednesday. The number rises to 650 million, or one in five, when taking into account "non-contact" forms of sexual violence, such as online or verbal abuse, UNICEF reported, in what it called the first global survey of the problem.

The report said that while girls and women were most affected, 240 to 310 million boys and men, or

around 1 in 11, have experienced rape or sexual assault during childhood.

"The scale of this human rights violation is overwhelming, and it's been hard to fully grasp because of stigma, challenges in measurement, and limited investment in data collection," UNICEF said in releasing the report. It comes ahead of an inaugural Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children, opens new tab in Colombia next month. UNICEF said its findings highlight the urgent need for intensified global action, including by strengthening laws and helping children recognise.



People inspect a damaged area in the aftermath of what Syrian state media reported was an Israeli strike in the Mezzah suburb, west of Damascus, Syria.

## Taiwan celebrates its National Day holiday against a background of Chinese threats

**Monitoring Desk**  
TAIPEI: Taiwan celebrated its National Day holiday Thursday against the background of threats from China, which claims the self-governing island republic as its own territory.

Thursday's commemorations included military displays, but no heavy military equipment such as those seen in years past.

Addressing the threat from China, President Lai Ching-te took a firm but measured line while offering cooperation on areas from fighting infectious diseases to

maintaining "regional peace and stability."

"We hope that China will live up to the expectations of the international community, that it will apply its influence and work with other countries toward ending Russia's invasion of Ukraine and end conflicts in the Middle East," Lai said.

"And we hope that (China) will take up its international responsibilities and, along with Taiwan, contribute to the peace, security and prosperity of the region and the globe," the president added.

## India's Congress party complains to poll body over Haryana election results

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: India's main opposition Congress party has complained to the election panel about concerns regarding the counting of votes in state elections in Haryana won by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), it said. The partial rejection of the outcome, opens new tab, which gave the BJP 48 state constituencies against 37 for the Congress, was unusual in the world's most populous democracy, where the credibility of elections has rarely been questioned in recent decades.

The Congress, projected by exit polls to win the election in the northern breadbasket state, had said earlier it would not accept the "totally unexpected, completely surprising and counter-intuitive" result. Senior Congress leaders who met the Election Commission of India (ECI) said they told it of complaints from 20 of the state's 90 constituencies, and had been assured their concerns would be looked into. "The Election Commission was handed over written complaints from seven constituencies while the remaining complaints will be submitted in another two days."

## EU must unite entire continent, says Zelensky

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBROVNIK: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Wednesday called on the European Union to "unite the whole continent" as he pushes for more military aid to repel Russian forces. But a key meeting with international allies planned for Saturday was postponed after US President Joe Biden called off a planned European visit to focus on the threat from Hurricane Milton to Florida.

The EU must "unite the whole continent, all of Europe's democratic nations including your countries", Zelensky told the start of the summit in Dubrovnik.

"If Europe is not united today it won't be

peaceful, so that integration processes that have begun must reach their result," he said pleading the case for his country and several Balkan states to be allowed into the bloc.

Heads of state, premiers and foreign ministers from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey joined Zelensky and Croatia's Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic at the talks. Only Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Romania and Slovenia are EU members.

Zelensky said earlier the summit "will discuss international efforts to bring peace closer."

## US warns Israel not to repeat Gaza ruination

**Monitoring Desk**  
JERUSALEM: The United States warned Israel on Wednesday against any Gaza-like military action in Lebanon after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu threatened it with "destruction" like that in the Palestinian territory.

But armed forces chief Herzi Halevi vowed to keep up Israel's intensive bombing of Hezbollah targets, "without allowing them any respite or recovery".

The comments came after a much anticipated phone call between Netanyahu and US President Joe Biden, which had been expected to focus on Israel's response to last week's missile barrage by Iran.

The White House said the 30-minute call was "direct", "honest" and "productive".

"We're going to continue to have those discussions with Israel on how they're going to respond," Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said.

Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, who had been due to discuss Israel's response in US before the last-minute postponement of his visit, pledged: "Our attack on Iran will be deadly, precise and surprising."

Iran fired some 200 missiles at Israel in retaliation for the killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh.

Biden has cautioned Israel against attempting to target Iran's nuclear programme and is also against striking the country's oil installations. Hezbollah said its fighters were locked in clashes with Israeli troops in southern Lebanon, using rocket-propelled weapons to repel Israeli attempts to breach the border.

## Biden, Netanyahu speak, Israel vows lethal retaliation against Iran

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had a call on Wednesday (Oct 9) amid tensions with Iran, while Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant promised an Israeli strike against Iran will be "lethal, precise and surprising".

The 30-minute call was the first known chat for Biden and Netanyahu since August and coincides with a sharp escalation of Israel's conflict with Iran and the Iran-backed Lebanese Hezbollah, but with no sign of an imminent ceasefire to end the conflict with Iran-backed Hamas in Gaza.

The call was "direct and very productive", White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters while acknowledging the two leaders have disagreements and are open about them. The Middle East has been on edge awaiting Israel's response to a missile attack last week that

Tehran carried out in retaliation for Israel's military escalation in Lebanon. The Iranian attack ultimately killed one in Israel. After describing Iran's Oct 1 missile attack as a failure, Gallant said in a video issued by his office after the Biden-Netanyahu call had ended: "Whoever attacks us will be hurt and will pay a price. Our attack will be deadly, precise and above all surprising, they will not understand what happened and how it happened, they will see the results." Netanyahu has promised that arch-foe Iran will pay for its missile attack, while Tehran has said any retaliation would be met with vast destruction, raising fears of a wider war in the oil-producing region which could draw in the United States. The United States has said it supports Israel going after Iran-backed targets like Hezbollah and Hamas but has tried, unsuccessfully, to stem rising conflict, to broker a ceasefire in Gaza.

## Hurricane Milton makes landfall in Florida as state braces for potential catastrophe

**Monitoring Desk**  
FLORIDA: Hurricane Milton made landfall on Florida's west coast on Wednesday, striking a little sooner and further south than forecast, offering the state a glimmer of hope it might be spared the worst of the anticipated catastrophe. The storm made landfall around 8:30pm EDT (12:30am GMT) as a Category 3 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 120 miles per hour (195 kph) near Siesta Key, the US National Hurricane Centre said.

Siesta Key is a barrier island town of some 5,400 off Sarasota about 100 kilometres south of the Tampa Bay metropolitan area, which is home to more than 3 million people.

With the storm coming ashore before high tide, Governor Ron DeSantis said he hoped the west coast of Florida could avoid the worst of the predicted storm surge. Forecasters said seawater could rise as high as four metres. DeSantis also expressed hope that Tampa Bay, once seen as the potential bull's eye, could avoid major damage and allow shipping to resume promptly after the storm passes. Even so, Milton had already spawned at least 19 torna-

does, causing damage in numerous counties, and destroyed around 125 homes, most of them mobile homes, DeSantis said.

The Hurricane Centre labelled it an "extremely dangerous" storm capable of deadly storm surge, ferocious winds and flash flooding across Central Florida. No fatalities had yet been reported, but people were warned venturing outside could be deadly. "At this point, it's too dangerous to evacuate safely, so you have to shelter in place and just hunker down," DeSantis said upon announcing the landfall.

The storm was expected to cross the Florida peninsula overnight and emerge into the Atlantic, still with hurricane force, on Thursday.

Once past Florida, it should weaken over the western Atlantic, possibly dropping below hurricane strength on Thursday night, but will nonetheless pose storm-surge danger on the state's Atlantic coast as well.

Tropical storm-force winds were engulfing most of the state.

At sea, the hurricane created waves close to 8.5m high, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said.



Students line up on the first day of the academic year at Orman school, in Cairo, Egypt.



## At UN, Pakistan demands probe into 'theft and illicit sale' of nuclear materials in India

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has called on the UN Security Council to thoroughly investigate the "recurring" incidents of theft and illicit sale of nuclear and other radioactive materials in neighbouring India.

A recent Indian media report said that police had arrested three smugglers in the western Gopalganj district of Bihar with a rare Californium stone which is highly radioactive and fetches a high price in the international market.

"The Security Council should be deeply concerned at the recurring incidents of theft and illicit sale of nuclear and other radioactive materials in our Eastern neighbour," Ambassador Munir Akram, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told a committee established by the 15-member Council pursuant to its resolution 1540 that requires UN member states to take specific steps to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

"In the latest incident last August 2024, a group was found in illegal possession of a large quantity of highly radioactive and toxic substance Californium, worth US\$ 100 million," he said, adding that three incidents of theft of Californium were reported also in India in 2021.

These incidents, Ambassador Akram suggested the existence of a black market for sensitive materials.

At the same time, the Pakistani envoy said, "While preventing non-state actors from acquiring sensitive materials, rights of States to peaceful use of dual-use technologies must be safeguarded. Export-control regimes should not serve as tools of coercion and discrimination."

Under the terms of resolution 1540, the Security Council demands that all States refrain from providing any form of support to non-state actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer, or use nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes.

The resolution requires all States to adopt and enforce appropriate laws to this effect as well as other effective measures to prevent the proliferation of these weapons and their means of delivery to non-state actors, in particular for terrorist purposes.

In his remarks, Ambassador Akram told the committee that Pakistan, as a responsible nuclear weapons state, had participated actively in the formulation and negotiation of UNSC's Resolution 1540, and implemented its obligations under it.



ISLAMABAD: A Saudi delegation led by Minister for Investment, Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih called on the President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Pakistan, Saudi Arabia reaffirm deepening economic cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on Thursday reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing cooperation in key areas including economy, agriculture, mining and information technology.

In the meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and the visiting Saudi delegation led by Saudi Minister for Investment Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, both sides underlined the need to work together to build a prosperous and peaceful future for the region as well as for the Islamic World, according to a President House press release.

Welcoming the delegation, the president emphasized the longstanding and time-tested relationship between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

He expressed Pakistan's desire to elevate the bilateral ties into a long-term strategic and economic partnership, underscoring that such collaboration would bring the two brotherly nations further closer.

President Zardari reaffirmed Pakistan's deep respect for the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and reiterated Pakistan's unwavering commitment to stand in solidarity with Saudi Arabia.

He also praised the visionary leadership of Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud.

The president also highly commended the remarkable progress Saudi Arabia was making under Vision 2030 and expressed gratitude for the Kingdom's continued support to Pakistan during challenging times. The president said that he was happy to witness the progress and prosperity of Saudi Arabia.

Engr. Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih said that Saudi Arabia recognised the strategic geographical significance of Pakistan and its potential for natural resources and renewable energy.

He also expressed the hope that the signing of the agreements would mark a new era of economic cooperation between the two countries. Both sides emphasized to increase collaboration in the areas of agriculture and information technology.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Petroleum Senator Musadik Masood Malik, Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Minister for Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan, Minister for Interior Senator Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Minister for Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain and Senator Saleem Mandviwalla. Saudi Ambassador in Islamabad Nawaf Saeed Al Malki was also present in the meeting.

## 3.4 trillion Sales Tax evasion uncovered

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said here Thursday that there was about Rs 3.4 trillion Sales Tax evasion out of a total Rs 7 trillion tax theft in different sectors of the economy.

The minister was addressing a press conference along with the Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Rashid Mahmood Langrial, to discuss a study conducted by FBR on sales tax evasion. The study found that only 14% out of 300,000 manufacturers liable to register have done so, and many registered entities misreport turnover, claim excess input tax, and use fake invoices.

Sales Tax in Pakistan is collected through VAT mode, relying on businesses to collect tax from buyers. However, this trust has been breached on a massive scale, the minister said and shared findings from five sectors including Iron and Steel, Cement, Beverages, Batteries, and Textiles.

He said, malpractices were widespread, with most entities claiming excess input tax. In iron and steel sector, 33 large businesses, representing over 50% of total sales, evaded sales tax by claiming Rs 29 billion in excess input tax, mainly through scrap metal and coal purchases.

Likewise, in battery sector, six active cases, representing 99% of total sales, claimed Rs 11 billion in excess input tax, primarily through lead purchases while in cement sector, 19 active cases claimed Rs 18 billion in excess input tax in FY23-24, mainly through coal purchases. In addition, beverages sector with 16 active cases, representing 99% of aered water sales, claimed Rs 15 billion in excess input tax, mainly through sugar, plastics.



QUETTA: Chairman PAC and MPA Asghar Ali Tareen meeting with Provincial Minister for Finance Mir Shoaib Noshervani.

## Timely completion of uplift projects top priority: Lal Jan

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Secretary Communications and Works (C&W) Lal Jan Jafar on Thursday said that the timely completion of all ongoing development projects in the province and transparency of them are the first priority. He expressed these views while chairing a meeting related to the ongoing development projects of the building sector included in the convergence of B Areas into A Areas schemes. The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer Roads Quetta, Faiz Mohsin, Chief Engineer Building Khuzdar, Sibi, Quetta AIG Development Ahmed Sultan and other concerned officials. Giving a detailed briefing to the meeting on the ongoing schemes in the province, the concerned official said that the total number of schemes is 358 in which 230 schemes have been handed over to the concerned department after completion and the rest of the projects are in progress.

Addressing the meeting, Secretary C&W Lal Jan Jafar gave clear instructions that quality and transparency should be the first priority for all ongoing development projects in the province. He said that effective and strong infrastructure is the guarantee of development of Balochistan. He said that the committee should submit its report to the Secretary's office within two weeks to clear any obstacles regarding the remaining schemes and solve them and complete the projects.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Dr. Rubaba Buledi addressing on ceremony to mark World Mental Health Day organized by Balochistan Psychologist Association.

## Birth registration would ensure legal status to rights of children, says Secretary LG&RD

Independent Report QUETTA: The Secretary Local Government and Rural Development, Abdul Rauf Baloch has stated that protection of rights of children as well as their well being and their safe childhood is their basic right, and their rights would have legal status with their birth registration.

He said that the provincial government is ensuring provision of birth registration in Basic Health Units (BHUs) at the lower level and in the educational institutions.

He said that the government considers registration of birth of the children and acquisition of the legal documents its responsibility. In this regard, the strategy is being prepared for entry of the complete digital data with cooperation of NADRA.

He said that it is impossible to acquire national identity cards and other legal documents without birth registration. He said that birth registration is the basic and legal identity and right of every child, so parents must register their children well in time, adding he stressed.

The Secretary Local Government was presiding over important meeting about increasing registration of births of children here on Thursday.

The Secretary Board Local Government and Rural Development, Shujaat Ali, Admin Officer, Abbas Agha and other concerned high ups were in attendance.

## CEO says: Govt committed to provide health aids to people without financial burden

QUETTA (APP): Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Health Card (HC) Balochistan Dr Samiullah Kakar on Thursday said that the government is committed to providing comprehensive health facilities without putting any financial burden on the patients.

He said this while talking on the occasion of his visit to Khalifa Bin Zayed Hospital Saryab Road and Children Hospital Quetta.

Dr Samiullah Kakar also held separate meetings with Chief Executive Officer Sheikh Zayed Bin Hospital Quetta, Dr Zulfiqar, CEO of Children's Hospital Quetta, Prof Dr Habibullah Babar, and inspected the health card counters established in the hospital and asked the patients and their families about their health and get information about the card.

Dr Samiullah Kakar said that Health Card is running successfully in both hospitals since the program.

## Dr. Rubina appointed as acting VC of SBKWU

Independent Report QUETTA: The senior educationist Professor Dr. Rubina Mushtaq has been appointed as the acting Vice Chancellor of Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University (SBKWU) with immediate effect.

This was announced in an official notification issued here on Thursday.

According to the notification, the Governor Balochistan, who also happens to be the Chancellor of University, has made the appointment with prior approval of the provincial cabinet.

## Finance Department releases grant of Rs. 1.458 billion for 11 public sector universities of Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Finance Department, Government of Balochistan has released the funds amounting to Rs. 1.458 billion on account of the grant-in-aid for further distribution among 11 public sector universities of the province and the sub-campus of Balochistan University.

According to the official notification issued here by Finance Department, the grant-in-aid released as second quarter out of remaining withheld budget of Rs. 4.375 million on account of the grant-in-aid would be distributed among the public sector universities of the province as per the new formula. As per the notification, the University of Balochistan Quetta would get Rs. 322.46 million while its sub-campus located in Kharan would get Rs. 10 million.

Similarly, the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) Quetta would get Rs. 273.58 billion, Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University (SBKWU) Quetta would get Rs. 143.36 million.

The Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Sciences (LUAWMS) Lasbela would get Rs. 156.85 million while Bolan University of Health care and Medical Sciences Quetta would get Rs. 86.84 million, University of Loralai would get Rs. 59.11 million, Mir Chakar Khan Rind University Sibi would get Rs. 61.53 million. Balochistan University of Engineering and Technology, Khuzdar would get Rs. 132.05 million while University of Turbat and University of Makran at Panjgur would get Rs. 95.71 million and Rs. 47.39 million respectively.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, along with Chairman FBR, Mr. Rashid Mahmood Langrial, addresses a press conference to brief about the study conducted by FBR regarding sales tax evasion across different sectors of the economy.

## Old manual arms licenses to be computerized: Second phase of computerized arms license begins in Quetta, says Deputy Commissioner

Saad bin Asad maintains manual arms licenses to be computerized in two months; DG NADRA says Authority to extend full cooperation in computerization of arms licenses

Independent Report QUETTA: The Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Saad bin Asad has announced that the second phase of computerized arms licenses has been started in Quetta. In second phase, the old manual arms licenses would be computerized in two months, therefore, all the same arms license holders should get them computerized.

Addressing a joint press conference along with the Director General NADRA, Muhammad Kashif Iqbal at his office on Thursday, the Deputy Commissioner said that the old manual arms licenses are being computerized from today. He said that the system would not be ended, however, all the arms license holders should get their licenses computerized, adding he stressed.

He said that the fraudulent practice would be ended with issuance of the computerized arms licenses.

He said that we are creating awareness among general public about computerized arms licenses. In this regard, the Computerized Arms License Act has also been made, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, DG NADRA, Muhammad Kashif Iqbal said that NADRA is extending full cooperation to the administration regarding computerized arms licenses.

He said that the NADRA would also provide guidance to the people at every forum. Afterwards, an Application would also be introduced in this regard, the DG NADRA maintained.



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Saad Bin Asad and Muhammad Kashif Iqbal, DG NADRA addressing a press conference, at DC Office in Quetta.

## Crackdown starts against illegal rickshaws plying on roads of Quetta city: Commissioner

Independent Report QUETTA: The crackdown has been started against the illegal and unauthorized auto rickshaws plying on roads of Quetta city.

According to the Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafaqat, around 40,000 rickshaws are plying in Quetta city. However, licenses have been issued to only 8,000 out of these rickshaws.

This means that remaining 32,000 rickshaws are not having licenses and thus illegal.

He said that in view of the situation, the action has been started against the unlicensed rickshaws in Quetta.

The Commission also mentioned that Green Buses are the best transport facility for the commuters, however, there is a need to increase number of

## Health Minister directs to provide medical facilities to sick girl

QUETTA (APP): Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar took immediate notice on the special directive of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti to virally on social media 4-year-old Rehana Bibi who is suffering from congenital intestinal malignancy. According to press release issued here, Rihana Bibi has already had one operation and now another is required but the girl's father could not afford to pay for it. On the appeal of the girl's father, Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar issued a directive that complete treatment of Rehana Bibi would be done at the government's expense.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani presides over the meeting regarding three dams.

## CM, Dy Speaker BA grieved over death of Elahi Bakhsh Soomro

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Deputy Speaker Provincial Assembly, Ms. Ghazala Gola have expressed deep grief and sorrow over death of the senior politician and former Speaker National Assembly, Elahi Bakhsh Soomro.

In their separate condolence statements issued here on Thursday, the Chief Minister and Deputy Speaker Provincial Assembly paid rich tributes to Elahi Bakhsh Soomro on his political services in the country.

The Chief Minister said that he is grieved over demise of former Speaker National Assembly.

He said that we share grief and sorrow of death of late Soomro with his bereaved family.

Similarly, Deputy Speaker of provincial assembly also paid tributes to the late senior parliamentarian.

She said that services of late Elahi Bakhsh Soomro would always be remembered. They also prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into Its eternal peace and give enough strength and patience to the bereaved family to bear the tragic loss of his death.

## Dr Rubaba expresses grief over death of Soomro

Independent Report QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister for Women Development, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, expressed deep sorrow and grief over the passing of senior parliamentarian and former Speaker of the National Assembly, Elahi Bakhsh Soomro.

In her condolence message, she paid tribute to the late Soomro's national services, stating that his demise is a great loss to Pakistan's parliamentary history.

Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi further extended heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family during this time of grief and prayed that Allah grants the deceased forgiveness and a high place in Jannat-ul-Firdous.

## Foolproof security to be provided to teams: 5-day anti-polio campaign to begin from October 28 in Quetta district

Independent Report QUETTA: Five-day anti-polio campaign is scheduled to begin from October 28 in Quetta district. Over 424,000 children below five years of age would be administered anti-polio vaccine in the campaign.

Foolproof security arrangements would be made for the immunization campaign for around 1600 police personnels would perform the security duties.

These details were shared during a meeting chaired by the Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Lt. (Retd) Saad bin Asad about the upcoming anti-polio campaign in Quetta on Thursday. The District Health Officer Quetta, Dr Farhan, Dr Safdar, Assistant Commissioners as well as the concerned officials and representatives of the WHO and Unicef participated in the meeting.

The religious leaders especially participated in the meeting. The meeting was briefed about performance of the teams in previous polio immunisation campaign and coverage.

Addressing the meeting, Deputy Commissioner said that foolproof security arrangements would be made in the areas where there are the issues of security.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Planning & Development Zahoor Ahmed Buledi meeting with Provincial Minister for Health Bakht Muhammad Kakar.