

# Independent

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Amid PTI-SIC boycott

## Parliamentary committee approves Yahya Afridi's nomination as CJP with two-thirds majority

**Monitoring Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: The special parliamentary committee responsible for appointing Pakistan's next Chief Justice has approved the nomination of Justice Yahya Afridi with a two-thirds majority, forwarding his name to the prime minister for final approval.

The decision came after a meeting lasting over an hour and a half, attended by the committee members on Tuesday.

The Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, had also hosted a dinner for the members of the committee.

The parliamentary committee was formed to select the country's top judicial position, but its proceedings were initially marred by the absence of



key members.

The committee initially postponed its meeting, which was set to discuss the three senior-most judges nominated for the position: Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, and Justice Yahya Afridi. These judges represent the most senior ranks of Pakistan's Supreme Court, and one of them is expected to succeed the current Chief Justice, Qazi Faez Isa.

Despite the absence of PTI and Sunni Ittehad Council members, the committee pressed ahead with the judicial appointment process. The Secretary of Law and Justice presented the profiles and qualifications of the nominated judges, which included their legal careers, educational backgrounds, and timelines of their judicial appointments.

After reviewing the profiles, the committee approved Justice Yahya Afridi's nomination with a two-thirds majority and forwarded his name to the Prime Minister for final approval. Justice Afridi's appointment is expected to proceed to the President for formalisation once approved by the Prime Minister.

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### Profile of Justice Yahya Afridi

ISLAMABAD: Justice Yahya Afridi will become the 30th CJP. He was elevated to the apex court in June 2018. He took oath as the youngest chief justice of the Peshawar High Court (PHC) in December 2016.

Born on January 23, 1965, and hailing from Kohat Frontier Region, he also has the distinction of becoming the first chief justice of the high court from the erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata).

Justice Afridi was elevated to the high court as additional judge on Mar 15, 2010, and subsequently he was confirmed as permanent judge of the high court on Mar 15, 2012. He was enrolled as an advocate of the high court in 1991 and that of the Supreme Court in 2004. Before his elevation to the bench, he was a prominent lawyer running a famous law firm, Afridi, Shah & Minallah, which was established in 1997.

Among the two other associates of the firm were Justice Shah and Justice Athar Minallah.

Justice Afridi had done his LLB from Law College, Punjab University, in 1988, and did his LLM from Jesus College, Cambridge University, UK, in 1990.

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ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the newly constituted Special Parliamentary Committee held to deliberate on the name of the next chief justice of Pakistan in Parliament House

## Balochistan cabinet takes key decisions, approves forest laws Bugti reaffirms govt commitment to resolve challenges, improve living standard of masses

Chief Minister directed all the cabinet members to play a significant role in resolving the issues by visiting their respective constituencies; Cabinet also approves first digital media policy and RTI appointments

ISLAMABAD (APP): Balochistan government on Tuesday has taken key decisions in the cabinet meeting, including approval of the formation of forest laws, approval of digital and social media policy, the Balochistan Integrated Water Resources Policy.

The Balochistan Cabinet in its meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti approved the first-ever digital and social media policy in the province. Under the policy, a comprehensive framework related to social media will be formulated and the positive



The cabinet members reiterated their determinations that under the leadership of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, the government is striving hard to improve the governance model to extend relief to the masses and resolve the challenges.

Addressing the cabinet meeting, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that the provincial government is determined to improve the governance system and address the issues by following the set priorities.

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QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over meeting of Provincial Cabinet

## Implementation of reserved seats verdict not binding, CJP Isa says in detailed note

"I consider it my duty to point out constitutional violations and illegalities in majority's short order," says CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa on Tuesday issued his dissenting note on the reserved seats case.

In his 14-page note, the CJP said, "I agreed with the short order dated 12 July 2024 authored by Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail and agree with his detailed reasons thereof which have been issued today.

However, I consider it my duty to point out the constitutional violations and illegalities in the majority's short order of 12 July 2024, and the majority's detailed judgment of 23 September 2024, the order/clarification of 14 September 2024 and the Clarification of 18 October 2024, respectively."

The chief justice said, "I do hope and expect that my distinguished colleagues in the majority will reflect and correct their mistakes and ensure that Pakistan is governed in accordance with the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan ('the Constitution'). Unfortunately, the review petitions against the majority short order could not be heard because my Hon'ble colleagues (Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Munib Akhtar) outvoted me on the Committee constituted under the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023; attached is my separate note to the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2024."

He stated, "The majority set up its own virtual court, permitted the making of 'an appropriate application' by the ECP and PTI, and directed that such appropriate application would only be heard by them whilst cloistered in Chambers. In doing this the majority of the Hon'ble Judges effectively legislated, because neither the Constitution nor any law permits what they did."



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Iran Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam called on Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters.

## Pakistan's delegation briefs IMF officials about array of reforms to improve economy

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistani delegation comprising Secretary Finance Imdad Ullah Bosal and Governor State Bank of Pakistan Jameel Ahmed met with the Deputy Managing Director of the IMF Kenji Okamura in Washington DC.

The Pakistan delegation highlighted measures to expand fiscal space by broadening the tax base, aligning the provincial Agriculture Income Tax regime with the federal income tax regime, rationalizing subsidies, rightsizing the government, and reducing energy sector costs.

Discussions also covered stimulating private sector development, building climate resilience through Resilience and Sustainability financing and pursuing prudent monetary and external sector policies.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's delegation held a meeting with Director Middle East and Central Asia Department at the IMF in Washington today.

The delegation thanked the IMF for its continued support to Pakistan especially for the recently approved seven billion dollars Extended Fund Facility.

## Dissident senator Qasim Roonjho resigns from Senate seat

ISLAMABAD (Online): Dissident senator of Balochistan National Party (Mengal) Qasim Roonjho has resigned from membership of Senate.

He filed his resignation with secretary Senate.

Qasim Roonjho is parliamentary leader of BNP (Mengal) in Senate.

Sardar Akhtar Mengal, chief of BNP (Mengal) had sought resignation from both of the senators.

Senator Nasima Ahsan and Senator Qasim Roonjho had crossed the floor in favor of constitutional amendment.

## Sardar Raza M. Barrech passes away

QUETTA: Prominent tribal and social leader, former Member of Provincial Assembly, and Advisor to the Government of Balochistan, Sardar Raza Muhammad Khan Barrech, passed away yesterday in Karachi due to natural causes.

The late Sardar Raza Muhammad Khan was the father of Nasir Ahmed Khan Barrech and Idrees Khan Barrech.

Meanwhile Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti expressed deep sorrow and grief over the demise of former Provincial Minister of Education, Sardar Raza Muhammad Barrech.

In his message of condolence, the Chief Minister praised the late Sardar Raza Muhammad Barrech as a sincere and noble individual who always promoted tolerance, humility, and goodwill.

## GoB implements minimum wage of Rs 37000 monthly for employees

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan government has issued notification of officially implementing the new minimum wage setting at Rs 37000 per month.

According to the notification issued by Labour and Manpower department, the minimum wage for employees including small-grade workers labourers in industrial and commercial sector of the province will be entitled Rs 37,000 monthly.

## 26th constitutional amendment a milestone for country's stability, public welfare: PM

Shahbaz Sharif seeks report on surge in polio cases; calls for emergency strategy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that the 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill passed by the parliament with a two-thirds majority would prove to be a milestone for the country's political and economic stability and public welfare.

The prime minister, addressing the meeting of the federal cabinet he chaired, said the new legislation would surely bring ease for the common man who had to suffer owing to inordinate delays in seeking justice.

Besides, he said the 26th constitutional amendment, passed following an in-depth consultation among the ruling coalition and opposition parties, was also an accomplishment of the vision of the Charter of Democracy signed by Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and Mian Nawaz Sharif in 2006.

He said the tireless efforts led to the successful legislation which also manifested a true spirit of consultation.



QUETTA: Vice Chancellor Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University Prof. Dr. Rubina Mushtaq meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

## Mohsin Naqvi participates in International Expo 2024 in Istanbul

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday inaugurated the much-anticipated International Expo 2024 alongside delegates from various countries, marking a significant milestone in international cooperation and collaboration.

Upon his arrival at the expo venue, the minister received a warm welcome from senior Turkish officials, underscoring the importance of this event in fostering diplomatic ties.

During the event, Naqvi had a notable meeting with General Metin Gurak, Chief of the Turkish General Staff. The minister congratulated General Gurak on the successful organization of the expo, expressing his best wishes for its success.

In response, General Gurak thanked Minister Naqvi for Pakistan's participation, highlighting the importance of representation from friendly nations.

As part of his visit, Mohsin Naqvi toured the expo, exploring various stalls and exhibits. He paid special attention to the stall set up by Pakistan Ordnance Factories, where he engaged with the organizers and praised the advanced Pakistani equipment on display.

One Muhammad Anas has filed constitutional petition against 26th constitutional amendment

through his counsel Adnan Khan making federation, chairman Senate, speaker National Assembly and others respondents.

The petitioner has taken the plea legislation is mandate of parliament. Parliament can make amendment in the constitution by two thirds majority.

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## PTI is united, no Forward Block in party, says Gohar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Barrister Gohar Ali has denied the reports about jailed PTI Founder's rebuke to the party's leadership.

"The PTI has been united and there is no forward block in its ranks," Chairman PTI talking to media here said.

He said the NA Speaker had asked the names from the party for the Special Parliamentary Committee, constituted to appoint the next Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP). "We have given names to avoid being expelled out of the process," PTI leader said.

"In the night, the political committee decided not to join the committee," he said. "We have same instructions as given by the party's Founder," he further said.

"We are eligible for three members' representation in the committee in view of the Supreme Court's order with regard to the special seats," Barrister Gohar said. "We don't differentiate among judges, the senior most judge should be made the chief justice," PTI leader said.

## Tarar brushes aside Opposition leader's allegations, exhorts PTI to wash dirty linen within party

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday brushed aside the Opposition Leader's allegations of forced polling during the 26th Constitutional Amendment and exhorted him to manage Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) members and agreement was met on the Constitutional Amendment.

He said that the decision of party voting on the Amendment Bill was to be made by the Parliamentary Leader in his or her parliamentary party's meeting which was not participated by the Opposition Leader's party members.

"These were four people who were identified by the media sitting in the press gallery which could be verified through photographic evidence. They were independent members and cast their votes as per their will and were not bound to the directions of the Parliamentary Leader," Minister Attaullah Tarar said.

The minister claimed

"The Constitutional Amendment Bill was delayed on the request of Maulana Fazal Ur Rehman who demanded to hold it after the SCO summit. It was a consensus-based document with the input of all political parties," he

Continued on page 2



ISTANBUL: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi along with other delegates inaugurating SAHA Expo in Istanbul Türkiye.

## PPP chief pays tributes to Begum Nusrat Bhutto

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has paid glowing tribute to Madar-e-Jamhooriat Begum Nusrat Bhutto, acknowledging her exceptional contributions and unparalleled sacrifices in the struggle for democracy, justice and equality in the country.

In a statement on the occasion of her 13th death anniversary, he expressed profound reverence for Begum Nusrat Bhutto's unwavering dedication to the democratic cause.

"Begum Bhutto is a symbol of selfless sacrifice, having given everything in the pursuit of democracy. Her courage and determination in the face of relentless challenges are a testament to her extraordinary legacy," he said.

Bilawal Bhutto highlighted that Madar-e-

## Pak Ambassador to Turkey reaffirms support for Kashmiris

ANKARA (INP): Pakistan's Ambassador to Turkey, Dr. Yusuf Junaid, has reaffirmed that unwavering political, diplomatic, and moral support for the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir will persist until the Kashmir dispute is resolved in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Speaking at the Institute of Strategic Thinking (SDE) in Ankara, Dr. Junaid passionately addressed the Kashmir dispute, emphasizing that India has deployed its forces in IIOJK against the will of the Kashmiri people. He highlighted the necessity of resolving the Kashmir dispute in alignment with UN Security Council resolutions to ensure both regional and global peace.



QUETTA: Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai and Provincial Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

## DC Sohbatpur conducts surprise visit to district headquarters hospital

SOHBATPUR: Deputy Commissioner Sohbatpur, Farida Train, made an unannounced visit to the District Headquarters Hospital, where she found doctors absent from their duties. The Medical Superintendent was seen attending to patients himself, highlighting the shortage of medical staff.

During her visit, Train reviewed the attendance register of doctors and paramedical staff and inspected various departments of the hospital. The Medical Superintendent informed her that the shortage of doctors and paramedical staff was causing difficulties for the public. The new building's transfer process has also not been completed, and the hospital faces HR shortages.

Train vowed to address these issues through temporary appointments and strict action against absent doctors. She emphasized that doctors and paramedical staff must utilize their skills to provide the best medical facilities to the people. The administration will monitor the situation to ensure that the public receives all government-provided medical facilities.

## Terrorists kill three laborers in Central Kurram

PESHAWAR (APP): Terrorists on Tuesday killed three laborers in Khoidakhel area of Central Kurram, police informed.

As per details, laborers working at a coal mine, owned by Mulla Nabi, were attacked by the terrorists, resulting in the deaths of three laborers. The heartless terrorists killed the laborers by slitting their throats.

Four of the laborers succeeded in fleeing the area upon seeing the terrorists and remained unhurt, police said, adding that the victims belonged to Darra Adam Khel, Kohat.

Area police have initiated an investigation into the incident.

## PM lauds Pakistan Navy for foiling smuggling of Indian narcotics pills, drugs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday lauded the officers and personnel of the Pakistan Navy for foiling an attempt to smuggle a huge quantity of Indian-made narcotics pills and drugs.

The prime minister, in a statement, said that the Pakistan Navy was not only safeguarding the maritime boundaries of Pakistan but also playing an effective role in curbing illegal activities in the region.

The whole nation, including me, feels proud of the Pakistan Navy's officers and personnel deployed to safeguard the country's maritime boundaries.

## Pakistan Embassy College Beijing holds annual Students Council Investiture ceremony

BEIJING (APP): The Pakistan Embassy College Beijing (PECB) held its annual Student Council Investiture Ceremony for the Academic Session 2024-25 here on Tuesday. Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Khalil Hashmi graced the event as the Chief Guest.

In his keynote address, Ambassador Khalil Hashmi congratulated the newly elected members of the Student Council, encouraging them to embrace values such as integrity, responsibility, empathy, and community service qualities he emphasized as critical for effective leadership.

He further urged the students to utilize this opportunity to contribute to their school community and beyond with dedication.

Ambassador Hashmi also highlighted the significant role of the Pakistan Embassy College in strengthening Pakistan-China relations, noting that since its establishment, PECB has consistently promoted academic excellence and cultural exchange.

He pointed out that the college not only serves as an academic institution but also as a soft ambassador for Pakistan, promoting the country's culture and values to the broader Chinese community.

Expressing his satisfaction with the students' accomplishments, Ambassador Hashmi reaffirmed the embassy's commitment to supporting educational initiatives that foster growth, development, and leadership among the youth.

The ceremony commenced with a welcome address by Principal of PECB, Ms. Shazia Amjad, who reaffirmed the institution's commitment to nurturing young leaders capable of making a positive impact on society.



QUETTA: Former Senator Rehamtullah Kakar and Haji Muhammad Usman meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

## Parliamentary committee ....

*Continued from page 1*

Earlier, representatives from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the Sunni Ittehad Council confirmed their decision to boycott the committee, citing dissatisfaction with the process. This move delayed the selection of the next Chief Justice.

The decision not to participate was conveyed by PTI's Barrister Gohar Ali Khan following a meeting with parliamentary representatives in the speaker's chamber.

"We have made our decision. We will not be part of this committee's meetings," Khan confirmed after discussions. The committee, led by

## Tarar brushes...

*Continued from page 1*

that he had met all four members of the National Assembly Benches who had confirmed that they had attended the meeting on their own will and voted as per their conviction.

Tara alleged that the PTI was facing internal conflicts, whereas its members in the Lower House of Parliament had participated in the Constitutional Amendment process on their will.

"The PTI had bargained on the amendment bill and got their demands approved. The Opposition Leader should handle his party conflicts within their house as his party has disintegrated into four groups that are fighting among each other on the floor of the House. He should have accountability within his party," he said.

Earlier, Opposition Leader, Omar Ayub Khan at his point of order apprised the Speaker that allegedly unknown individuals had entered the premises of the National Assembly in the uniform of Sergeant at Arms which should be probed by the committee formed by the Speaker comprising sergeants and the Assembly staff.

The Opposition Leader said that he would provide photos of the alleged sergeants and also share them on the social networking site X. Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq rejected the accusations of the Opposition Leader saying, "The press gallery was jam-packed on the day of the Constitutional Amendment passage. Nothing can evade the eyes of media even if erect walls before them they can precisely unearth hidden things," he said.

## Bugti reaffirms govt....

*Continued from page 1*

Sarfaraz Bugti reaffirmed the government's commitment to resolve the challenges and improve the living standard of the masses.

Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has directed all the cabinet members to play a significant role in resolving the issues by visiting their respective constituencies.

In the meeting, the cabinet members paid tribute to late minister for local government, Sardar Sarfraz Chakar Domki for his services. The cabinet members expressed deep sorrow and grief over the sad demise of member of Balochistan Assembly Patrick Saint Mashey over and appreciated his parliamentary and social services.

The cabinet approved the Balochistan Integrated Water Resources Policy for better use of available water resources. The policy would also help in ensuring systematic and effective use of available water resources in Balochistan.

The Balochistan Cabinet has also approved the Balochistan Organic Agriculture Policy 2024 in line with the Global Development Goals (SDGs) priorities for healthy agricultural production.

Balochistan Chief Minister in the meeting emphasized on the need to raise awareness among the people about this policy.

The provincial cabinet also approved the amendments of the Provincial Motor Vehicle Ordinance 1965.

The cabinet has given approval to release the required funds for the provincial partnership to continue the Prime Minister's Program for the Eradication of Hepatitis C in the province. With this collaborative

## Nawaz Sharif, Maryam depart for London in Nov

ISLAMABAD (INP): PML-N President Nawaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz will leave for the UK in the first week of November.

It reported in media both Nawaz and Maryam will board a flight from Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport and make a stopover in Dubai en route to London.

However, Nawaz Sharif, after staying in London for two days, will then head to the USA on Tuesday and will return after spending four days there.

Earlier, Senator Irfan Siddiqui, known as a close confidant of the PML-N chief, remarked that Nawaz undergoes medical check-ups periodically. He added that if Nawaz does indeed travel to London, it would be a routine visit though he, too, claimed no knowledge of any specific travel plans.

## 3-day free eye camp organized in Ziarat

QUETTA (APP): A three-day free eye camp was organized at District Headquarters Hospital Ziarat in collaboration with Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) and Al Shifa Eye Hospital Sukkur.

The camp was inaugurated by Assistant Commissioner Ziarat Abdul Razaq Tareen, Director OGDCL Ikrumullah Kasi and Dr. Irfanuddin.

Focal Person Al Shifa Hospital Abdul Jabbar Memon gave medicines along with glasses to the patients with free of cost.

Free operations, medicines and spectacles were provided in the camp. Al-Shifa's expert doctors operated on some patients after checking a large number of patients in the camp.

The public circles of Ziarat thanked OGDCL and Al Shifa Trust for organizing the three-day free camp at Ziarat.

They also expressed hope that this effort of OGDCL and Al-Shifa would have positive effects in terms of health.

## 26th constitutional amendment

*Continued from page 1*

Pakistan Rangers, Pakistan Army and intelligence agencies.

Also appreciating the Capital Development Authority for beautifully adorning the federal capital on the occasion, he said the prime ministers of China and Russia had specifically lauded the beauty of Islamabad.

He also mentioned the "successful" bilateral visit of Chinese Premier Li Qiang - after a hiatus of 11 years - which led to the further strengthening of the bilateral relationship.

The prime minister highlighted the improving national economy with inflation down to 6.9% and the declining policy rate.

Coming to the unabated Israel's barbarism in Gaza and Lebanon, he said the resolution of the UN Security Council and the rulings by the International Court of Justice had been thrown into the "dustbin of history."

Reiterating his appeal for donations to the PM Relief Fund on Gaza and Lebanon, he said the government was working on a comprehensive plan to send relief supplies to Gaza and Lebanon as a committee was working under Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday sought a report on the growing number of polio cases in the country and directed the authorities concerned to immediately formulate a comprehensive strategy on the matter.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting of the federal cabinet, expressed his concern over the surge in polio cases and called a meeting to discuss the situation.

Discussing the 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill recently passed by the parliament, the prime minister said the legislation was inevitable for judicial reforms and improvement of judicial system.

Expressing his gratitude to the political parties and

## Leadership for their support...

leadership for their support, he said the amendment was also the accomplishment of the vision of Charter of Democracy, signed in 2006.

The prime minister also thanked for the successful holding of the 23rd meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government and appreciated the performance of the departments involved.

Discussing the agenda items, the federal cabinet referred the Domestic Violence (Preventing and Protection) Bill 2024 to Cabinet Committee on Legislative Cases. The bill will provide for an institutional framework to curb domestic violence.

The cabinet was informed that the proposed legislation will help punish the perpetrators of domestic violence and ensure relief to the victims.

On the recommendation of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, the cabinet approved the appointment of Lt. General (retd) Moazzam Ijaz, Engineer Fahim Iqbal and Asim Shahyari in National Vocational and Technical Training Commission Board as private members.

The body approved the law ministry as a transmitting and receiving agency of applications under the Claims for Maintenance (Recovery Abroad) 1959.

It was told that Pakistan had ratified the Convention on the Recovery Abroad 1956 in 1959 and an ordinance in this regard was also promulgated the same year.

The federal cabinet also approved the appointment of Dr Shafia Arshad as Chairperson of National Council for Tibb and Dr Rizwan Asif, Muhammad Khurshid Alam, Ikrumullah, Moinuddin and Dr Attullah as its members.

On the recommendation of the Ministry of National Health, the cabinet also approved the restructuring of the Pharmacy Council of Pakistan.

## Public health program...

public health program, the ongoing efforts to eradicate Hepatitis C in Balochistan will be organized and made effective.

The Balochistan Cabinet has formed a special committee under the chairmanship of the provincial health minister to establish modern institutions of pediatrics and cardiology in Quetta and putting the Balochistan Institute of Children's Health and Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Institute of Cardiology Quetta on modern lines.

The committee will formulate comprehensive recommendations and suggestions for the establishment of modern medical institutions under public-private partnership basis on the pattern of Sindh government.

The Balochistan Cabinet has also approved the Balochistan Alternate Dispute Resolution Amendment Bill 2024 in the light of the guidelines of the Balochistan High Court for the resolution of local level disputes. The Balochistan Cabinet has also decided to make functional the Right to Information Commission and approved necessary appointments and amendments to the Act.

With the activation of this commission, citizens will have access to information under the Right to Information Act.

The Provincial Cabinet has also approved the Balochistan Probation and Parole Service Draft Bill 2024. The cabinet also approved the Hub Master Plan and directed to review the final estimate and submit a comprehensive report in this regard.

BEIJING: Ambassador of Pakistan to China Khalil Hashmi attended as the Chief Guest Annual Student Council Investiture Ceremony for the Academic Session 2024-25 hosted by Pakistan Embassy College in Beijing.



## TENDER NOTICE

Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. 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 (ROAD) CW,PP&H DEPARTMENT DISTRICT JAFFARABAD invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates Tender Fee Rs. 1000/- and Bid Security 2% for each work

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF B/T ROAD FROM VILLAGE ALI SHER LEHRI TO VILLAGE ALI BAKHSH SIALTO ABDUL REHMAN SIAL VIA NASEEBULLAH QALANDRANI TO VILLAGE ALI GUL AND PAKHAR KHAN QALANDRANI. PSDP No. 1825(Z2024.0166) DISTRICT JAFFARABAD. TSE-242510576953	75,296,000
2	CONSTRUCTION OF B/T ROAD MAIN USTA MUHAMMAD ROAD TO HAJI ZAHOOOR BADENI BAGAN BANGULZAI BHAKHAR NECHARI SHAH DOST MARRI DISTRICT JAFFARABAD PSDP No. 1747(Z2024.0160) TSE-242510576973	63,429,600
3	CONSTRUCTION OF B/T ROAD FROM JUDAIR SHAKH TO GHULAM RASOOL UMRANI VIA VILLAGE ABDUL MAJEED BADENI & ABDUL GHAFUOR UMRANI DISTRICT JAFFARABAD PSDP No. 1572(Z2024.0158) TSE-242510576993	124,800,000
4	CONSTRUCTION OF B/T ROAD VILLAGE GHULAMALI UMRANI DEH BALAN ROPA SHAKH DISTRICT JAFFARABAD PSDP NO.2621(Z2023.1362) TSE-242510577013	76,356,800

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required Other conditions will be remained same 2% CDR of Estimated cost Green Challan of Rs 1000 Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of amount 40,000 PKR specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 500 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 07 November, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The tenders must be submitted latest by 07 November, 2024 till 11:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM Address: Spinny Road Phone no: 3138314026 Email: waleed.jamshaid@gmail.com

Director DIRECTORATE OF ARCHAEOLOGY & MUSEUMS QUETTA PRQ No.1569/22-10-2024

Executive Engineer Building CW, PP&H Department District, Kech PRQ No.1564/21-10-2024

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (ROAD) CW,PP&H DEPARTMENT DISTRICT JAFFARABAD PRQ No.1580/22-10-2024

## Rural women playing vital role in agriculture, economic growth: Romina

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Tuesday said that in any society where sustainable development is paramount, the pivotal role of rural women in agriculture and community development cannot be overlooked. Addressing as chief guest at the 17th Annual Rural Women Leadership Training Conference at the Lok Virsa open-air auditorium organized by civil society organisations here, she said that rural women are not only the backbone of agricultural production but also vital contributors to economic growth, food security, and social cohesion. Accounting for a significant portion of the agricultural workforce in the country, rural women provide a major labour force for key agricultural activities including planting, harvesting and managing livestock, ensuring that families and communities have access to

adequate food and health, she added. "Their traditional knowledge and innovative practices enhance productivity and contribute to sustainable farming methods. By empowering women with resources, training, and access to markets, we can increase agricultural output and improve food security for millions", the PM's coordinator remarked. She further said that beyond farming, rural women are crucial for economic diversification. Many engage in small-scale enterprises, from food processing to handicrafts, creating jobs and boosting local economies. Their entrepreneurial spirit can drive innovation and resilience in rural areas, laying the groundwork for sustainable economic growth. Rural women are now seen more at the forefront of community development activities. Because, they take on leadership roles in local organizations, advo-

cate for their rights, and mobilize resources for various initiatives. Their involvement fosters social cohesion and empowers communities to address challenges collaboratively. Highlighting women's immense role in climate resilience building and environmental sustainability in the country, Romina Alam said as stewards of the land, rural women are crucial for promoting environmental sustainability and boosting as well as sustaining climate resilience activities in different socio-economic areas, particularly agriculture, water management and low-carbon energy development. She also highlighted that various study findings on women's role in sustainable community and rural development and natural resource management in Asia-Pacific region have concluded that their practices often reflect a deep understanding of local ecosystems.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam addressing as chief guest at the 17th Annual Rural Women Leadership Training Conference at Lok Virsa in Federal Capital.

## 26th Constitutional Amendment brings great relief to people of Pakistan: Tahir Ashrafi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Pakistan Ulama Council, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Ashrafi, stressed on Tuesday that the inclusion of the interest-free economy clause in the 26th Constitutional Amendment is a major relief for the people of Pakistan. Addressing a news conference, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Ashrafi said that swift justice for the common man and the elimination of interest-based systems were significant achievements of the

amendment. Tahir Ashrafi highlighted that the successful organization of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit has boosted Pakistan's global image. "Security was a major challenge for the SCO Summit, and the Pakistan Army, along with other institutions, made full efforts to ensure safety," Ashrafi said. The Pakistan Ulama Council lauds the steps taken in the 26th Amendment regarding the elimination of interest and reforms

related to religious schools (madrasas). Tahir Ashrafi further stated that moving away from an interest-based system is a substantial victory, and any political party supporting this initiative is welcomed. Ashrafi pointed out that ordinary citizens often face challenges in seeking justice from lower courts. Tahir Ashrafi also noted the recent visit of the Chinese Premier to Pakistan, marking the first such visit in 11 years, which he described as highly successful.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan in a meeting with representatives of National Press Club in federal Capital.

## Rana reiterates the importance of Youth in nation-building

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP), Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Tuesday reiterated the importance of youth in nation-building and assured the National Press Club (NPC) representatives that the government, through the Youth Programme, remains committed to supporting the young people of Pakistan in every possible way. In a meeting aimed at discussing the role of youth in national development, Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan met with the esteemed representatives of the NPC here at the Prime Minister's office. The meeting focused

on the pivotal role that the youth plays in shaping the future of Pakistan. During the meeting, the NPC representatives praised Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan for his tireless efforts in the realm of youth empowerment and development. They commended his leadership and the positive changes he had brought to the Pakistani Youth, especially in the province of Punjab. The representatives acknowledged that Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan was widely regarded as one of the best choices for championing youth causes, noting his deep commitment to providing oppor-

tunities for young Pakistanis and creating a pathway for their success. The NPC also highlighted his strategic initiatives aimed at fostering skill development, educational opportunities, and overall growth for the nation's youth. The meeting concluded with both sides agreeing on the need for continued collaboration and dialogue to ensure that the voices and aspirations of youth are fully represented in national policies and development plans. Secretary NPC Ms Nayyer Ali, Members Executive Council, NPC Ahmed Mansoor, Aamir Butt and others were present.

## Lack of quorum leads to adjournment of Senate session till Friday morning

ISLAMABAD (APP): Lack of quorum on Tuesday led to adjournment of Senate session till October 25 (Friday) 10:30 morning. Soon after resumption of proceeding, the quorum was pointed out. Senator Irfan ul Haque Siddiqui who was presiding over the session said that only six senators were present in the House. He ordered to ring the bells for two minutes. However, the house was not in order and he adjourned the session to meet again on Friday at 10:30 am. Earlier, presiding the

session Irfan ul Haque Siddiqui suspended the proceedings of Senate session for 20 minutes due to absence of ministers. Soon after the recitation of verses from the holy Quran, the chair noted that no minister was present in the House to respond to the questions during the Question Hour. The chair sought the sense of the house and adjourned the proceedings for 20 minutes. Saleem Mandviwalla said that the proceedings should be suspended till the presence of the ministers.

## Three dies, two injured as bus catches fire on motorway

ISLAMABAD (APP): As many as three people died and two were injured in a tragic accident near the M-1 Toll plaza on the Motorway here Tuesday. According to Motorway Police North Zone spokesman, Muhammad Saqib, after being informed that a bus was burnt on the motorway, a heavy contingent of Motorway police reached the spot and was busy shifting the passengers to the hospitals. According to preliminary information, he said that three people had died and two were injured as the bus caught fire due to a cylinder burst.

## KP Governor, Hungarian Ambassador agreed to focus on bilateral coop.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Tuesday held meeting with Bela Fazekas, the Hungarian Ambassador to Pakistan, to discuss matters of mutual interest and the enhancement of bilateral cooperation. The meeting emphasized investment opportunities in the province's natural resources. Governor Kundi informed the ambassador about the significance of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's natural resources, highlighting numerous investment prospects that could benefit both countries. He stressed the importance of further strengthening trade and economic relations to foster mutual economic development. Additionally, Kundi urged the need to expand higher education opportu-

nities for Pakistani students in Hungarian universities, advocating for enhanced collaboration and exchange of experiences in the education sector. He also extended an invitation to the faculty and students of Hungarian universities to visit Peshawar, aiming to solidify educational and cultural ties between the two nations. The Governor underscored the critical importance of the bilateral relationship between Pakistan and Hungary, urging both countries to enhance cooperation across various sectors to create opportunities for mutual development and prosperity. The Hungarian ambassador acknowledged the initiatives for youth development, women empowerment, and educational advancement in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, assuring full support for these efforts.



ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi called on Ambassador of Hungary in Pakistan H.E. Bela Fazekas.

## Chairman CDA reviews progress on F-8 Interchange project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, on Tuesday visited the F-8 Interchange project to inspect the ongoing development work. During his visit, he also chaired an on-site meeting with key officials, including Member Engineering, Member Admin, Member Planning and Design, and senior officers from relevant departments, along with the project contractor. During the briefing, Chairman Randhawa was informed that the drilling

and concrete work for the project's test piling had been successfully completed, and preparations for load testing were finalized. Officials assured him that construction would be accelerated following the load test. Chairman Randhawa instructed that the construction work should proceed around the clock, emphasizing strict adherence to safety measures and the implementation of best engineering practices. He also highlighted the importance of transplanting large trees that fall within the project area to minimize environmental impact.

## ECP directs petitioners to share intra-party election documents with PTI

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday instructed other petitioners to share copies of their applications concerning Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) intra-party elections with PTI and adjourned the hearing of the case until November 14. A four-member bench headed by Member Sindh Nisar Durrani conducted the hearing of PTI intra-party. Chairman PTI Barrister Gohar Ali Khan,

Akbar S Babar and Naveed Anjum appeared before the commission. Commission's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa member asked Akbar S. Babar whether he had conducted intra-party elections. Babar responded, "We did not hold any intra-party elections." Barrister Gohar stated that the High Court had restrained the Election Commission from issuing a final order in intra-party election case.

## IG Islamabad holds online Open Court to grievances public grievances

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, held an online khuli kachehri in his office from 12:00 p.m. to 01:00 p.m. on Tuesday. A public relation officer told APP, citizens were provided with a telephone number during the E-Khuli Kachehri. He said IG Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi personally listened to the issues raised by citizens, and the AIG Investigations/ Complaints was also present on the occasion. During the kachehri, IGP listened to telephone calls from citizens and assigned relevant senior police officers to promptly resolve their issues, he said. Citizens raised concerns regarding personal matters, delays in FIR registration, incomplete investigations, car and motorcycle thefts, and other issues, he added. IG Rizvi emphasized that delays in case investigations would not be tolerated, and all police officers were instructed to conduct

thorough investigations. Moreover, IG mentioned that professional beggars would be eradicated, and legal action would be taken against them. He said measures would also be implemented to combat dacoits and robberies, and effective patrolling would be increased. The protection of citizens' lives and property is paramount, the IG Rizvi said, and Islamabad Police will take firm action against criminals. Rizvi stressed that maximum arrests of proclaimed offenders, criminals, and court absconders would be made. IG Rizvi expressed his determination to ensure the peace and tranquility of the federal capital would not be compromised by anyone. He said efforts would be made to eliminate the land mafia, drug dealers, and extortionists from the city. IG also emphasized that drug abuse would not be allowed to proliferate, and under no circumstances would criminals be permitted to jeopardize the future of the younger generation.

## Wanted member of thief gang held; valuables recovered

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police arrested a wanted member of the thief gang involved in numerous theft activities and recovered stolen mobile phones from their possession. A public relation officer told APP under the special directives of the Inspector General of Police (IG) police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the search and combing operations are being conducted in different areas of the city, to ensure the safety and security of the Islamabad citizens. In this regard the Shams Colony police team used technical and human resources and succeeded in apprehending a wanted member of the thief gang. He said the accused was identified as Akbar Shah. He added police team also recovered stolen mobile phones from their possession. He said cases were registered against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway. DIG Ali Raza, also directed all senior officers for an effective crackdown against the accused involved in criminal activities.

## IG Islamabad files detailed report PTI founder focal person Intezar Panjutha

ISLAMABAD (Online): IG Islamabad has filed detailed report in Islamabad High Court (IHC) on the petition regarding recovery of Intezar Panjutha, focal person of PTI founder. Reports from ISI and MI were also filed wherein the matter related to recovery has been declared negative instead of positive. IHC has summoned Attorney General (AG) today. On the other hand federal government and police have sought time from the court for recovery of focal person of PTI founder.

The court has given indication to give some decision after AG report. The petition regarding recovery of Intezar Panjutha came up for hearing before Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamer Farooq Tuesday. IHC while summoning AG today directed Ali Bokhari to arrange contact of barrister Saif with Islamabad police team. IG Islamabad filed detailed report in IHC. The CJ IHC inquired what is in report of interior ministry and defence ministry.

## ATC approves bail after arrest in respect of PTI leader Swati

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad has approved bail after arrest of PTI leader Azam Swati in the case registered against him under terrorism clauses. The court granted bail to Azam Swati against surety bonds in the sum of Rs 20000 Tuesday. Judge Abul Hasnat Muhammad Zulqarnain of ATC heard the case and approved the bail of Muhammad Azam Swati in the case registered against him in police station Sangjani under terror clauses.

## Conference on role of tech in education assessment starts today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Inter Boards Coordination Commission (IBCC) is set to host its 2nd Annual Conference on October 23-24, 2024, at Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad. With the theme "Building a Brighter Future: The Role of Technology in Assessment," the conference will focus on how technology can transform educational assessment systems in Pakistan and internationally. According to IBCC, the two-day conference will bring together educationists, policymakers, and technology experts to discuss key issues related to the integration of digital tools in assessment processes. The event aims to promote innovative solutions that can enhance transparency, efficiency, and fairness in educational assessments. The opening ceremony will be officiated by Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddique, Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, as the Chief Guest. Day 1 of the conference will feature panel discussions on the role of technology in examination systems, exploring challenges and solutions for adopting digital assessment methods.

## Brother kills sister in the name of honor

ISLAMABAD (Online): A girl has been murdered in the name of honor in federal capital Islamabad. Brother of girl murdered her sister in the name of honor in the area of Golra police. Brother cut the throat of girl with knife. According to police brother of victim had suspicion of moral conduct of his sister. The victim girl was absent from home since the last one year. Brother killed her on her return to home. The case has been registered on the report of uncle of girl. The family members and residents of mohallah handed over the accused to police.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in a meeting with Pakistan Ambassador to Germany Ms. Saqlain Syedah in Federal Capital.

## Supt Adiala jail put on notice PTI founder petition for his medical check up by personal physician

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued notice to superintendent Adiala jail for today (Wednesday) on the petition of PTI founder in connection with his medical check up by his personal physicians and sought reply from him. The petition seeking medical check up of Imran Khan by his personal physician came up for hearing in IHC Tuesday. Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb heard the petition. Khalid Yousuf Chaudhry counsel for PTI founder appeared in the court. IHC summoned competent officer from Advocate General Office. Interval was made for some time.

Sate counsel appeared during it and he told the court doctor conducts check up of Imran Khan thrice in a day. PIMS medical board went there on October 15 and it also checked PTI founder. The court inquired what is wrong in it if Dr Faisal conducts medical check up of PTI founder. Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb remarked I am issuing notice for tomorrow. I will give decision on petition. The court issued notice to superintendent Adiala jail on the petition regarding medical check up of PTI founder by his personal physician and sought reply from him. Further hearing will take place today (Wednesday).



ISLAMABAD: Group photo with Begum Mumtaz Mughal, PML-N leader Tahseen Fawad and other participants on the occasion of anti-smoking seminar organized by Aurat Foundation.

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## The next chief justice

The first test of the 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment is already here. With Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa retiring by the end of the week — and, according to the law minister, seemingly unwilling to accept any extension in his tenure — all eyes will be on the newly constituted Special Parliamentary Committee, which must nominate the next chief justice from among the three senior-most judges of the Supreme Court under the newly enacted amendments.

This committee, which has been engineered such that it gives the government much more control over who the chief justice shall be, must give a name by today (Oct 22) — ie, within three days prior to the retirement of the chief justice. Given the circumstances in which the amendment has been enacted, it has long been speculated that its main purpose was to block the senior puisne judge, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, from office and/or dilute his authority.

Given the restlessness brewing in the legal fraternity, it is in the government's best interests that such reservations be immediately put to rest. The ruling coalition, which will control the nomination process, must demonstrate that its intent was never to interfere in Justice Shah's elevation and, in recognition of him being not only the senior-most judge of the apex court but also one of its most respected jurists, nominate him as its first choice.

Here, it may be recalled that PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari had last month told various TV channels that "Justice Mansoor will become the next chief justice, I have no doubt about it", and also noted that, "Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa and Justice Mansoor Ali Shah are both respectable figures. Both were part of the bench for Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's case, and they should not be made controversial". He must now stand by his word.

It would be unfortunate if the government chooses to target Justice Shah merely for the position he took in the reserved seats case, and attempts to 'punish' him by denying him of his much-deserved elevation. It seems pertinent to point out that there has been an ongoing media and social media campaign against the judges who ruled in majority against the ECP's decisions in the reserved seats issue, and some government leaders gave more air to this controversy in their speeches to parliament when the 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment was being tabled.

The independence of the judiciary is enshrined as one of the core tenets of the Constitution, and any move by the government to punish judges for holding independent views will not sit well in these fraught times. Now that it has arrogated more powers over the judiciary to itself, the government must act judiciously and with restraint. It should not stir more trouble for itself.

Arifa Noor

I have always wanted to begin a piece with these clichéd lines and on Sunday night, I got the chance. 'As these lines were being written' is a phrase that is considered the domain of reporters providing a blow-by-blow account of a rapidly developing story, and not of lazy op-ed writers. But write enough op-eds and some useless desires are fulfilled.

So here it is: as these lines were being written, parliament got together to pass the 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment in a bid to control the judiciary. The government and its allies camouflaged it in flowery language about the Charter of Democracy (COD) and sovereignty, but make no mistake, it was a bid to control at the behest of those who cannot be named.

While legal brains will dissect it fully, here is my half-baked understanding of the new legislation railroaded through parliament in a matter of hours! Our parliamentarians' idea of debate is about as sophisticated as the talk shows we journalists conduct on television.

So among much else, the new law seems to have handed the power to choose a chief justice to parliament and the executive. At the same time, it allows for a new judicial commission, which will choose the judges of the Supreme Court as well as form constitutional benches. In other words, parliament, along with the judges, will be in charge of choosing the judges who will hear 'constitutional' cases. Who will decide what is a constitutional case and should be sent to this constitutional bench, is beyond my little brain — hopefully lawyers can explain better.

But there are two issues. One, this judicial commission will now be dealing with matters which are ideally the domain of the judiciary — who hears a case and why. To some extent, until recently, the government also believed this. Why else would the government have passed the Practice and Procedure Act, which ensured that the chief justice did not exercise these powers alone and did so after consultation with the other judges?

As we witnessed, the

three judges who were given these powers were able to proceed well only till the chief justice was part of the majority; once he lost this majority, the committee's functioning was as effective as the working of this government.

So concerned was the government with the loss of speed brought upon by 'democratic' means, it immediately gave the powers back to the chief justice.

Second, this commission comprises five judges, the attorney general, the law minister, four parliamentarians (two from the treasury benches) and a member of a minority or a technocrat selected by the National Assembly Speaker. What this means on the surface of it is that while both the judiciary and judges will make this decision jointly, in reality, the government has an edge — it will automatically enjoy the support of five of the 13 members.

But the real edge will be enjoyed by those who hold parliament hostage. Chances are this judicial commission will also end up endorsing decisions made elsewhere rather than

simply doing the government's bidding. After all, the government and opposition have, in recent years, ended up with NAB chairmen who were 'managed' by others despite the COD. That four parliamentarians, the attorney general and law minister among others will prove more assertive than the people who control entire parties is a pipe dream. This is not to say the judges will prove much better because chief justices too have danced, and are seen to continue to do so, to tunes originating elsewhere.

The government and its allies are celebrating but one can only hope they are happy with the decisions they made on Sunday night when they end up as victims in front of judges and benches chosen via this new amendment.

Postscript: For the past many days, visuals of Raza Rabbani holding back his tears as he voted for the military courts in 2015 have been playing in my head. I had been left perplexed, unsure of what to make of the incident — a senator who obviously felt he was forced to vote

against his conscience but didn't feel strongly enough about it to resign. He simply did what he was told and shed a few tears, a vulnerability which women are always struggling not to show publicly.

A decade later, the memory brings a sense of gratitude. For at present, an elected member of parliament who cared strongly about the fundamental rights of the people and expressed remorse is an extinct creature. Around a month ago, had it not been for the JUI-F's reluctance, the parliamentarians would have quietly passed a constitutional amendment allowing military courts and diluting fundamental rights. Without shedding a tear.

They would have sold the people of Pakistan down the river and not lost a night's sleep.

This may sound harsh but what else can one expect from those who have spent the past few days pretending they did not know of opposition colleagues being threatened or picked up? From Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari to others, not a single lawmaker acknowledged what hap-

pened or expressed any condemnation even as a BNP senator was dragged into parliament.

It was an odd feeling witnessing these snippets on television — and my gratitude to journalists who asked these difficult questions and compelled some of the elected people to answer. If nothing else, we will have these hear-no-evil, see-no-evil remarks available for posterity.

Right wing, or left, Urdu medium or angrezi types who never stop boasting of their liberal, human rights credentials, not a single one spoke a word of condemnation. But then, this lack of public remorse is hardly new; it was also on display during many events in the recent past, from the imprisonment of women in Lahore to the treatment of Baloch protesters, to the shooting of PTM activists.

A seat in parliament is apparently worth a lot more than the rights of the people of Pakistan. So a decade later, I would like to offer my gratitude to Raza Rabbani — at least he cared enough to show remorse publicly. Thank you. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Haryana polls and Trudeau

Jawed Naqvi

In more ways than one, the Modi-Trudeau tiff has its origins in a centuries-old peasant struggle being waged in India, from the Mughal times till today. In essential ways, Justin Trudeau and Narendra Modi are cut from the same cloth.

Benjamin Netanyahu, for example, would struggle to see the difference. But destiny and historical vagaries have placed them on opposite ends of a flaming confrontation. A stand-off between a descendant of settler colonialism and a faux nationalist with core interests in a crumbling imperialist edifice does not, however, present durable mutual hostilities, as we shall see.

For centuries, the main Indian struggle has centred around the tussle between the peasant and the baniya, north Indian word for trader or money-lender. Analysts like Munshi Premchand and Bimal Roy explored the theme through literature and cinema.

Recent polls in Haryana, abutting Delhi, offered a glimpse into the little discussed equation.

The polls gave the BJP — which began its journey as a party of traders — its third consecutive victory in the predominantly agrarian state. In the recently dismembered state of Jammu and Kashmir, the BJP outperformed the Congress and the National Conference of the late Sheikh Abdullah in Jammu but desisted from joining the race in the Kashmir Valley.

The Congress aspired under Nehru to represent the peasantry, and its first election symbol was a pair of bullocks, underscoring the quest. But his Brahmin-Dalit-Muslim voting calculus unwittingly excluded the middle rung peasants comprising the OBCs, who were snapped up by Nehru's populist adversaries like Lohia. Lalu Yadav belongs to that lot. Sheikh Abdullah took the emblem of a plough. The emblem defines the Kashmir party's far-reaching land reforms that gave the tiller the ownership of the land. The enviable depth of Kashmir's land reforms has not been matched in other states, making it a headache, not least for the BJP.

Harness the Haryana and Kashmir results to the friction between the perpetually exploited Indian peasantry, not known to take it lying down for too long, and the moneyed traders. The barons historically had the patronage of the state, be it Mughal, or British, or post-independence India. A ready example of the template was the speed with which Emperor Aurangzeb, the alleged Muslim zealot, rushed his troops to defend Hindu traders of Surat against the repeated plunder of Gujarat's port city by the Maratha forces of Shivaji. The Marathas, meanwhile, were also assisted in the raids by Afghan mercenaries who had an axe to grind with the Mughals since the rout of Ibrahim Lodhi by Babar in 1526.

Another challenge to today's clichéd communal binary lung insidiously during elections, can be seen in the Hindu Rajput chieftains' role in the Mughal administration to rein in, often unsuccessfully, the challenges from Sikhs, Marathas, Jats and Satnami communities of peasants. Says historian Irfan Habib: "The Marathas undoubtedly constituted the greatest single force responsible for the downfall of the Mughal Empire."

The agrarian defiance had begun in Akbar's reign, when faujdars and jagirdars quelled it. However, under Aurangzeb's reign, the peasants were more united in their struggles. Habib notes that it was their position in this unequal contest and their contacts with peasantry that led many zamindars to adopt a conciliatory attitude towards the peasants, whose support would have been indispensable to them for defence as well as in flight. The united front posed a serious challenge to the invincible Mughal cavalry.

By Aurangzeb's reign, the struggle shifted from defensive to an aggressive stance. "There is no province or district where the infidels have not raised a tumult and since they are not chastised, they have established themselves everywhere," the ageing emperor complained.

Modi's description of the ongoing agrarian agitation led by Sikh farmers bears close resemblance to Aurangzeb's approach towards rebel dissidents. Modi's pro-business government has described the Sikhs leading the struggle as terrorists, and like Aurangzeb, it was speak-

ing on behalf of the moneybags. In India's first-post-the-post election, the OBCs comprising over 50 per cent of the population would easily outwit the upper caste state.

The threat needed to be checkmated (for now) with humongous money power, and the state's coercive resources that engineer splits and spread falsehoods among the gullible masses. Something of the kind took place in Haryana, with money, state power and communal whisper campaigns to falsify the reality. Else the peasant movement is more grounded than the Chartist Movement in England that speciously boasted of aiming to overthrow "king, queen and parliament".

Cut to Canada. On May 23, 1914, a steamship, that would become famous as the Komagata Maru — sailed into Burrard Inlet in Vancouver. On board were 376 passengers of Sikh, Muslim and Hindu origin. They had clearly seen the arriving British repression in Punjab that would eventually lead to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of civilians in 1919. The diaspora offered a unique example of militant

peasants making a strategic move overseas to join the anti-colonial Ghadar Party, a movement of peasants from Punjab based on the west coast of North America. Komagata Maru's passengers were not allowed to disembark, and the incident is deplored in liberal quarters in Canada today as essentially racist.

In 2016, a year after becoming prime minister, Trudeau apologised for the incident. The migrants on the ship were, of course, not mere victims of a colonial state's oppression. Several worked with the Ghadar Party, founded by Punjabi migrant labourers six years before the draconian Rowlatt Act would humiliate their homeland. With the British entry into World War I against Germany in 1914, the Ghadar Party mobilised the global Punjabi diaspora to return to their homeland to rise up against the British.

Cut to Rahul Gandhi who perhaps knows the route to a peaceful resolution of the centuries-old struggle. He sees in his exhortation to the OBCs to coalesce a way to defeat their exploiters. Modi's advisers have other ideas on dealing with the challenge.

## Monetising hate

Nighat Dad | Adnan Chaudhri

The unverified news of a young female student being sexually assaulted at a private college in Lahore has shocked the country. The news, that was made viral via social media and messaging apps, triggered protests, with demonstrations held by college students quickly turning violent across Punjab, and leading to the death of a security guard. The government responded with its usual high-handedness: the law enforcers used excessive physical force and disproportionate legal measures, such as the registration of FIRs, arrest of young students and the imposition of Section 144.

Media outlets have focused on the actions of the state and the administration at the educational institution at the centre of the alleged incident, and to some extent on the content creators ostensibly behind the spread of disinformation. While we must keep an eye on such actors, what is troubling is that the role of social media platforms in amplifying disinformation — in this case, through apparent inaction — has not been probed adequately.

The rapid speed at which social media content is shared shows that disinformation researchers, fact-checkers and media outlets are often unable to debunk "the evolving dynamics of disinformation" in time. Significant public damage has already been done by the time a more accurate picture emerges. Regarding the alleged rape case in Lahore, news outlets and fact-checkers scrambled to provide context, even as the government and other institutions claimed that the attack never happened — a claim that was met with heavy scepticism.

The discourse on current events, locally or internationally, is frequently shaped by accounts on YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, X, Facebook, etc, whose content is shared more than that of the BBC or CNN. Rather than being nuanced and level-headed, however, social media personalities or outlets "routinely promote sensationalist, extreme or false content, rapidly spreading it to vast audiences", according to the UK-based Institute for Strategic Dialogue.

The protests in response to the alleged rape in Lahore bring to mind how the UK, too, fell victim to disinformation this summer. The 2024 riots in the UK were instructive: not only did social media fan the flames of public anger, but a Lahore-based web presence, 'Channel3Now', was found responsible for promoting dangerous disinformation — false news that it was monetising on social media.

In Pakistan, to what extent did platforms contribute to the spread of the rumour of a rape in Lahore and the ensuing offline violence? What role did the recommendation algorithms of social media platforms play? And to what extent was the rumour spread by accounts who stood to benefit financially from platform ad revenue-sharing programmes? One can note that in Europe, in order to hold Big Tech accountable, active steps are being taken or proposed. The European Union's Digital Services Act (DSA), 2022, for example, holds social media companies themselves responsible for disinformation, with fines payable of up to six per cent of a platform's global revenue.

In the event of harmful yet legal content shared online, platforms may find themselves being blocked by the government if they are unable to remove harmful, or false material. In the Global South, platforms have been slower to respond or have not responded at all compared to how quickly they might have acted had they been facing the authorities in the US, UK, or EU. Recent events have made this disparity in accountability even more evident, particularly when it comes to addressing the monetisation of disinformation on social media in countries like Pakistan and the larger Global South.

It's time that so-called media platforms paid the same attention to countries in the Global South in the matter of regulating the monetisation of content and ensuring that the issue of harmful content is tackled effectively and that repeat offenders are removed from social media platforms permanently. Such a proactive approach could prevent governments from imposing more stringent and potentially problematic laws or banning platforms altogether.

CSOs from the Global Majority have a role to play by closely monitoring the enforcement of the DSA in Europe. By understanding how platforms comply with the DSA, these CSOs can use those insights to push for similar measures in their own regions, targeting the harm caused by disinformation and damaging content. This effort includes exposing and addressing the monetisation of hate by content creators who present themselves as journalists, using this label to spread hate and disinformation while profiting from content they misleadingly classify as 'news' or 'journalistic content'. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Economy's black hole

Dr Nadia Tahir

When debt is accrued, out of a desire for a stable exchange rate, it forms a 'black hole' in the economy. Foreign debt may solve the problem of balance-of-payments and result in a stable exchange rate in the short run, but it can also trigger the 'debt stealer trap', which sucks resources without building productive capacity.

Debt is not a bad instrument especially when modern economies are governed by the rules of trust and credit. An economy can accumulate debt but the rate of increase in debt stock should not exceed the capacity to repay. For sustainable debt, the primary balance must be in surplus and growth in real income should be higher than the increase in debt stock.

Our current imports stand at \$53.2 billion, while exports totalled nearly \$31.1bn in 2023-24. We need \$22.1bn merely to balance our trade. Our imports comprised less elastic consumer goods or essential inputs such as crude oil, edible oil, medicines, paper and steel. In a case such as this, controlling imports shrinks the economy and reduces consumer welfare.

Let us consider the latest data released by the Ministry of Finance on Sept 30, 2024. Our imports were recorded at \$9.53bn, while exports totalled approximately \$4.86bn for July-August 2025. Remittances stood at \$5.94bn, helping the country to have a current account surplus after many years. Dependence on remittances without fuelling domestic productive capacity and skills is again not sustainable. We can have a stable exchange rate in the long run only by increasing exports and remittances simulta-

neously.

Fortunately, at the moment Pakistan has a stable exchange rate and a declining inflation and interest rate, while the current account is in surplus after a long period of volatile financial indicators. It is a rare combination in our economic history. It reminds us of the halcyon days of 2005-06, but even at that time there was a current account deficit issue. In those days, we undertook some liberalisation reforms and drastically reduced tariff rates. For many, it was just like opening the floodgates of the economy, which doubled our imports.

Recently, the DG Debt (Finance Division), explained the necessity of managing the exchange rate risk to the National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance. The committee was informed that Pakistan needs \$18.8bn excluding a debt rollover. It was also said that Pakistan has to repay a cumulative amount of \$100bn over the next four years.

Currently, Pakistan's external debt and liabilities are at a modest level. Pakistan's external debt stock was at 43 per cent in June 2023. It declined to 34pc in June 2024. According to the first quarterly report of the Economic Affairs Division "64pc of the total external public debt is concessional with extended maturities".

Broadly speaking, Pakistan requires an additional \$25bn from exports (7pc ann-u--al growth rate in real GDP) to repay our external debt obligations. To meet the challenge, we need to earn an additional \$2.08bn every month or borrow the same amount.

Securing debt from donors and development partners is also becoming difficult. They ask for

certain actions to be taken before issuing new debt. For the \$7bn IMF programme, the \$2bn financing gap condition was met by borrowing at commercial rates. This type of commercial borrowing will considerably reduce the average time of maturity of our debt, which is six months for domestic debt and almost 2.5 years for external debt. Without debt restructuring, a stabilised exchange rate will not work for long.

There is another dimension — declining interest rates and inflation can potentially trigger recession, particularly when business-ess anticipate lower long-term interest rates, leading to decreased investment and growth. Furthermore, our banking sector growth heavily depends on lending to the government by investing in T-bills. Reducing interest rates may hamper the growth of our banks and saving rates in the near future.

It is observed that exchange rate stability will reduce the imports bill and external debt burden. Without increasing exports earnings, the exchange rate stability will continue to depend heavily on foreign debt, loan rollovers and commercial domestic debt instruments. The more we desire a stable nominal exchange rate the more we have to borrow. This is simple arithmetic. We have managed the immediate default and exchange rate risks.

However, stability that is reliant on debt financing is always transitory and increases speculation and uncertainty about the future. In nutshell, the economy means growth for businesses and opportunities, which we have to earn instead of resorting to borrow. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Passage of 26<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment to augur well for institutions, Governor Punjab

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the passage of the 26<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment by the assembly bodes well for the institutions of the country as it will ensure supremacy of the Parliament. Constitutional amendment will provide quick justice to people. He said this today while addressing a press conference at Governor House Lahore.

Zardari, Prime Minister, Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif, Chairman PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Maulana Fazlur Rehman played a positive role. He paid tributes to all the stakeholders, especially Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari stating that he stayed awake for four consecutive nights to make it successful. He said that the 26<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment is an unprecedented manifestation of national unity and consensus, if future decisions are made in the same way, the country will come out of crises. He said that the constitutional defects have been removed with this

constitutional amendment. Governor Punjab said that the judiciary should not interfere in the affairs of the executive. He said that the procedure for appointing judges in the nineteenth amendment was not correct, which has now been rectified. Regarding the appointment of judges, the democratic powers were sabotaged in 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, and unfortunately, the decisions of judges were made in big chambers, later these judges gave decisions according to their personal liking and disliking, which created a great disorder in the society.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meets with Iranian Consul General Mr. Hassan Nourian at CM House.

## KP CM inaugurates BRT Pabbi Route

PESHAWAR (APP): KP Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur inaugurated the new Pabbi Route of the Peshawar Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system here on Tuesday at Chamkani BRT Station. A large number of the senior officials, including the Secretary of Transport, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) TransPeshawar and the Managing Director of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Urban Mobility Authority (KPUMA) were also present on the occasion. The newly launched Pabbi route connects Pabbi Bazaar to Sardar Garhi BRT Station, spanning a total of 16 kilometers. The route includes 13 stops: Pabbi Terminal, Pabbi Bazaar, Kajhoro Stop, Pabbi Railway Station, Girls Degree College, WAPDA Town, Taru Jabba, Tarnab Farm, Kala Mandi, Jhagra, Shahad Market, Chamkani, and

Sardar Garhi. According to the TransPeshawar spokesperson, the route will operate from 6:30 AM to 7:00 PM, with buses running every 20 minutes providing travel facility to an estimated 4,000 passengers daily. The one-way travel time for the route is approximately 33 minutes. The spokesperson further stated that with the inauguration of the Pabbi route, the total number of BRT routes has increased to 18, expanding the network's reach and providing enhanced convenience to passengers. Since its launch on August 13, 2020, BRT Peshawar has transformed public transport in the city. Currently, 244 buses operate across 17 routes, serving around 300,000 passengers daily. To date, BRT Peshawar has carried over 280 million passengers.

## PHC orders KP Govt to submit court verdict's implementation in VCs appointment case

PESHAWAR (APP): The Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Tuesday ordered the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to submit a compliance report about its implementation of its verdict in appointment of Vice Chancellors in several public sector universities in the province. A two members bench consisting of Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Mohammad Ijaz Khan directed the respondents to submit compliance report about the implementation of the court's judgment in the appointment case of Vice Chancellors in several universities of KP. The court ruled that contempt of court proceedings would be initiated against the respondents in case of non implementation of the PHC's judgment. Five senior academicians have filed petition in Peshawar High Court seeking initiation of

contempt of court proceedings against the KP Chief Secretary and three other respondents accusing them of not implementing the court's judgment in a case related to appointment of the Vice Chancellors in several public sector universities of KP. The bench sought a report from respondents by November 20 next month and adjourned the case. The petition was filed by Professor Dr Aurangzeb Khan at the University of Science and Technology, Bannu, and four other academicians, pleading before the court to take action against the respondents including the Chief Secretary KP, Secretaries of Higher Education, Law and Establishment Departments for non compliance of the court orders. The petitioners had earlier filed a plea before the court for declaring the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Industry and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain inaugurates One-Window Operation and observed the Queue Management System during his visit to Punjab Board of Technical Education.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan addressing a Press Conference at Governor House.

## CM chairs 18<sup>th</sup> cabinet meeting, takes measures for environmental protection

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the provincial cabinet to discuss and decide on important agenda items including historical measures for environmental improvement. The Cabinet approved amendments in the Provincial Motor Vehicle Ordinance 1965 to increase fine for vehicles that emit smoke. It was briefed that a vehicle operating without a Vehicle Fitness Certificate will be fined and impounded after a one-time notice. The Cabinet also approved a historic initiative to eliminate environmental pollution, and to introduce

single-use plastic culture in Punjab. It also gave approval to set up District Plastic Management Committees to address enforcement issues. DCs and DPOs will be chairpersons of District Plastic Management Committees while traders and other relevant authorities will be their members. The District Plastic Management Committees will have the power to impose fines to ensure implementation of plastic elimination campaign. They will also have the power to seal factories manufacturing non-standard and environmentally non-friendly plastic bags

besides lowering the registration and renewal fee of a quality and environment-friendly plastic bag manufacturing factory. The Cabinet also gave approval to recruit 310 Environment Inspectors besides approving the purchase of 250 e-bikes and a Standard Uniform for them. The Cabinet approved the establishment of Punjab Examination, Curriculum, Training and Assessment Authority (PECTAA) besides approving CM Punjab laptop scheme. Madam Chief Minister directed the authorities concerned to give laptops to students as soon as possible.



LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister, Azma Bukhari addresses to media persons during press conference, in Lahore.

## PTI and hypocrisy go hand in hand: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari said that PTI and hypocrisy go hand in hand. At a press conference at the DGPR, she said following Punjab, the people of KP had also rejected the "Fitna Party". "The local elections in KP are sufficient to awaken the PTI. In Punjab, food prices are the lowest compared to other provinces. There has been a significant reduction in not only inflation but also crime in Punjab," she added. She mentioned that "Apni Chat Apna Ghar" was the flagship program of the Punjab government. "Those building their homes are receiving 1.5

million rupees. Maryam Nawaz not only makes promises but also follows through on them. In Kot Lakhpat, a woman who was paying 23,000 rupees for a one-room rent has now started building her own home. Seeing the construction, the Chief Minister looked as happy as if it were his own home," she added. Azma Bokhari noted that a separate department had been established in Punjab to monitor the prices of essential food items round the clock, keeping the government informed about supply and demand. "The Chief Minister has taught other provinces how the 'Sasti Roti' is important for people.



SARGODHA: Chairman HEC, Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, addressing the opening ceremony of the 7th International Conference on Applied Zoology held at the University of Sargodha.

## Accused entitled to obtain copy of police raid recording: LHC

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) has declared that individuals accused in criminal cases are entitled to receive a complete copy of the video recording made during police raids. A two-member bench comprising Justice Farooq Haider and Justice Ali Zia Bajwa passed the directions while hearing a criminal appeal filed by an accused involved in a case registered under anti-narcotics law. The petitioner's counsel argued that his client was facing trial in a case registered under the anti-narcotics law.

He submitted that his client filed an application with a request to provide video recording of the raid in the form of USB but the trial court rejected the request. He argued that the video recording of the raid was crucial for a fair trial and requested the court to issue necessary directions for the purpose. The court, upon completion of arguments by the parties, declared that if the prosecution presents the video recording of the raid as evidence during the trial, the accused has the right to obtain a copy.

## DC visits educational institutes

SIALKOT (APP): Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Zulqarnain on Tuesday urged teachers and parents to pay special attention to education and training of children so that a healthy, peaceful and progressive society can be formed. He said this while inspecting the Center of Excellence Government Lady Andersen Girls Higher Secondary School and Sialkot Public School Pasrur Road while talking to heads and teachers of schools. He said that the Punjab government was making comprehensive reforms to improve quality of education in schools to provide modern education to children.

## CM Sindh inaugurates Rs6bln development projects across city

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah inaugurated approximately worth of Rs6 billion major infrastructure and energy projects across the city during a five-hour visit. Murad said that these initiatives are aimed at enhancing the city's recreational facilities, road infrastructure, and energy sustainability. Accompanied by his cabinet members Sharjeel Memon, Nasir Shah, Saeed Ghani, Haji Ali Hassan Zardari, and Waqar Mahdi, the chief minister left CM House and inaugurated two road projects, two solarisation projects, and a football ground at Manzoor Colony, the constituencies of MNA Asad Alam Niazi, Saeed Ghani, and Deputy Speaker Anthony Naveed. The CM inaugurated three crucial road projects in Districts West and Central. The reconstruction of Mirza

Adam Road, a 1.6 km dual carriageway, was completed for Rs 901 million. This road, which connects Sher Shah Chowk to Mirza Adam Khan Road, includes a stormwater drainage system to prevent flooding. The Café Piyala Road, a 4.05 km dual carriageway linking Sakhi Hassan to Rashid Minhas Road, was constructed for Rs 9.753 million. This route provides easier access to important healthcare facilities, such as Cardio Hospital and Mamji Hospital. Shahrah-e-Noor Jahan Road, another significant project, now offers a 6.1 km main dual track and a 4.35 km dual service track, constructed for Rs 3,367.735 million. This road will ease traffic flow through North Nazimabad and North Karachi, providing a vital alternative to Shahrah-e-Sher Shah Suri.



KARACHI: Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA), Halar Wassan receiving the souvenir by Amy Hood, Deputy Mission Director USAID during the MIS launching ceremony under Water Governance organized by HANDS Pakistan held at local hotel in Karachi.

## KP becomes first province to launch education card

PESHAWAR (APP): The Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur, presided over a key meeting of the Department of Education where he announced an education emergency to promote education in the province. As part of this initiative, the province will introduce an education card, similar to the Sehat Card. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will be the first province in Pakistan to launch this program. The Education Card will initially be started in nine underdeveloped

districts, including Upper and Lower Kohistan, Kolai Palas, Torghar, Upper and Lower Chitral, Tank, and Upper and Lower South Waziristan. Children attending government schools in these areas will receive 1,000 rupees per month, and they will also be able to get free admission to registered private schools. In the first phase, 40,000 children will benefit from this program. Additionally, girls in grades 6 to 10 across the province will receive 500 rupees per month as an educational stipend.



HYDERABAD: Ration distribution is underway among Hindu Community in connection of Diwali celebration organized by Al-Khidmat Foundation, at Circuit House Mandir in Hyderabad.

## Health advisor seeks details of all departmental vehicles within three-day

PESHAWAR (APP): Adviser to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Health Ihtisham Ali had directed the health department to provide details of all the functional and non-functional vehicles of the department within three-day for retrieval from unauthorized persons. Presiding over a meeting here, he expressed resentment that only 200 vehicles were entered into Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS) in one week despite strict instructions of retrieval of all vehicles from unauthorized officials, said a press release issued here. Special Secretary health, Habibullah mentioned that letters have already been sent to all staff and the Excise Department, instructing them to stop any vehicle not registered in HRMIS from being on the road. Furthermore, maintenance and fuel budgets for vehicles in possession of unauthorized officials have been frozen. The Health Adviser issued strict instructions that any District Health Officer (DHO), Medical Superintendent (MS), or

other officers failing to provide vehicle records should be removed from their positions immediately. He also demanded details of vehicles provided by various projects and stated that government vehicles must be retrieved from any unauthorized individuals. Regarding digitization, the Health Adviser expressed dissatisfaction with the current progress and issued orders to immediately begin digitization efforts in the Directorate General Health Service. He emphasized that posting and transfer processes must also be digitized, even though there is a temporary ban on transfers. He urged for the system to be fully operational so that online applications could begin immediately. The online leave management system must immediately be activated. The Advisor further ordered that all officers from other departments currently working in Health should be relieved immediately, adding that dual charges, additional charges, and attachments should be ended immediately.

## BISP, ADB join hands to empower beneficiaries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid in a meeting with the Country Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Emma Fan held Tuesday discussed initiatives for empowering beneficiaries of the programme through imparting skill-based training.

The meeting focused on promoting a future partnership between BISP and ADB, identifying key sectors for skill training of deserving families, facilitating international certifications, providing overseas job opportunities, and strengthening coordination with provincial poverty graduation programs and awareness campaigns for deserving women.

On this occasion, Senator Rubina Khalid highlighted that BISP is currently providing financial support to 9.3 million deserving families, a number expected to rise to 10 million by the end of the year. To further economically empower these families, BISP is initiating a skill training program. She emphasized the importance of acquiring international certifications to help beneficiaries secure employment abroad. Senator Rubina Khalid also stressed the need to link existing provincial-level poverty graduation and skill development programs with BISP.

Country Director, Emma Fan assured ADB's full support in enhancing BISP's efforts to uplift deserving families and strengthen the ongoing partnership.

Both parties agreed to hold further consultations to identify suitable sectors for skill training and develop a comprehensive strategy for implementing key initiatives, including raising awareness among deserving women.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, met with the Country Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Emma Fan at BISP headquarters.

## Approaches discussed to access int'l capital markets, external creditors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's delegation, currently attending the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund annual meetings in the United States, met with Alvarez and Marsal Sovereign Advisory Services wherein approaches were discussed through which Pakistan could access the international capital markets and external creditors.

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Muhammad Aurangzeb is leading the Pakistan delegation to the Annual Meetings WB and IMF,

being held in Washington DC from 21-26 October 2024, said a press release issued by the finance ministry.

Other delegates include Finance Secretary, Imdad Ullah Bosal; Secretary Economic Affairs, Dr. Kazim Niaz and Governor, State Bank of Pakistan, Jameel Ahmad.

The Pakistani delegation held a meeting with the representatives of Alvarez and Marsal Sovereign Advisory Services, comprising Managing Director and Global Practice Leader, Dr. Reza Baqir; Division Executive for Sovereign

Advisory Services, Peter Briggs and Thibaud Fourcade. Alvarez and Marsal team congratulated Pakistan on the successful conclusion of the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) with IMF. The team outlined the steps needed for the country to chart an accelerated path to capital markets following a well-sequenced strategy and deliberated on ways to restore access to international capital markets and external creditors. Meanwhile, the Pakistan delegation also held a meeting with the Director Middle East and Central Asia Department

(MCD) IMF, Jihad Azour. Thanking the IMF for its continued support to Pakistan, especially for the recently approved US\$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF), the delegation outlined the government's efforts towards fiscal consolidation, revenue expansion, energy and SOE reforms, aimed at transitioning Pakistan from stabilization to growth.

Congratulating Pakistan on the successful start of the Fund programme, Jihad Azour emphasized the importance of staying the course on reforms.



PESHAWAR: Members of Peoples Unity of PIA Employees are holding protest demonstration against privatisation of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), at Peshawar press club.

## Goods carrier delegation calls on Governor Punjab

LAHORE (APP): A delegation of the Karachi Goods Carrier Association called on Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan and apprised him the problems during a meeting at the Governor's House, here on Tuesday.

Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the services of goods transporters are important in the transportation of goods across the country.

President Karachi Goods Carrier Association Malik Sher Khan Awan said that a mechanism should be adopted to stop forcible

seizure of the containers and compensate the transporters. He said unnecessary increase in toll tax should be withdrawn. The Governor Punjab assured the delegation to convey their problems to the concerned authorities. The delegation thanked the Governor Punjab for the assurance of solving the problems.

President Malik Sher Khan Awan, General Secretary Nadeem Akhtar Arain and Patron Chief Malik Shafaulah Awan were present during the meeting.



HYDERABAD: Labourers carefully pack best quality tomatoes into wooden crates for delivery at vegetable market.

## LCCI holds awareness session on filing of income tax returns

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) here Tuesday organized an awareness session on the filing of income tax returns in collaboration with the Chief Commissioner Regional Tax Office (RTO) Lahore.

Chief Commissioner RTO Lahore Ahmad Shuja gave a detailed presentation on income tax return filing and related statistics. The session aimed at guiding the business community, was attended by LCCI

President Mian Abuzar Shad, Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry, Executive Committee members and representatives from various business sectors.

The Chief Commissioner RTO Lahore Ahmad Shuja in his address, emphasized the importance of compliance with tax regulations and highlighted the benefits of filing tax returns on time. He assured that the RTO Lahore is committed to providing maximum support to facilitate businesses in the process.

## FCCI resolving problems of business community

FAISALABAD (APP): The FCCI is an elected forum of the business community which is trying its best to resolve genuine problems of businessmen.

This was said by Shahid Mumtaz Bajwa, Vice President of the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), while addressing the first meeting of the FCCI Standing Committee on Super Market Association (SMA).

"We have workable relations with the government departments",

he said adding that the issues raised from this platform were given due consideration by the concerned government departments. All super stores should get the membership of the FCCI on priority basis to resolve their genuine issues, he added.

He said that FBR officials would be invited to visit the FCCI and resolve the issues.

He announced that this standing committee would invite concerned departments to promote mutual

## Cutlery exports increase 6.60% to \$15.268 mln

ISLAMABAD (APP): The exports of cutlery witnessed an increase of 6.60 percent during the first quarter of the current financial year 2024-25, as against the exports of the corresponding months of last year.

The cutlery exports from the country were recorded at US \$15.268 million during July-September (2024-25) against the exports of US \$14.322 million during July-September (2023-24), according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

Meanwhile, year-on-year basis, the cutlery exports witnessed an increase of 2.53 percent during the month of September 2024 as compared to the same month of last year.

The exports of cutlery from the country during September 2024 were recorded at US \$4.960 million against the exports of US \$4.837 million in September 2023.

## Auction for public shops kicks off

KHANEWAL (APP): An auction process for lease of public shops was commenced on direction of the Punjab Board of Revenue here on Tuesday.

As many as 2031 shops would be auctioned in four tehsils of the district, said the official sources of the DC office.

The auction committee comprised of four members headed by DC Muhammad Ali Bukhari while other members are assistant commissioners and director of Local Government, Multan Division. The auction of four shops situated around the library had been delayed due to technical reasons which to be completed till October 24. As many as 26 shops had been auctioned in the districts, the sources said.

The deputy commissioner assured of completing the process transparently.

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where seven ships, X-Press Altair, Karlskrona, Maersk Sentosa, Valentina, Orange Victoria, CI-Huaiyang and Dravin scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice, Gasoline, Palm oil and LPG berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, FOTCO Oil Terminal and Sui Southern Gas Terminal respectively during last 24 hours.

Meanwhile two more ships, Scarlet Rosella and Bam Bam carrying Canola Seed and Gas oil also arrived at outer anchorage the port on 21<sup>st</sup> October. A total of thirteen ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours.



QUETTA: Zamindar Ittehad Committee Chairman, Master Muhammad Afzal Kakar addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

## Agri ministers discuss mechanism regarding animals vaccine production

LAHORE (APP): Minister for Livestock and Agriculture Punjab Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani along with Provincial Minister Livestock Balochistan Sardar Faisal Khan Jamali met in Punjab Assembly Lahore to discuss the mechanism regarding animals vaccine production, delivery, disease control and data sharing.

In the meeting, the two ministers agreed to promote mutual cooperation in the livestock sector between Punjab and Balochistan and benefit from each other's experiences.

Secretary Livestock Punjab Saqib Ali Ateel and Provincial Livestock Secretary Balochistan Muhammad Tayyab were also present.

The Minister for Livestock Punjab said that the Punjab government under the leadership of chief minister Punjab was taking practical steps for the development of livestock sector. This would usher in a new era of prosperity for livestock farmers. For the first time

in the history of Punjab, a huge sum of 20 billion rupees had been allocated for the livestock sector for a year, the minister added. Projects like Livestock Card, Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme and distribution of heifers among widows and divorced women of South Punjab had been initiated, he added.

Four lakh young cows and buffaloes would be reared under the Fattening Programme and their disease-free meat would be exported, which would benefit 80,000 livestock farmers, the minister said.

Kirmani further said the Punjab government was going to initiate a Strategic Vaccination Programme. Apart from this, compartments and zones would be developed in Punjab under the FMD Disease Control Programme, he added.

Provincial Minister for Livestock Balochistan Sardar Faisal Khan Jamali said, "We need vaccines from Punjab to protect our sheep and goats from diseases."



LAHORE: Shopkeeper displaying Laptop to attract costumers at Hall Road.

## Mobilink Bank tops the SBP's banking on equality scorecard for the second year in a row

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Bank has once again demonstrated its unwavering commitment to gender equality and financial inclusion, securing a remarkable score of 82.7 on the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) Women Friendliness Grid. This notable increase from last year's score of 71.79 highlights the Bank's continuous efforts in fostering a supportive environment for women borrowers and entrepreneurs, particularly

in the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.

The Women Friendliness Grid serves as a vital benchmark for assessing the accessibility and inclusivity of financial services for women. Mobilink Bank's approach combines innovative programs and strategic partnerships aimed at supporting women across Pakistan.

Through its Women Inspirational Network (WIN) program, the Bank has trained over 20,000

women nationwide and, in partnership with Care Pakistan, upskilled an additional 1,500 women in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) district. Under Binte-Hawwa, Mobilink Bank disbursed PKR 6.96 billion in loans to women in 2022, which rose to over PKR 10.6 billion in 2023, marking a 50% increase.

Sharing his thoughts on the achievement, Haaris Mahmood Chaudhary, Interim CEO of Mobilink Bank, said, "Achieving an 82.7 score on the Women Friendliness Grid is a

## Technical training vital for telecom operators' capacity building: Shaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja said Tuesday that technical training is vital for the capacity building of telecom operators.

During a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of APNIC (Asia Pacific Network Information Center), Singapore Jia Rong, the minister also discussed matters of mutual interest and relating to capacity building of telecom operators.

Secretary IT Zarrar Hasham Khan was also present at the meeting.

CEO Asia Pacific Network Information Center briefed the Minister of State for IT about the working of APNIC.

He said that APNIC

wanted to start a training program for telecom operators regarding networking.

The meeting agreed to forge a comprehensive plan for the training of telecom operators.

Member IT, MoITT Muhammad Jahanzeb Rahim also attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Ambassador to Germany Saqlain Syedah called on Shaza Fatima Khawaja and during the meeting matters regarding relations between Pakistan and Germany in the field of IT and Telecommunication, and facilitation of Pakistani IT companies in Germany were discussed.

Member International Coordination (IC) Imdad Memon and DG IC Syed Jawwad Ali Sherazi were also present at the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) APNIC (Asia Pacific Network Information Center), Singapore Mr. Jia Rong Low called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in Federal Capital.

## Enhance national, Intl connectivity PTCL & China Mobile International partner at GITEX Global 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's largest telecommunication and integrated ICT services provider, Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) and global telecom and ICT player, China Mobile International Limited (CMI) entered a partnership at GITEX Global 2024 in Dubai, UAE for global network resources sharing.

The collaboration allows the two leading players to boost connectivity for their respective customers in the country and across the world.

Waqar Ahmed, Group Director Enterprise Solutions, PTCL & Ufone 4G and Alex Lee, Managing Director, China Mobile International Middle East signed the agreement during

GITEX 2024 in the presence of investors, innovators, business leaders and top management on both sides.

The historic collaboration brings together the expansive PTCL and CMI networks to deliver seamless and high-quality connectivity solutions to their respective user bases. PTCL's vast fiber network spanning over 65,000 kilometers across Pakistan, combined with CMI's global reach through 305 overseas Points of Presence (PoPs), will enable the delivery of robust and scalable connectivity for businesses and individual consumers alike.

Speaking on the significance of the partnership,



DUBAI: PTCL and Ufone 4G President and Group CEO, Hatem Bamatraf and Alex Lee, Managing Director China Mobile International Middle East exchange memorabilia during the GITEX 2024 Dubai to mark the signing of a network sharing agreement aimed at enhancing connectivity in Pakistan and worldwide, in Dubai.

## PSX stays bullish, gains 409 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 409.06 points, a positive change of 0.48 percent, closing at 86,466.58 points against 86,057.52 points on the last trading day. A total of 722,209,194 shares were traded during the day as compared to 474,949,535 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 25.024 billion against Rs.19.659

billion on the last trading day. As many as 451 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 231 of them recorded gains and 149 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 71 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were K-Electric Limited with 224,204,258 shares at Rs 4.23 per share, WorldCall Telecom with 30,203,770 shares at Rs 1.25 per share and Fauji Foods Limited with 26,100,952 shares at Rs 9.11 per share.

## Putin hosts BRICS summit in Russia under shadow of Ukraine war

### Monitoring Desk

KAZAN: Russia wants the BRICS summit to showcase the rising clout of the non-Western world, but Moscow's partners from China, India, Brazil and the Arab world are urging President Vladimir Putin to find a way to end the war in Ukraine. The 16th annual BRICS summit will take place from 22 to 24 October.

The BRICS group now accounts for 45% of the world's population and 35% of its economy, based on purchasing power parity, though China accounts for over half of its economic might.

Putin, who is cast by the West as a war criminal, told reporters from BRICS nations that "BRICS does not put itself into opposition to anyone", and that the shift in the drivers of global growth was simply a fact.

"This is an association of states that work together based on common values, a common vision of development and, most

importantly, the principle of taking into account each other's interests," he said.

The BRICS summit takes place as global finance chiefs gather in Washington amid war in the Middle East as well as Ukraine, a flagging Chinese economy and worries that the US presidential election could ignite new trade battles.

Putin, who ordered troops into Ukraine in 2022 after eight years of fighting in eastern Ukraine, was peppered with questions by BRICS reporters about the prospects for a ceasefire in Ukraine.

Putin's answer was, in short, that Moscow would not trade away the four regions of eastern Ukraine that it says are now part of Russia, even though parts of them remain outside its control, and that it wanted its long-term security interests taken into account in Europe.

Two Russian sources said that, while there was increasing talk in Moscow

of a possible ceasefire agreement, there was nothing concrete yet — and that the world was awaiting the result of the Nov. 5 presidential election in the United States.

Russia, which is advancing controls about one fifth of Ukraine, including Crimea which it seized and unilaterally annexed in 2014, about 80% of the Donbas — a coal-and-steel zone comprising the Donetsk and Luhansk regions — and over 70% of the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions.

Putin said the West had now realised that Russia would be victorious, but that he was open to talks based on draft ceasefire agreements reached in Istanbul in April 2022.

On the eve of the BRICS summit, Putin met with United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for informal talks that went on until midnight at his Novo-Ogaryovo residence outside Moscow.



Russia's President Vladimir Putin meets with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the Brics summit in Kazan.

## Iraq says top Islamic State group figure among 9 killed

### Monitoring Desk

BAGHDAD: Iraqi authorities announced on Tuesday that security forces had killed nine Islamic State (IS) group commanders, including the banned militant group's top figure in the northern mountains.

Iraq's Joint Operations Command said in a statement that counterterrorism forces "killed nine terrorists, among them the so-called

governor of Iraq" for IS, naming him as Jassim al-Mazrouei Abu Abdel Qader. Iraqi security analyst Fadel Abu Raghif told AFP that Mazrouei had "assumed control of the [IS] Iraq province less than a year ago".

The statement noted that the operation in the Hamrin Mountains was carried out "with technical support" and intelligence provided by the US-led coalition.

## Hezbollah finance chief killed in Syria: Israeli army

### Monitoring Desk

JERUSALEM: The Israeli army said on Monday (Oct 21) that the latest commander responsible for funding the Lebanese Hezbollah group was "eliminated" in Syria.

The man, whose name was not released, headed the Iran-backed Hezbollah's Unit 4400 that is "responsible for the transfers and the amount of funds" to the group through Tehran's oil sales, army spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said in a statement.

## Iran begins constructing wall along Afghan border amid terrorism threats

### Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Iran has decided to build a wall along the Afghan border to safeguard its borders and cope with terrorism threats.

Iran has initiated taking stringent security measures as part of counter strategy to regional instability.

It merits mention that Iran has devised a three-year security plan to enhance its security and protect its territorial integrity.

The move of the wall along the Afghan border is an attempt to bolster its national security.

## Blinken back to Middle East to push for Gaza truce

### Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken left for the Middle East Monday on a new push for an elusive Gaza ceasefire two weeks before US elections, seeing a new opportunity from Israel's killing of Hamas's leader.

It will be the 11th trip to the Middle East by the top US diplomat since war broke out a year ago, with Blinken on his last visit to Israel in August warning it may have been the "last chance" for a US-led ceasefire plan. That push did not succeed, and the conflict has escalated and expanded since then, with Israel pounding Hezbollah targets in Lebanon and warn-

ing of a new strike directly on Iran, whose clerical leaders back both Hamas and Hezbollah.

US President Joe Biden, who personally laid out the ceasefire plan on May 31 that would also free hostages from Gaza, has seen new hope since Israel last week killed Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar.

Biden, speaking to reporters on a visit to Germany, said he called Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to congratulate him and tell him that Blinken would head to the region. "I told him that we were really pleased with his actions and, further, that now is the time to move on—move on, move towards a ceasefire."

## South Korea warns it can send arms to Ukraine after reports of North's troops in Russia

### Monitoring Desk

SEOUL: South Korea warned Tuesday it could consider supplying weapons to Ukraine in response to North Korea allegedly dispatching troops to Russia, as both North Korea and Russia denied the movements.

The South Korean statement is apparently meant to pressure Russia not to bring in North Korean troops in its war against Ukraine.

South Korean officials worry that Russia may reward North Korea by giving it sophisticated weapons technologies that can boost the North's nuclear and missile programs that target South Korea.

In an emergency National Security Council meeting, top South Korean officials condemned North Korea's alleged dispatch of troops as "a grave security threat" to South Korea and the international community.

They described North Korea as "a criminal group" that forces its youths to

serve as Russian mercenaries for an unjustifiable war, the South Korean presidential office said in a statement.

The officials agreed to take phased countermeasures, linking the level of their responses to progress in Russian-North Korean military cooperation, according to the statement.

Possible steps include diplomatic, economic and military options, and South Korea could consider sending both defensive and offensive weapons to Ukraine, a senior South Korean presidential official told reporters on condition of anonymity in a background briefing.

The official said North Korea could attempt to get high-tech Russian technologies to perfect its nuclear missiles. The official said Russia's possible help for North Korea's efforts to modernize its outdated conventional weapons systems and acquire a space-based surveillance system would pose a serious security

## US defense chief visits Kyiv for talks on how to keep supporting Ukraine's fight against Russia

### Monitoring Desk

KYIV: U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin arrived in Kyiv on an unannounced visit Monday, hours after a Russian drone attack on the Ukrainian capital and as Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy pushes Western partners to keep providing military support for the war.

Austin said on the X platform that his fourth visit shows "that the United States, alongside the international community, continues to stand by Ukraine." Ukraine is having difficulty holding back a ferocious Russian campaign along the eastern front that is gradually compelling Kyiv's forces to give up a series of towns, villages and hamlets.

Zelenskyy is urging Western allies to support his so-called "victory plan" to end the almost three-year war, which is Europe's biggest conflict since World War II and has cost tens of thousands of lives on both sides, including many civilians.

His strategy includes a formal invitation for Ukraine to join NATO and permission to use Western long-range missiles to strike military targets in Russia — steps that Kyiv's allies have previously balked at supporting.

The Western response has been lukewarm, and Austin was expected to discuss the plan with Ukrainian officials in Kyiv.

Zelenskyy said in a Sunday evening video address that his plan had won the backing of France, Lithuania, Nordic countries and "many other allies" in the European Union which he didn't name.

## Climate scientists warn Nordic ministers of changing Atlantic Ocean current

### Monitoring Desk

COPENHAGEN: More than 40 climate scientists are urging Nordic ministers to prevent global warming from causing a major change in an Atlantic Ocean current, which could trigger abrupt shifts in weather patterns and damage ecosystems.

A collapse of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation, a system of ocean currents that transports warm water into the North Atlantic and provides Europe its mild climate, could put living conditions for people in the Arctic region and beyond at risk, according to the scientists.

"Such an ocean circulation change would have devastating and irreversible impacts especially for Nordic countries, but also for other parts of the world," the scientists said in a letter on Saturday to the Nordic Council of Ministers, which comprises five countries, including Denmark and Sweden, and three autonomous territories.

The letter urges the council to actions that could involve calling for global greenhouse-gas emission cuts.

Several studies have

suggested that the risk of the Atlantic current changing has been greatly underestimated, the scientists said, adding that there was a serious possibility of passing the tipping point in the next few decades.

"If Britain and Ireland become like northern Norway, (that) has tremendous consequences. Our finding is that this is not a low probability," said Professor Peter Ditlevsen at the University of Copenhagen, a signatory of the letter.

"This is not something you easily adapt to."

A collapse of the ocean-current system would increase cooling of the Northern Hemisphere, raise Atlantic sea levels, drop precipitation over Europe and North America and shift monsoons in South America and Africa, according to the United Kingdom's Met Office.

Global subsidies for fossil fuels reached a record \$7 trillion in 2022, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Such subsidies show there is no credible effort to prevent such a climate disaster, said professor Stefan Rahmstorf from Germany's Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.



Gil Haskel welcomes U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken he arrives in Tel Aviv, Israel.

## Harris and Trump push for every vote with just 14 days to go to US elections

### Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: One of the tightest US election races of modern times enters its final, two-week stretch on Tuesday, with Republican Donald Trump making a special pitch to Latino voters as Democratic rival Kamala Harris sits down for a national network interview.

Both campaigns are pumping hundreds of millions of dollars into a final push for any wavering, undecided voters who could tilt the balance in their favor, with polls consistently showing their candidates in a dead heat ahead of Election Day.

Whatever the outcome, Americans will make history on November 5: they will either elect the first woman president in the world's leading superpower — or they will put the first convicted felon into the White House.

Polls appear to be giving Trump, who at 78 is the oldest nominee from a major party in US history, a slight edge recently — but all within the margin of error, making them little comfort for a former president making his third consecutive White House run. Vice President Harris — who only threw herself into the race in July.

## Afghanistan hinders global connectivity by muzzling media

### Monitoring Desk

KABUL: The interim Afghan government has imposed a ban on television channels showing images of animals. This initiative of the Afghan government is a reflection of their conservative approach, which through its repressive actions, aims to take Afghanistan backward.

The Taliban have hindered the global connectivity by muzzling voice of Afghan press.

The interim government has curbed the rights of Afghans to express human experience by imposing a blanket ban on visual stories.

## New mpox variant detected in Germany: health authority

### Monitoring Desk

BERLIN: An infection with the new mpox variant clade 1b has been detected in Germany for the first time, the Robert Koch Institute health authority said on Tuesday. The infection occurred abroad and was detected last Friday, the institute said, adding that it did not see an increased risk for Germany but was "monitoring the situation very closely".

Mpox, a viral disease related to smallpox that causes fever, body aches, swollen lymph nodes and a rash that forms into blisters, has two main subtypes — clade 1 and clade 2. From May 2022, clade 2 spread around the world, mostly affecting gay and bisexual men in Europe and the United States. In July 2022, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared an international public health emergency.



Britain's King Charles attends a King's Foundation Australia event at Admiralty House in Sydney, during the royal visit to Australia and Samoa.

## French farmers to resume nationwide protests next month

### Monitoring Desk

PARIS: France's main farmers' union said on Tuesday it would stage nationwide protests next month as a push to conclude a trade deal between the European Union and Mercosur countries deepens discontent that fuelled a farming crisis earlier this year.

Anger at competition from cheaper imports, including from EU ally Ukraine, and a regulatory burden on EU producers led to large-scale protests across France and Europe. Weather-hit harvests

and outbreaks of livestock disease along with political deadlock after a snap election at the start of summer have added to the grievances among French farmers, triggering renewed protests locally in recent weeks.

The FNSEA union will hold nationwide protests from mid-November, with the date and type of action to be decided subsequently, its president, Arnaud Rousseau, told reporters. "The new factor and trigger is the renewed incoherency at European level."

## Britain says slavery reparations not on its agenda at Commonwealth summit

### Monitoring Desk

LONDON: Britain will not bring the issue of reparations for historical transatlantic slavery to the table at a meeting of Commonwealth nations that began in Samoa on Monday, but is open to engage with leaders who want to discuss it.

Leaders and officials from 56 countries with roots in Britain's former empire will attend this week the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in the Pacific Island nation.

Conservative British governments have rejected calls for reparations but the chairman of the Carib-

bean Community (CARICOM) reparations commission, Hilary Beckles, told Reuters there were hopes this stance might change under the new Labour administration after 14 years of Conservative rule.

Both British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and King Charles will attend the Samoa meeting.

But a spokesperson for Starmer reiterated on Monday that reparations were not on his agenda. "We do not pay reparations," the spokesperson said. "The position on an apology remains the same. We won't be offering an apology at CHOGM."

## Indian doctors call off protest hunger strike over Kolkata medic's murder

### Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: Junior doctors in India's eastern city of Kolkata called off on Monday a 17-day-old hunger strike launched in protest against the rape and murder of a colleague, they said, in response to an appeal by the victim's parents.

Protesters also met the chief minister of the opposition-led state, which has drawn scrutiny for its handling of sex crimes, to press their demand for better security and conditions at government hospitals, as well as justice for the woman.

## Son of Singapore's founder says he has been granted political asylum in the UK

### Monitoring Desk

LONDON: Lee Hsien Yang, the estranged brother of former Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, said Tuesday that he's now a "political refugee" after the U.K. government granted him asylum from what he described as persecution at home.

The Lee brothers are the sons of Lee Kuan Yew, modern Singapore's founding father. They have been engaged in a public spat since 2017 over the late patriarch's family home.



Workers ride a tractor through a flooded street after heavy rains in Bengaluru, India.

## Pak rejects as 'flawed' proposed treaty banning production of fissile material for nuclear weapons

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has reaffirmed its opposition to the proposed treaty banning the production of fissile material used as fuel for nuclear weapons, asserting that States that do not produce enriched uranium after having already amassed several tons of it in excess are pushing for this discriminatory pact.

"A treaty which only results in a cut-off in the future production of fissile material would be a non-starter given that it would perpetuate asymmetries and will have no added value for nuclear disarmament," Ambassador Usman Iqbal Jadoon, deputy permanent representative to the UN, told the General Assembly's First Committee, which deals with disarmament and international security matters.

"The States, which do not need to produce fissile material after having already amassed several tonnes of fissile material in excess, are pushing for cost-free proposals such as quantitative capping of fissile material as 'the next logical step,'" he said. In these diversionary tactics, he pointed out they are joined with fervour by the States who rely on others for extended deterrence and nuclear-weapon-sharing arrangements. "If the proponents of the FMCT (fissile material cut-off treaty) are serious in addressing the issue of fissile material production, they should start by rejecting double standards and ceasing nuclear cooperation with a country in South Asia—obviously India—that continues to amass stockpiles outside safeguards and is now on the path of a major breakout in terms of fissile production," the Pakistani envoy said. "Short of that, their calls for a moratorium or a cut-off treaty ring hollow," he added. In this regard, Ambassador Jadoon reiterated that FMCT's approach was "flawed" and that its time had long passed.

"The relentless weaponization of new and emerging capabilities and its integration and co-existence with the nuclear domain is further convoluting the security landscape," he said, adding that it would negatively impact the security of the States and exacerbate asymmetries.

Ambassador Jadoon pointed out that India was the first to introduce nuclear weapons in the region and nuclearized the Indian Ocean. It refuses to commit to non-testing, threatens aggression against Pakistan, rejects implementation of resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir of the Security Council, where it wants to sit as a permanent member, and spurs dialogue on restraint measures.

"Also," he added, "the largest nuclear-weapon States, in disregard of their nuclear disarmament obligations, continue to modernize their arsenals." Ambassador Jadoon, who was speaking in a thematic debate on nuclear weapons, underscored the need to acknowledge the link between nuclear disarmament.



ISLAMABAD: Vice Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami addressing foreign course members of PN Staff Course during their visit to Naval Headquarters

## Admiral (retd) Tasnim for shift in country's economic 'center of gravity' from north to south

ISLAMABAD (APP): Vice Admiral @ Ahmad Tasnim on Tuesday urged the country's economic policy-makers to shift the 'center of gravity' of the economy from north to south.

He was addressing as chief guest at the 2nd seminar of the series on Blue Economy, titled "Challenges to Maritime Trade" organized by the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) Islamabad, in collaboration with the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), said a news release.

It was centered around

regional connectivity initiatives including BRI, global and regional security imperatives, latest technological and climate stimuli, etc.

Vice Admiral @ Ahmad Tasnim appreciated the quality input by all experts. He suggested to the country's economic policy-makers to shift the "Center of Gravity" of the economy from north to south.

In his opening remarks, Vice Admiral @ Ahmad Saeed, President NIMA, while welcoming the guests, outlined the key themes of the topic. The Guest of Honor Captain. Naem Sarfraz, emphasized

the importance of inclusion of subject-matter experts in the policymaking hierarchy. He also advised to adopt cheap, safe and green inland water transportation system. Renowned scholars Dr. Anjum Sarfraz, Dr. Hassan Daud and Dr. Maliha Zeba Khan set the stage for ensuing panel discussions. The panelists included renowned experts, i.e. Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz, Dr. Shabana Fayyaz, Dr. Salma Malik, Dr. Faiz Hussain, Dr. Khurram Iqbal, and Dr. Usman Chohan. They offered further insights into Pakistan's missing links of maritime vision.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti condoling with relatives of MPA Patrick Saint Masih over his death.

## Toshakhana-2 case: FIA opposes bail plea of Bushra Bibi

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) will continue hearing of Toshakhana-2 case today (Wednesday) too.

On the other hand while opposing bail plea of Bushra Bibi in Toshakhana-2 case FIA prosecutor said he would continue to oppose bail plea.

the court case is this cost was got less assessed by the private person who determines cost. Sohaib Abbasi who determined cost has now become king's evidence. Suleman Safdar said later the customs officers determined the price. These all people are witnesses and no one has been made accused. No one from cabinet division has been made accused. No one from cabinet division has been included in investigation.

Counsel Suleman Safdar told the judge during hearing of the case 12 days have passed after hearing of Bushra Bibi petition.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb remarked I was suffering from severe fever when I came to court on October 9. It took me long time to recover from fever. Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb gave these remarks during hearing of bail plea of Bushra Bibi in Toshakhana-2 case Tuesday. FIA prosecutor Zulfikar Abbas Naqvi and Counsel for FIA Umar Majid Malik appeared in the court.

Barrister Suleman Safdar counsel for Bushra Bibi was also in attendance. Suleman Safdar told

Barrister Suleman Safdar this is case of prosecution that there was no direct link of PTT founder and Bushra Bibi.

According to prosecution this all work is done by Inam Ullah Shah but he is not accused.

Sohaib Abbasi who is causing loss to national kitty is king's evidence.

Counsel for Bushra Bibi said Bushra Bibi has been imprisoned to twist the arm of Imran Khan. Bushra Bibi has nothing to do with the politics. She is imprisoned in jail since 264 days.



QUETTA: Provincial Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Mulana Hidayat ur Rehman addressing a press conference.

## DC Kachhi orders surprise inspection of levies check posts

**Independent Report**  
MACH: Assistant Commissioner Mach Arslan Khan conducted a surprise visit to Levies checkpoints, including Gokart, Bhi Banni, and Pir Ghazi, as per Deputy Commissioner Kachhi Jahanzeb Baloch's directives. During the visit, Khan reviewed the attendance register of Levies personnel, inspected the arms situation, and assessed other matters.

Khan emphasized the importance of maintaining law and order, stating that no leniency should be shown in ensuring complete restoration of peace and upholding the rule of law.

## NA passes five resolutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly on Tuesday passed five resolutions, including one urging the government to take immediate steps to introduce media literacy training in schools and colleges to counter fake news on social and electronic media across the country.

The resolution for media literacy was moved by Syed Ali Qasim Gillani, emphasizing the importance of educating students to discern misinformation.

Sharmila Faruqi moved a resolution asking to control over-billing by DISCOS in the Country.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs the Federal Cabinet Meeting.

## Pakistan strengthens regional connectivity, trade, security ties at 23rd SCO summit

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of Government Meeting, held in Islamabad, provided Pakistan with a unique opportunity to enhance regional connectivity, expand trade and economic ties, strengthen security and strategic cooperation among member countries.

These insights were shared by speakers at a roundtable discussion titled "Post-SCO Council of Heads of Government Meeting 2024: Unpacking the Results and Opportunities," organized by the Centre for SCO Studies at the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, Pakistan-SCO Friendship Forum, and Riphah Institute of Public Policy at Riphah International University. The event focused on the outcomes of the meeting, which took place on October 15-16, 2024.

In her opening remarks, President of the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, Dr. Farhat Asif emphasized the importance of assessing the strategic and economic impacts of the summit. She highlighted that the event had reinforced the need for multilateral cooperation in sectors such as security, trade, and sustainable development.

Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch delivered the keynote address, detailing key outcomes of the meeting. She announced that Pakistan would chair the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structures (RATS) body within the SCO in 2025 and host the SCO Council of Heads of State in 2026. She noted that the successful hosting of the summit had significantly bolstered Pakistan's global image.

Director of the China-Pakistan Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, Dr. Talat Shabbir stressed the economic and strategic benefits Pakistan stands to gain from its active participation in the SCO. He noted that enhanced security cooperation and economic collaboration within the organization would contribute to Pakistan's stability and growth.

Addressing regional trade, Head of the Department of International Relations at the National University of Modern Languages, Dr. Sarwat Rauf underscored Pakistan's critical role in facilitating greater connectivity between Central and South Asia. She pointed to the country's efforts to address regional security challenges, including terrorism and extremism.

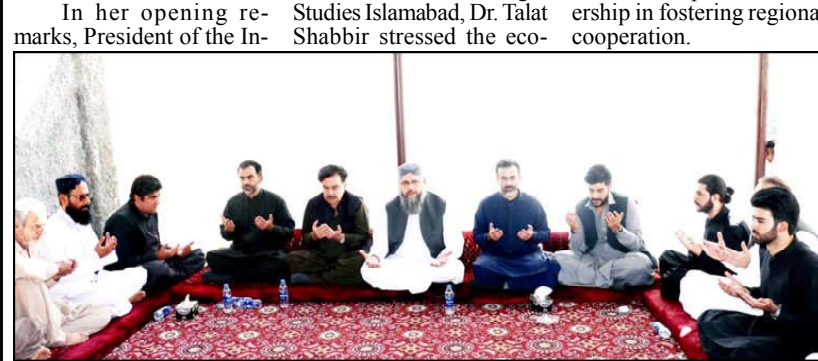
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QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail offering Faateha on sad demise of former caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Humayun Marri.

## China-Pak strategic partnership signed to advance CAR-T therapy in Pakistan

BEIJING (APP): A strategic cooperation agreement was signed among Beijing Yuanxin Huibao Technology Co., Ltd., the Pakistan China Business Association and Nanjing IASO Biotechnology Co., Ltd., in Beijing last week, aiming to promote the accessibility of Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-Cell (CAR-T) Therapy (herein referred as CAR-T Therapy) for adult patients suffering from multiple myeloma in Pakistan.

During the signing ceremony, Tahir Farooq, President of Pakistan China Business Association, noted that the partnership will not only introduce advanced CAR-T Therapy to Pakistani patients but also implement innovative payment models to alleviate financial burdens and enhance drug accessibility.

China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday.

Eric Tian, head of overseas operations at IASO Biotechnology, shared insights on how this strategic alliance will leverage each partner's strengths to foster the development of innovative treatment solutions, ultimately providing more efficient CAR-T services for patients in Pakistan.

CAR-T Therapy is regarded as one of the most promising advancements in cell therapy, particularly for the treatment of hematological malignancies.

This collaboration will significantly improve the accessibility of CAR-T treatments, enabling more Pakistani patients to benefit from this cutting-edge therapy, added Peng Xuan, CEO of Yuanxin Huibao.

## DC vows to improve education standards

**Independent Report**  
SOHBATPUR: Deputy Commissioner Sohbatur, Farida Train, stressed the importance of enhancing education quality and addressing issues faced by students and teachers in local educational institutions.

"Improving education standards in Sohbatur's schools is crucial," Train said during a visit to Government Boys High School Jhanda Talab. "Despite infrastructure challenges, teachers' dedication is commendable."

Train acknowledged the district administration's efforts to resolve educational issues through thorough inspections and collaborations with higher authorities. School administrators briefed her on the institution's dilapidated condition and other pressing concerns.

The Deputy Commissioner assured that her office will work tirelessly to provide quality education, overcome challenges, and support teachers' efforts to nurture young minds.

## Advisor says: Ensuring people's security, a top gov't priority

HUB (APP): Provincial Advisor for Industries and Craft, Mir Hassan Zahri on Tuesday said ensuring security to the people is the top priority of the government.

While he talking the notice of incident of banditry here at post office road directed the police to take effective steps for early arrest of the criminals.

The advisor said the government committed to ensure law and order in the area, adding zero tolerance policy had been adopted control crimes in the province.

He urged the doctors present on the occasion to ensure their attendance and serve the people by performing their duties honestly and with integrity by making service to the people as their motto.



ISLAMABAD: Member of the House of Commons United Kingdom Muhammad Yasin called Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament house.

## Step afoot to promote education, health facilities for public: DC Chaman

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Chaman Habib Ahmed Bangulzai on Tuesday said that measures were being taken to promote quality of education and health facilities for masses in the area.

He expressed these views while paying a surprise visit to Aaj High School and Primary Health Center Mahmoodabad in the area.

Meanwhile, DC Chaman was given a detailed briefing about the school by the headmaster of the school.

He also checked the attendance of the school teachers and asked the stu-

dents questions regarding their subjects in the classroom.

During his brief visit, DC Chaman was given a detailed briefing by the duty doctor of Primary Health Center Mahmoodabad.

DC Chaman examined the stock of medicines and cleanliness and attendance of doctors and staff in the hospital.

He urged the doctors present on the occasion to ensure their attendance and serve the people by performing their duties honestly and with integrity by making service to the people as their motto.

## Shehbaz appeals nation to donate to PM's relief fund for Gaza, Lebanon

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has once again appealed the nation especially the affluent ones to actively donate to the Prime Minister's relief fund for Gaza and Lebanon.

Chairing a review meeting in Islamabad regarding aid being sent by Pakistan to Gaza and Lebanon, he said the people including overseas Pakistanis should support the government in helping Palestinian and Lebanese brothers and sisters by depositing donations in IBAN: PK115100010111111429.

Shehbaz Sharif instructed to conduct a full awareness campaign regarding the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for Gaza and Lebanon.

The Prime Minister directed to immediately send two planes of humani-

tarian aid to Lebanon and Gaza. He said apart from air, relief goods should be sent by trucks.

Directing to accelerate the transportation of humanitarian aid, Shehbaz Sharif emphasized ensuring the aid reaches the deserving ones.

The meeting was informed that Pakistan is sending tents, clothes, blankets, medicines and food items to people affected by Israeli aggression in Gaza and Lebanon.

It was informed that due to Israeli attacks and blockades, there are difficulties in delivering aid supplies to the affected areas in Palestine and Lebanon.

The meeting was informed that the NGOs who want to send relief goods for the victims of Gaza and Lebanon will be facilitated by the government.



ISTANBUL: Federal Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi shaking hands with Chief of the Turkish General Staff Gen. Metin Gurak at the inauguration of SAHA Expo in Istanbul.

## Shahid Khaqan critiques constitutional amendment impacting judiciary

ISLAMABAD (INP): Awam Pakistan Party chief Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has voiced strong objections to the recent constitutional amendment that he claims limits the powers of the Supreme Court and alters the process for appointing judges.

Speaking to a private TV Channel, Abbasi criticized the government for not consulting the public before implementing the amendment, suggesting that the rushed approval process lacked transparency and accountability.

Abbasi pointed out that his party was not involved in the amendment process, emphasizing the speed at which the legislation was introduced and enacted—within just 12 hours, including the issuance of a gazette notification. "I have never seen such speed," he remarked, underscoring his concern

that the amendment primarily serves to concentrate power rather than address the needs of the people.

He raised critical questions about the future of the judiciary, asking who would be recognized as the Chief Justice after the amendment. Abbasi indicated that the proposed changes could create a "nominal judge" role, undermining the court's authority. He also expressed concern over the increasing power of Supreme Court registries, which he believes could significantly influence case management and appointments.

Abbasi urged the Form 47 government to involve the public in discussions regarding the amendment, stating that it fails to represent the people's interests. He warned that the new judicial framework could lead to more complications for citizens seeking justice.



QUETTA: MPA Sheikh Zarak Khan Mandokhail meeting with Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Nausherwani

## IBCC hails BBISE for introducing grading system

QUETTA (APP): Inter Board Coordination Commission (IBCC) of the Ministry of Education and Professional Training has hailed the BBISE and its Chairman for introducing new grading system and establishment of e-complaint cell.

Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BBISE) Quetta has introduced new grading system and established e-complaint cell for the first time in the history of the province.

The Inter Boards Coordination Commission of Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has issued appreciation letter to the Chairman of BBISE, saying that the initiative would revolutionize the evaluation system, benefiting students and educators alike and would also help in attaining uniformity across the board.

The new grading system would provide a more accurate evaluation of their abilities, prioritizing stu-

dents' overall learning and development, adding that this would also help alleviate pressure on students, raise critical thinking and provide a more accurate evaluation of their abilities.

The letter further said that under visionary leadership and commitment of BBISE's Chairman to quality education has made this significant reform possible and his dedication to improving the education system in Balochistan is commendable.

Talking to APP, Chairman BBISE Mir Ijaz Azeem Baloch said that Balochistan Board was taking practical steps for development of the board in order to provide more facilities to the students in the province to provide quality education to the youth.

Under the vision of Balochistan Minister of Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, the grading system has been introduced in the province by changing the marks/numbers system.



QUETTA: Managing Director BPPRA Syed Muhammad Afzal meeting with Director General Public Relations Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran