

# Independent

Member APNS &amp; CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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## CJP Afridi-led full court discusses steps to reduce case backlog, boost efficiency

Judges discussed a range of strategies to achieve the plan's targets

ISLAMABAD (APP): A full court meeting of the Supreme Court of Pakistan held on Monday under the chairmanship of Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi. The meeting was attended by all the judges including Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah who joined through video link.

The meeting was convened to assess the performance of the Supreme Court in the institution and disposal of cases, focusing on measures to reduce case backlog and enhance judicial efficiency. The registrar provided an overview of the current caseload and

outlined the steps towards timely decision of cases.

She presented updated statistics, including that 59,191 cases are currently pending and introduced a newly devised one-month plan based on Case Management Plan 2023 prepared by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah. The plan includes setting clear standards, employing information technology to effectively manage all categories of cases.

Reviewing the case Management Plan, the judges discussed a range of strategies to achieve the plan's targets. Criminal and civil cases, as detailed in the

monthly plan, were allocated to specialized two and three member benches to ensure swift and speedy case resolution. The judges contributed valuable insights and recommendations for further system improvement, underscoring their commitment to addressing case backlog. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, participating via video link, offered additional suggestions aimed at reducing the case backlog and improving procedural efficiency initially for one month and followed by three-month and six-month plans.



ISLAMABAD: The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi presides over Full Court meeting at Supreme Court of Pakistan.

## Gwadar deep seaport vital gateway for sea trade attracting attention of whole world, maintains Governor

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that Gwadar deep seaport is an important gateway for the sea trade, which has attained attention of the whole world because of its immense geographic importance and economic potentials.

The Governor insisted that heavy responsibility rests with the Vice Chancellor of Gwadar University, Professor Dr. Abdul Razzaq Sabir and his whole team to equip our youth with the modern knowledge and research in view of the future challenges and opportunities.

The Governor was speaking to the Vice Chancellor of Gwadar University, who called on him here on Monday.

The Governor said that the University is that center of research and innovation where new ideas are created and sustainable solution to the collective nature problems is found out.

He said that nevertheless, Gwadar deep seaport has potential of becoming an important supply center for promotion of economic and trade development and prosperity in the region. Therefore, we should give more priority to the steps of blue economy for sustainable coastal development, adding he stressed. In addition to this, it is very necessary to encourage the methods of water agriculture for promoting food security and sea trade. The Governor stressed the need to expand circle of courses of the information technology and life skills in the premises.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Food Noor Muhammad Dummer meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

## Opposition stages walkout against closure of border trade: BA adopts draft law of Center of Excellence for anti-violent extremism, resolution of ownership rights of lands

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Balochistan Assembly adopted the draft law of Balochistan Center of Excellence for Anti-violent extremism in its session on Monday.

The Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar tabled the draft act in the session while Speaker Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai was in the chair.

Similarly, the assembly also approved the reso-

lution about giving the ownership rights of the lands to the people of Dera Murad Jamali.

The resolution was tabled by the Provincial Minister for Irrigation, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani.

Meanwhile, another resolution for legislation about mediation to the assembly was also adopted in the session.

The resolution was tabled by the Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar.

Meanwhile, the members belonging to the opposition staged walk out from the House on issue of closure of border trade.

They also lodged protest on the issue carrying placards inscribed with the slogans against closure of border trade and for provision of livelihood.

Earlier, speaking on the issue, MPA Zamarak Khan Achakzai demanded to grant permission of bringing oil to the people from border.



ISLAMABAD: The Russian Parliamentary delegation, led by the Speaker of the Russian Federation Council, Ms. Valentina Matvienko, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Pakistan seeks Russia's support for BRICS membership bid

Zardari points out that both countries enormous potential for increasing economic cooperation and called for Russian investment in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Russia on Monday reaffirmed their resolve to further strengthen bilateral ties in the areas of trade, commerce, investment, agriculture and energy for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

This was discussed at a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and the visiting Parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker of the Russian Federation Council Valentina Matvienko at Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

Welcoming the Russian delegation, the president highlighted the historical relationship between Pakistan and Russia which were marked by mutual re-

spect and a shared commitment to expanding bilateral cooperation in various fields.

The meeting was attended by the Chairman Senate Senator Yousaf Raza Gilani, Senator Sherry Rehman, Senator Aimal Wali Khan, Senator Manzoor Ahmad Kakar, Senator Saleem H. Mandviwala, Senator Bushra Anjum Butt and other senior officials.

While talking to the delegation, the president underscored the need to strengthen cultural linkages through people-to-people contacts and scholarship programs.

He also pointed out that both countries had enormous potential for increasing economic coopera-

tion and called for Russian investment in Pakistan.

The president fondly recalled his recent pleasant interaction with President Vladimir Putin during his visit to Ashgabat.

He also sought Russia's support for Pakistan's bid to become a member of BRICS that would greatly help Pakistan to enhance its role in regional and global cooperation through the alliance.

Both sides underscored the importance of diversifying trade and economic cooperation, besides enhancing regional connectivity and commercial relations through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the North-South Transport

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## Bugti greets Dr. Abdul Malik on electing President NP

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has congratulated Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch on his election as President of National Party.

In a felicitation statement issued here on Monday, the Chief Minister said that holding of Council Session of National Party is a continuity of the political and democratic process.

He said that National Party would move ahead its peaceful political and democratic point of view under leadership of Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch.

He said that the continuity of political behaviours based on the harmony, tolerance and moral values guarantees the strong parliamentary system.

The Chief Minister said that the role of National Party cannot be forgotten in the parliamentary politics.

He said that opinion of all political parties is respectable for development of Balochistan and national solidarity.

## BBC challenges 26th constitutional amendment in Supreme Court

ISLAMABAD (Online): Balochistan Bar Council (BBC) has filed petition in Supreme Court (SC) against constitutional bench set up federal government under 26th constitutional amendment.

Petition has been filed through lawyer Munir A Malik.

The petition said establishment of Judicial Commission (JC) and its functioning under constitutional amendment be stopped.

Federal and all the four provincial governments have been made respondents.

The petition said members of assembly were forced to cast vote. House was not complete at the time of making amendment. Incomplete house cannot make constitutional amendment. 26th constitutional amendment runs contrary to basic constitutional structure and independence of judiciary.

## PM reiterates resolve to make Pakistan polio-free country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed government's resolve to make Pakistan a polio-free country, stressing the need for unified action in this regard.

"We will not rest until we have permanently defeated polio", he said while chairing a meeting on polio eradication.

Commending the efforts of the government's polio team in combating the disease, he directed Coordinator for National Health Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath, Polio Focal Person Ayesha Raza Farooq, and the Secretary of National Health to visit the most affected areas during the recent polio campaign.

The prime minister also directed to conduct a third party audit of the anti-

polio campaign. Additionally, he emphasized the need to develop a comprehensive strategy to address the immunity gap.

In the meeting, the prime minister was briefed on recent polio cases and the eradication campaign.

Currently, the number of active polio cases in the country stands at 41, out of which 25 such cases whom routine immunization coverage is not better. The briefing also highlighted that the spread of polio was lower in areas with better vaccination rates.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister's Coordinator for National Health Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath, Prime Minister's Polio Focal Person Ayesha Raza Farooq, and relevant senior government officials.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on Polio Eradication.

## 50,000 new passport applications being received daily: Interior Ministry

ISLAMABAD (INP): Interior Ministry has reported a surge in passport applications, with 45,000 to 50,000 applications submitted daily, while current resources allow only 20,000 to 22,000 passports to be issued per day.

Officials attribute the delays to limited capacity and outdated infrastructure.

In a statement to the National Assembly, Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi explained that the system introduced in 2004 was initially sufficient but has since become strained as regional offices expanded from 30 to 223 and foreign missions from 10 to 93.

He said over time, the passport offices increased to 223 while Pakistan's missions abroad surged to 93. However, he said the

passport production facility was never expanded nor equipped with the technology or equipment to make the printing process "faster and better."

"Presently, the department is facing a very high trend of daily passport applications around 45,000 to 50,000 thousand from field formations, whereas, the production facility can merely cater for 20,000 to 22,000 passports per day," Naqvi said. "Resultantly, the routine backlog is being accumulated."

He said the government has made the passport production facility operational 24 hours during all seven days of the week in three shifts to cater to applicants on a war footing basis.

When asked whether

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Balochistan Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar administers polio drops to child during the launching ceremony of Polio Eradication Campaign in Quetta.

## Health Minister inaugurates anti polio campaign in Balochistan; vows to make province polio free

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The seven-day anti-polio campaign commenced all over Balochistan province on Monday.

The Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar formally inaugurated the immunization campaign by administering anti-polio vaccine to the children at the health center in GoR colony.

Also present on the occasion were the Coordinator of Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for polio eradication, and other concerned high ups.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister Health said that polio is a serious issue in the province. However, efforts are continued for eradication of polio virus in the province.

that 21 cases of polio have been reported in the province during current year.

Bakht Muhammad Kakar on the occasion reiterated government's resolve to make the province polio free.

He mentioned that a big reason behind surge in polio cases in Balochistan is Afghanistan too.

The Minister said that there is a need to bring improvement in the polio campaign and adding he assured to work on the fault line where there it is.

He also pledged to fight against the polio virus together with religious leaders, teachers and community.

He stressed that we need to improve our water and sanitation system in

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QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Sadiq Umrani, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, Mir Asim Kurd Gailu, Parliamentary Secretaries Haji Abdul Majeed Badini, Haji Barkat Ali Rind, Hadia Nawaz Baloch and MPs Asim Zamarak Achakzai and Sheikh Zarak Khan Mandokhail expressing their views on various resolution during Balochistan Assembly session while Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai chairs the session.

## Kashmir Black Day observed at Pakistan Embassy, Beijing

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan Embassy, Beijing organized a special event here on Monday to commemorate 27 October as the Kashmir Black Day. Messages from the President, Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister were read on the occasion to recall 27 October 1947 as the day when India landed its occupation forces in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). The messages condemned the Indian atrocities in IIOJK, reiterated Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the Kashmiri people and underscored the need for a just and peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

In his remarks, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi highlighted the gross human rights violations in IIOJK, including extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances and continued incarceration of Kashmiri leaders.

He rejected the so-called recent elections in IIOJK as farce, as they could not be a substitute to a UN sponsored plebiscite in the occupied territory.

The Ambassador called upon the international community to play its due role for the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, which allow the Kashmiri people to exercise their right to self-determination.



QUETTA: Vice Chancellor Gwadar University Professor Dr. Abdul Razaq Sabir meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

## PHC says: Government will pay compensation to families of those who are missing

PESHAWAR (Online): Peshawar High Court (PHC) has remarked government will pay compensation to the family members of those who are missing since more than five years.

The court gave these remarks during hearing of cases pertaining to missing persons Monday.

Chief Justice (CJ) PHC Justice Ishaq Ibrahim took up for hearing cases of 13 missing persons Monday.

The court sought report from federal and provincial governments.

The CJ PHC remarked during the hearing of the petitions that government will pay compensation to the family members of those who are missing since more than five years.

The court inquired that this thing was there in UN convention too. What was done about it. Did the government pay compensation to affected families.

## Hafiz Naem says: India is massacring Muslims but Nawaz Sharif is dying for meeting Indian rulers

LAHORE (Online): JI Amir Hafiz Naem ur Rehman has said rulers are the biggest burden on Pakistan and a few people are devouring Pakistan.

"Rulers are out to disfigure constitution. Their mission is only to make amendments and they will continue to do it. PPP and PML-N have together devastated institutions, he said while addressing press conference here Monday.

He held India has illegally occupied Kashmir.

Extremist India is massacring Muslims. Thousands of Muslims were murdered in Gujarat. But on the other hand Nawaz Sharif is dying for holding meeting with Indian rulers.

There was black day on October 27 but our commerce minister talked of promoting trade with India. In this situation such statements torture Kashmiris.

Government says inflation has abated. It is incomprehensible they get statistics from where.

## AJK President urges UK Kashmiris to intensify efforts for Kashmir cause

MIRPUR-AJK (APP): Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry emphasized the need for the international community especially the United Nations to take decisive action to resolve the long-standing Kashmir dispute.

During a meeting with former House of Lords member Lord Nazir Ahmed, President AJK called on the Kashmiri community in the UK to enhance their efforts in promoting the Kashmir cause globally.

He expressed concerns over the deteriorating political and human rights situation in Indian-administered Kashmir since the revocation of Articles 370 and 35A which previously granted special status to the region.

President accused the Indian government of attempting to alter the demographic makeup of Kashmir by issuing fake domicile certificates to non-Kashmiris.

He described this as a conspiracy to reduce the Muslim majority to a minority in the area. He highlighted the ongoing violence, stating that Kashmiris are continuously being martyred by the Indian army.

The AJK President urged Kashmiris worldwide to advocate for a just and peaceful resolution to the conflict, linking improvements in the region's situation to the fulfillment of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions.

He stressed that now is a critical time for Kashmiri expatriates particularly those in the UK to raise awareness about the plight of Kashmiris at relevant forums in the UK and Europe.



QUETTA: Chairman Standing Committee for Commerce and Industries Salah-ud-Din Achakzai meeting with Director General Public Relations Muhammad Noor Khethran.



ISLAMABAD: envoys of the Kyrgyz Republic, the State of Palestine, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Uzbekistan, Kenya and the Republic of Turkey presented their diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari, during a ceremony, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Rizwan sets ICC Champions trophy, T20 WC in India as targets as captain

LAHORE (APP): The newly-appointed white-ball captain Mohammad Rizwan has said that winning ICC Champions trophy 2025 and Men's T20 World Cup in India & Sri Lanka are his goals as captain of the Pakistan white-ball team.

In his first interview as captain with PCB Digital on Monday, he said the team has been losing in the semi-finals and final of the major ICC tournaments, adding, the team needed to make preparations keeping Champions trophy and T20 World Cup in mind.

About his other goals as captain, Rizwan said

nurturing a future captain and a back-up wicket-keeper were his other targets as captain, adding that he would like to lead by example. "I will leave behind a legacy in which Pakistan cricket will have a group of good players after him," he responded.

Rizwan further said that a good captain's trait is to keep the team united, adding that the unity in the team was not due to one individual.

"I wish to take Pakistan cricket to new heights with the right combination of the young and senior cricketers in the team," the captain asserted, adding, domestic outfits in the past but I was never desirous of the captaincy of the national side," Rizwan said, adding that he has learnt a lot from the past captains of the Pakistan team.

The wicket-keeper batsman said he will try to do justice with the job and apply what he had learnt over the years, adding that there is immense difference in captaining in domestic cricket and leading at the international level.

On his hopes for good performance as captain, Rizwan said he had served as vice captain in all formats and the whole team was happy with him.

## PTI founder availing all required facilities in jail: Malik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum Musadiq Malik on Monday said that Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI) founder is availing all required facilities in jail premises.

The members of PTI are spreading false propaganda regarding health of the PTI founder, he said while talking to a private television channel. PTI founder is enjoying good health according to the medical board of PIMS, he stated.

In reply to a question about appointing judge for constitutional bench, he said there is a mechanism for appointment of judges. Judicial reforms would also help strengthen the judicial system and provide speedy justice to people, he added.

## Prices of cooking oil and ghee jump Rs50 per kilogram

LAHORE (INP): In the wake of hike in palm oil prices in global market, cooking oil and ghee prices register big jump in Pakistan.

Across the country, all brands have increased prices of cooking oil and ghee from Rs40 to Rs50 per kilogram.

Umar Rehan Sheikh, Chairman Banaspati Manufacturers Association told media that the price of palm oil in the international market has increased by \$300 per tonne.

He further claimed that palm oil price has increased from \$900 dollars to \$1200 per ton in the global market during the last two months.

Omar Rehan said in the wake of hike in global market, oil prices are being increased in Pakistan. He urged the government to announce decrease in taxes for the sake of masses.

Umar Rehan said federal government is charging Rs 100 per kg tax on oil and ghee. He appealed Finance Minister to announce reduction in tax on ghee and oil.

He said Pakistan imports 3.2 million tons of palm oil annually while the total demand of the country is 4.5 million tonnes.

## Health Minister.. 50,000 new..

Continued from page 1

He also said that numerous changes are being brought in the health department, and claimed improvement in three months.

Meanwhile, it was informed that the polio immunization campaign has been started in all districts of the province.

During the campaign, more than 2.65 million children would be administered anti polio vaccine. For this purpose, over 11,000 teams have been formed, it was briefed on occasion of the inauguration.

The authorities urged the parents to ensure administration of anti polio vaccine to their children below five years of age.

He announced to set up control rooms in the hospitals to monitor availability of the medicines, and action would be taken on the complaint of their shortage.

## Pakistan seeks..

Continued from page 1

Corridor. The Russian speaker emphasized that her country accorded priority to its relationship with Pakistan and expressed confidence that her visit would further enhance bilateral cooperation.

She hoped that the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Parliaments of the two countries would further deepen bilateral relations.

She expressed satisfaction over the growth in bilateral trade and also conveyed the special greetings from President Putin.

Additionally, she congratulated Pakistan on the successful hosting of the SCO Heads of Government as well as Pakistan's candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.

The president expressed gratitude to Russia for its support of Pakistan's candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.

## Pak envoy lauds Pakistani exhibitors for high-quality products at Beauty World Middle East

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Envoy to the UAE, on Monday visited Pakistan Pavilion at the Beauty World Middle East 2024 and lauded the contribution of Pakistani exhibitors for introducing innovative and high-quality products to the GCC region.

Ambassador Tirmizi said that participation of Pakistani companies at the exhibition marked an important step in promoting Pakistan's beauty and personal care products on a global scale.

Earlier, Hussain Muhammad, Consul General of Pakistan, inaugurated the Pakistan Pavilion in the exhibition and emphasized that the event allowed Pakistani businessmen to present competitive products to a global market, promoting exports and attracting international investment. The Consul General commended the Pakistani exhibitors for their commitment to product diversification and market expansion.

He underscored the consulate's dedication to supporting Pakistani exports in the globalised market of Dubai.



QUETTA: Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (ret'd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai administering oath from newly elected MPA Dr. Ashok Kumar during BA session.

**CORRIGENDUM**

It is to inform all the Contractors & General Public that the Tender called by the Undersigned & published in Newspapers vide PRQ No. 1414/10-10-2024 dated: 11-10-2024 & TSE#242510570713, the date of bid submission & opening is extended from 28-10-2024 to 04-11-2024, due to unavoidable circumstances. Other terms and conditions will remain the same.

Executive Engineer (Roads)  
CWPP&H Department District,  
Chaman

PRQ No.1655/28-10-2024

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**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

The Chairman District Council Killa Abdullah invites Sealed percentage tender on composite schedule of rate 2023 Government of Balochistan (amended up to date) from interested contractors / firms for the following Development Works for the year 2024-25 Govt. of Balochistan.

S.No	Name of Scheme	Amount
1	Provision & Installation of Solar Plate Package-I District Council Killa Abdullah TSE-242510580853	20.20 M
2	Provision & Installation of Solar Plate Package-II District Council Killa Abdullah TSE-242510580873	19.40 M
3	Provision & Installation of Solar Plate Package-III District Council Killa Abdullah TSE-242510580893	7.20 M

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required Turn-over of at least as per schemes estimated cost in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 2,000 PKR with green Challan in NBP Chaman Branch A/C 11845-5 Branch Code 0559. Issuance of Tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 during office hours on working days. Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 15<sup>th</sup> 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 AM Address: Office of the Chairman District Council Killa Abdullah. Phone no: 03083850840 Email: noonullah0308@gmail.com

CHAIRMAN  
District Council Killa Abdullah

AB No.427/28-10-2024

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**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 PROVINCIAL B&R DISTRICT LORALAI invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates Tender Fee Rs.1500/- and Bid Security 2%

S. No	Name of Work	%/Cost
1	ADDITIONAL WORK CONST OF B/T ROADS AND SIDE DRAINS AT TATAI KAKARAN, KILLI PATHAN KOT & 3000 CROSS PIPES / DRAIN LORALAI. 12 KM PSDP No. 326 Z2021.0253. (E-Bid) TSE NO. 242510581323	106,920,000/-

(Based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates)

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Mentioned in the Bidding Documents. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee / Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk Last Date of bid submission: E Bid can only be submitted electronically to this office latest by 11 November, 2024 till 10:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 11:00 AM on EPPS System. Address: B&R office zho road lorlai Phone no: 0824410031 Email: khaliqdjadjalzai.kd@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER- ROADS  
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ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a meeting with Parliamentary delegation headed by Speaker of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation, Valentina Matvienko, held at Parliament House in Islamabad.

## Role of technology important in addressing urgent challenges: Shaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja Monday said that the technology had important role in addressing urgent challenges like climate change.

"Innovative digital solutions are essential not only for environmental sustainability but also for improving overall economic resilience and driving growth across various sectors," she said while addressing the "First National Youth Climate Summit".

Shaza Fatima said, "Climate change is a big challenge and every one will have to play role for environmental protection."

"Climate action is most powerful when it includes everyone. We can

not tackle climate change effectively without the unique prospective and energies of young people", she said.

The minister emphasized the need of launching proper campaign on social media regarding climate change.

She said there was dire need of eliminating elements causing pollution.

"A prime example of Pakistan commitment to supporting innovation is the recent call for startups from Ignite, an attached department under the Ministry of IT and Telecom, to present their innovative solutions in climate tech, green tech, and agri-tech at COP29," she said.

Shaza Fatima said, "This initiative is a valuable

opportunity for our startups to engage with world leaders, policymakers, and investors, and position Pakistan in global discussions on climate action."

"Similarly, the National Incubation Centers (NICs), which are a flagship program of Ignite and the Ministry of IT and Telecom, play an important role in nurturing a range of startups across multiple verticals. These verticals extend beyond climate-related fields to encompass health tech, fintech, and sustainable practices amongst others. Ultimately, this contributes to the development of a climate-resilient digital economy that aligns with global standards, as highlighted at COP28," she said.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, addresses the audience at the Chief Guest at the "First National Youth Climate Summit" held at a local hotel in federal Capital.

## Amb. Ahmad says: Durable peace in S. Asia, contingent upon peaceful resolution of J&K dispute

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ambassador in France Asim Iftikhar Ahmad on Monday said that durable peace and stability in South Asia remained contingent upon peaceful resolution of Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with UNSC resolutions and wishes of the Kashmiri people.

"27 October 1947 was one of the darkest days for the Kashmiri people as the Indian occupation of J&K, which began on that day, stifled the legitimate aspirations of the Kashmiris to determine their own destiny and subjected them to decades long gross and systematic violations of human rights," the ambassador said in a special seminar arranged by Embassy of Pakistan in France marking the Kash-

mir Black Day and to express solidarity with the Kashmiris in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

For several generations, the ambassador said the Kashmiri people had been looking towards the global community, especially the United Nations, to deliver them their promised right to self-determination.

"India's illegal and unilateral actions and continuing grave atrocities since 5 August 2019 had further exacerbated the situation and completely alienated the Kashmiri people who were united in rejecting any attempts by the occupying power to undermine the internationally recognized disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir and to alter the demographic composition of the occupied territory."



ISLAMABAD: CDA gardeners planting seasonal flowers in the roadside Garden to enhancing the beauty of the federal capital.

## ICT admin kicks off anti-polio drive, sets target to vaccinate 461,000 children upto 5 years

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration on Monday launched a comprehensive anti-polio campaign, aiming to vaccinate 461,000 children upto the age of five years. The spokesman of ICT administration said that the drive, set to run until November 3, calls for community support in eradicating the disease.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon confirmed that polio workers will go door-to-door to vaccinate children under five and will also be stationed in public areas to ensure full coverage. Meanwhile, the Assistant Commissioners across the city have gathered to

review campaign logistics and address worker safety. They discussed how to meet targets and handle cases of families refusing the vaccine.

DC Islamabad has urged citizens to cooperate with the polio teams, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding children's health. However, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Pothohar, Farwa Batool accompanied by the district administration teams have arrested a mall manager for blocking polio workers from entering a private mall.

The manager had previously prevented teams from entering the premises, prompting authorities to take action.

## Sustained participation of women in workforce need of an hour: Dr. Khalid

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Monday highlighted the need for sustained participation of women in the workforce.

Addressing a convocation ceremony at National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), the minister encouraged young women to be change agents in transforming the narrative around women in STEM fields.

He extended heartfelt congratulations, emphasizing that the graduates' success was a testament to their dedication, hard work, and the nurturing environment at NUST.

The federal minister encouraged the graduates to make wise choices.

He shared his insights on resilience, the importance of action, and the need for lifelong learning in a rapidly evolving world.

He urged the graduates to embrace continuous self-improvement, reminding them that their actions would shape not just their own futures but also the destiny of Pakistan.

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He extended heartfelt congratulations, emphasizing that the graduates' success was a testament to their dedication, hard work, and the nurturing environment at NUST.

The federal minister encouraged the graduates to make wise choices.

He shared his insights on resilience, the importance of action, and the need for lifelong learning in a rapidly evolving world.

He urged the graduates to embrace continuous self-improvement, reminding them that their actions would shape not just their own futures but also the destiny of Pakistan.

## Reserved seats Contempt of court petition against EC filed for not implementing SC decision

ISLAMABAD (Online): Contempt of court petition has been filed against Election Commission (EC) for not implementing apex court decision in regard to reserved seats so far.

Petition has been filed by Suleman Akram Raja in Supreme Court (SC) making members of EC respondents. The petitioner has taken plea EC be ordered to implement the decision forthwith. Contempt of court proceedings be initiated against members of EC.

The petition further said EC has not implemented SC decision despite the fact apex court had informed commission twice

in details. SC has issued clarifications twice in this regard wherein it has been said that court's decision be implemented forthwith.

It is binding on EC to implement SC decision as per article 189 of the constitution. However prevailing situation is this EC is making pretexts despite passage of so long time in reserved seats case and it is not implementing SC decision still.

It is requested to SC to initiate contempt of court proceedings against the EC. The EC be ordered to implement SC decision on the matter of reserved seats as per court orders.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and Ambassador of the Czech Republic Ladislav Steinhübel cutting a cake on Czech National Day.

## Ex-president SCBA challenges 26th constitutional amendment in SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Abid Zubairi, former president Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) has filed petition in Supreme Court (SC) against 26th constitutional amendment.

The petitioner while making federation and provinces respondents has requested SC to declare 26th constitutional amendment unconstitutional. 26th constitutional amendment be declared against the basic rights enshrined in the constitution and basic constitutional structure. The judicial commission meeting in connection with appointment of judges be stopped.

## Parliamentarians call for strengthening PGA's role in global peace, justice

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani members of the Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) on Monday underlined the need to enhance the organization's role in addressing global challenges.

Talking to APP Barrister Aqeel Malik, Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry, and Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig underscored the importance of parliamentary representatives in promoting global peace and justice, noting that these efforts are now more crucial than ever.

At the PGA conference, hosted by Pakistan, participants discussed key global issues, including international law, climate change, and human rights. Both Pakistani and international delegates reaffirmed their commitment to leading efforts to address these pressing challenges.

Barrister Aqeel Malik, PGA member and Advisor on Law and Justice highlighted Pakistan's dedication to upholding the principles of global justice and human

rights. He called on the international community to eliminate double standards in dealing with conflicts like Palestine and Kashmir, stressing that Pakistan's struggle reflects its firm stance on promoting global justice while maintaining sovereignty and integrity.

Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry, emphasized the significant role of Pakistani politicians in establishing global peace.

He pointed out that resolving conflicts such as Kashmir and Palestine is essential for achieving fair and lasting peace. He reiterated Pakistan's unparalleled sacrifices in promoting global peace and reaffirmed the nation's commitment to justice on the international stage.

Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, a Pakistan People's Party leader and PGA member, echoed the need for international cooperation in tackling challenges like climate change.

## Wanted absconder in duel murder case arrested

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant operation, a team of Tarnol Police Station and Tarnol Circle Homicide Unit of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police on Monday apprehended an absconding suspect, involved in a double murder case.

A police spokesman told APP that a citizen filed a report in Tarnol Police Station regarding the brutal murder of a man and woman, using a sharp weapon.

He said upon receiving the information, the Tarnol Police immediately registered case number 672/24 and initiated an investigation.



ISLAMABAD: Worker busy beauty painting the bridge at Zero Point in the Federal Capital.

## Ayaz Sadiq says: Parliamentary diplomacy played key role in reinforcing bilateral relations between Pak, Russia

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Monday said that parliamentary diplomacy had historically played a key role in reinforcing bilateral relations between Pakistan and Russia.

During a meeting with the Speaker of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation, Valentina Matvienko expressed gratitude for the warm welcome extended to her and congratulated Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on his re-election.

She said, "Russia values Pakistan as a significant player on the international stage and commended the country's efforts toward global peace."

She reaffirmed Russia's support for Pakistan's BRICS membership bid and emphasized the importance of collective efforts to foster peace and

focus on advancing parliamentary cooperation for mutual benefit.

Ayaz Sadiq reaffirmed Pakistan's longstanding, broad-based relationship with Russia, highlighting its foundation on principles of mutual respect and trust.

"Pakistan's ties with Russia are a vital component of its foreign policy," he emphasized. Madam Valentina Matvienko expressed gratitude for the warm welcome extended to her and congratulated Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on his re-election.

She said, "Russia values Pakistan as a significant player on the international stage and commended the country's efforts toward global peace."

She reaffirmed Russia's support for Pakistan's BRICS membership bid and emphasized the importance of collective efforts to foster peace and

prosperity on both regional and global fronts.

In response, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq expressed his gratitude to Matvienko for her remarks and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to continued collaboration with Russia across areas of shared interest.

Reflecting on past initiatives to strengthen parliamentary ties, Ayaz Sadiq recalled the organization of the inaugural Six-Country Speakers' Conference in Pakistan, attended by counterparts from Afghanistan, Iran, China, Turkey, and Russia.

This conference proved instrumental in addressing common issues of regional interest.

He also mentioned his tenure as Convener of the Pakistan-Russia Parliamentary Friendship Group during the 15th National Assembly of Pakistan.



RAWALPINDI: Deputy Defence Minister, Russian Federation, Col. General Aleksandr V. Fomin called on Secretary Defence, Lt. Gen (Retd) Muhammad Ali HI (M) at Ministry of Defence.

## Romina for respecting regional norms in climate diplomacy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam on Friday said Pakistan needs to focus on climate diplomacy respecting regional norms and values while spearheading global focus on enhanced climate finance for less developed vulnerable countries.

The Pre-COP29 Summit on "Pakistan's Climate Resilience: Road to COP29" organised by the Pak-German Climate and Energy Partnership (PGCEP), in collaboration with the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

This event brought together key stakeholders to discuss the nation's climate challenges and strategies in light of upcoming negotiations at COP29.

Speaking at the event, the chief guest, Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change, stressed the need for Pakistan to prioritize climate adaptation strategies that respect regional contexts and vulnerabilities. She affirmed Pakistan's role as a vocal advocate for climate-vulnerable nations.

In his keynote address, Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director of SDPI, emphasized the urgency of climate action, noting that the withdrawal of the U.S. from the Paris Agreement commitments had weakened global climate agendas. He acknowledged the concerted efforts of the EU and China to maintain focus on climate issues despite setbacks.

He said that contro-

versy surrounding the Loss and Damage Fund prevails. Still, despite this, there is an opportunity to co-opt oil-producing states as part of the solution to address climate change and to mobilize finance for climate action. "Baku as COP29 host can contribute to carbon markets and carbon credits trading amid many daunting challenges like green washing. However, the COP29 presidency had streamlined many of those issues," he said. Pakistan, he said is an active member of the international community that played lead role in operationalization of Loss and Damage Fund. "Pakistan has to remain an active representative of the 220 million resilient people who stood firm against adverse impacts of climate change," he added.

## Imaan Mazari, her husband arrested

ISLAMABAD (Online): Police have arrested Imaan Mazari and her husband for allegedly interfering in government affairs.

Aabpara police have arrested Imaan Mazari.

Case was registered against Imaan Mazari and her husband. Imaan Mazari and her husband had violated route. Imaan Mazari pushed the police men as well. Both of them escaped from the scene while removing barriers.

Husband of Imaan Mazari hurled abuses on police.

Video of incident had gone viral on social media.

## IGP orders transparency in crime control

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police, the Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, presided over a meeting with investigation wing

IG Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi regarding the ongoing crackdown against the criminal elements.

During the meeting, IG Rizvi reviewed the investigation system and the cases

officers on Monday.

A police spokesperson told APP that, the meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Muhammad Arslan Shahzaib, Superintendent of Police (SP) Rukhsar Mehdi, and other senior officers.

On the occasion, SSP Operations gives briefing to

## APHC-AJK delegation submits memorandum to UN office in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of the All Parties Freedom Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir chapter on Monday submitted a memorandum to the UN office in Islamabad, urging international intervention in the Kashmir dispute.

The delegation, comprising Syed Faiz Naqshbandi, Shamim Shawl, Sheikh Abdul Matin, Zahid Safi and Imtiaz Wani, condemned India's unilateral actions in occupied Kashmir. The memorandum stated, "We, the Representatives of the People of Jammu and Kashmir, reaffirming the principles of the United Nations Charter... express grave concerns on the prevailing situation of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir."

It highlighted the unilateral annexation of occupied Jammu and Kashmir by India on August 5, 2019, revoking Article 370, deployment of 900,000 Indian troops.

## CDA's beautification drive transforms I'bad, residents praise city's new look

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad is abuzz with fresh colors and greener views as the Capital Development Authority (CDA) rolls out an ambitious beautification drive across the capital.

With vibrant flowers, lush greenery, and artistic steel installations adorning the city, residents are taking notice of the refreshed look, praising the CDA's efforts to make Islamabad more inviting.

Under this initiative, CDA has added colorful floral arrangements, green plants, and carefully chosen steel sculptures in key areas.

These new additions not only brighten the

cityscape but also enhance Islamabad's eco-friendly reputation by expanding green spaces.

Local residents have shared enthusiastic feedback about the transformation. "Islamabad feels more alive than ever," commented Rimsha Khan, a resident of Sector F-7.

"The flowers and greenery are so refreshing, especially as we move into the fall season. It's wonderful to see the city taking such care in its appearance."

Farhan Bhatti, a long-time resident of the Blue Area, praised the steel installations that reflect the city's heritage and values.



## KP CM for early issuance electronic Property Cards in merged districts

### Gandapur also launches stipend programme for adolescent girls

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Monday directed the Revenue department to issue electronic Property Cards to citizens of merged district as soon as possible so that they could easily access their land records using mobile application.

Presiding over a meeting of Board of Revenue here, he said that issuance of electronic Property Card was an important initiative of the provincial government in relation to revenue reforms, adding that the provincial government was implementing effective use of information and communication technology for land record reforms.

He said that the Card would bring transparency in all matters of land records and would help end

disputes related to property ownership in addition to the provision of various facilities.

Earlier, the CM was informed during briefing that the Property Card would act as an e-passbook enabling the citizens to easily access all their land records by scanning the QR code on the property card through a smartphone.

The officials of Revenue department said that the Card would curb forgery in land record as the details of land owner in all the districts would be recorded in this card and could be verified through a mobile application facility.

Apart from Provincial Minister of Finance, Additional Chief Secretaries, Senior Member of Board of Revenue and other concerned officials attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, Chief

Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Monday launched the stipend programme for adolescent girls of merged districts to promote female education.

Under the program, monthly stipends of Rs 1000 would be given to each girl from grade six to twelve.

The programme would cost Rs 1.14 billion rupees, out of which 82 percent would be provided by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and the remaining 18 percent by the World Food Programme.

The stipend would be provided to 30,000 girls of 514 girls' schools of the merged districts.

These scholarships are subject to minimum 70 percent attendance of girls in schools.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique presides over the 87th Board of Directors meeting at Punjab Health Initiative Management Company.

## Sindh Home Minister orders enhanced security measures for polio campaign

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Home Minister, Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar, has directed the officers concerned to ensure comprehensive security arrangements for the ongoing anti-polio campaign.

In a statement on Monday, he emphasized the importance of securing all levels of the campaign, with a special focus on categorizing union councils to enhance security measures.

Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar instructed the deployment of police commandos to safeguard polio workers and teams in sensitive union councils. He also stressed the implementation of a "cordon strategy" during security operations, ensuring thorough surveillance of areas, streets, and routes by local police stations.

The minister called for increased police

patrols, snap-checking, and blockades across all districts. He also urged the reinforcement of the advanced intelligence collection system for better coordination and efficiency.

Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar further instructed district SSPs to closely monitor the security arrangements during the campaign. He emphasized that SHO must be present in their respective areas and provide real-time updates via wireless communication systems.

Additionally, the Home Minister ordered district authorities to ensure proper accommodation and meals for officers and personnel assigned to security duties during the polio campaign.

It is noteworthy that Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah launched the seven-day anti-polio campaign on Monday.

## Lunch hosted for KP Governor

LAHORE (APP): Former Punjab Assembly Speaker Sardar Muhammad Sibtain Khan hosted a lunch for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi here on Monday.

On the occasion, country's political situation came under discussion.

Muhammad Sibtain Khan lauded the efforts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor regarding construction of Dera Ismail Khan Kallur Kot bridge.

This bridge would play major role in connecting people besides promoting economic activities, he added.

Former Punjab Assembly Speaker said that Dera Ismail Khan and Mianwali were part of Siraiki culture, he said and added that joint efforts were needed for promotion and prosperity of this culture.

He also appreciated Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's agenda of women empowerment and youth engagement aimed at highlighting soft image of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## ANF arrests five accused with over 82 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force in nine operations conducted in different areas arrested five accused and recovered over 82 kg drugs worth Rs 6.4 million, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman.

He informed that ANF is making efforts to net drug dealers particularly those supplying drugs to the students of different educational institutions.

He said, 500 grams hashish was recovered from an accused rounded up near a university in Islamabad.



KARACHI: A young girl under the age of five sits proudly on the lap of Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, showing the mark on her small finger as proof of receiving her polio drops, at SMB Fatima Jinnah School Garden East in Karachi.

## Murad expresses concern over high rate of polio vaccination refusals in Karachi, Hyderabad

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that polio vaccine hesitancy and refusals remain major challenges for polio eradication efforts in the country, particularly in Sindh including Karachi and Hyderabad many parents refuse to allow their children to receive the oral polio vaccine (OPV).

He said this while launching the polio eradication campaign along with his cabinet members at SMB Fatima Jinnah School Garden, West.

The provincial minister - Syed Sardar Shah, Jam Khan Shoro, Zulfikar Shah, and Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, were

accompanying the CM and administered OPV to children under the age of five during the event. Secretary School Education Zahid Abbasi, Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi, Adl IG Karachi Javed Odho, Secretary Health Rehan Baloch, Coordinator EOC Irshad Ali Sodhar, WHO Director Polio EMRO Region Dr Hamid Jafery, WHO Polio Country Head Dr Zainul Abideen and others were present.

Mr Shah said that in the week-long campaign, from October 28 to November 3rd, 2024, 10.6 million children under the age of five across 30 districts of Sindh would be provided with oral polio vaccine (OPV) to protect

against the debilitating disease. Additionally, 9.5 million children aged 6 months to 5 years will receive Vitamin A supplements to boost their immunity.

Murad Shah said that Vaccine hesitancy and refusals present significant obstacles to polio eradication initiatives in Pakistan. In Sindh, particularly in the cities of Karachi and Hyderabad, a considerable number of parents are reluctant to permit their children to receive the oral polio vaccine (OPV). He added that the challenge is particularly severe in Karachi, where refusals account for 85 per cent of all refusals documented in Sindh.

## Azma Bokhari says: Govt employees in KPK protesting for salaries

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that universities are shutting down in KPK due to lack of funds.

She said the people of the 'Fitna Party' are dreaming of hospitals going bankrupt in Punjab. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, government employees can be seen protesting daily over unpaid salaries, she added. Azma said new hospitals are being built in Punjab, and renovations of existing hospitals are underway. Work has already begun on Punjab's first cancer hospital, while a cardiologia hospital in Sargodha is in progress, she said and added that the

## Two killed in road accidents

FAISALABAD (APP): Two persons were killed while three others sustained serious injuries in a road accidents in Faisalabad during last 12 hours. Rescue 1122 spokesman said on Monday that Abdul Ghafoor (60) along with his wife Hanifan Bibi (52) was travelling on a motorcycle when their two-wheeler met a road accident near Chak No.252-GB.

As a result, Abdul Ghafoor died on the spot whereas, Rescue 1122 shifted his wife to Allied Hospital-II in a critical condition. Meanwhile, Allah Ditta (52) r/o Chak No.409-GB was killed while Irfan (20) and Shazia (50) were injured serious when a speedy motorcycle.



LAHORE: Chairperson Punjab Women Protection Authority Hina Pervez Butt briefing media regarding launching of new programs.

## Anti-corruption court begins proceedings in Chiniot Mines Case

LAHORE (APP): An anti-corruption court on Monday formally began proceedings in the Chiniot mines and minerals case against former Punjab Assembly Speaker Sibtain Khan and others.

The court issued notices to the involved parties, scheduling the trial for November 26, and adjourned further proceedings. Anti-Corruption Court Judge Sardar Iqbal Dogar presided over the hearing, during which Sibtain Khan appeared and marked his attendance. The case, previously handled by an

accountability court, was transferred to the anti-corruption court on October 9, 2024, following the restoration of certain amendments to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) law.

In addition to Sibtain Khan, several other individuals, including Salman Ghani, Muhammad Aslam, Abdul Sattar Mian, and Imtiaz Ahmad Cheema, were named as accused. The charges against Sibtain Khan allege that he misused his position to award a multi-billion-rupee contract to a firm of his choice in 2007.

## Education initiatives launched in Khanewal

MULTAN (APP): In line with Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz's vision, a series of education-friendly initiatives have been launched in Khanewal. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali Bukhari has approved the construction of boundary walls for 13 government schools at an estimated cost of Rs 20 million, and construction is scheduled to begin within the next two weeks.

The approval was granted during a meeting of the District School Council, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Bukhari. The meeting was attended by ADC General Ghulam Mustafa, Deputy Director Development, and the Executive Engineer of Buildings. Officials from the education department, including the CEO of education and district officers, briefed the participants on their departmental performance.

## Three killed in Hafizabad road accident

HAFAZABAD (APP): Three people were killed on Monday when a speeding bus collided with a motorcycle on Sargodha-Lahore Road in Hafizabad.

According to a private news channel, the accident occurred due to over speeding, resulting in the killing of three people—a husband, wife and child. According to reports, the bus driver fled the scene after the crash.

Rescue teams promptly reached the site and shifted the dead bodies to a nearby hospital.

## Seven UCs witness rise in dengue cases

PESHAWAR (APP): At least seven union councils (UCs) in the provincial capital are witnessing a surge in dengue cases where hundreds of people have been affected by dengue mosquitoes.

According to an official report, 47 new dengue patients were reported during the last 24 hours, from seven different UCs while the total number of dengue cases had climbed to 978 in the provincial capital. Similarly, the total number of dengue patients in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had reached to 2,891.

## CM inaugurates anti polio vaccination drive

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has formally inaugurated anti-polio vaccination drive and administered anti-polio vaccination drops to children at Services Institute of Medical Sciences (SIMS), here on Monday.

The CM said that children must be given polio vaccine to save them from lifelong disability. She set a target of zero polio in the province.

The CM appealed to the parents to administer anti-polio vaccination drops to their kids. She took a baby named Naira in her lap and loved her, administered her vaccine drops and gave her candies. She also gave gifts of candies to other children after administering them anti-polio vaccine drops.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif met with polio workers, and appreciated their services.

She had a group photo with them, and advised them to work hard.

Earlier, the CM was briefed by the authorities concerned about the anti-polio app. She was briefed, "During the anti-polio campaign, more than 20 million children will be given polio vaccine." She added anti-polio campaign across Punjab will continue from 28 October to 03 November. In Lahore, Rawalpindi and Faisalabad, the vaccination campaign will be for 07 days while in other districts, the campaign will continue for 05 days.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif was also apprised that more than 200,000 polio workers will serve in the anti-polio vaccination campaign. She was briefed that children missing out on vaccines are being tracked through Synergy Evaluation System Application.



KARACHI: View of burning dumper, which torched by angry mob after an accident killed a motorist, at North Karachi Power House area in Karachi.

## Present govt determined to eradicating polio from Sindh province: Governor

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Monday said he anti-polio campaign had commenced in the Sindh province.

He said that 12 cases of polio from Sindh was a matter of concern.

The Governor said that the goal of immunizing

10.6 million children in the province was a welcome initiative.

He said that awareness about virus was very essential.

He further said that the present government was determined to eradicating polio from the province.

## Zero tolerance policy adopted against timber mafia: Pir Musawwir

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to the Chief Minister on Forests and Climate Change, Pir Musawwir Khan has said that the Forest Department had adopted zero tolerance policy against the timber mafia to contain timber smuggling.

He was presiding over a review meeting of Forest Development Corporation (FDC) here Monday wherein Managing Director Forest Development Corporation Muhammad Asif gave a detailed briefing on the achieved targets of the department during the last 50 years and overall performance.

The Special Assistant was told that due to the ban on movement of timber, around 670,000 square feet of wood was stored at

various depots of the FDC, causing a hefty loss on provincial exchequer. He was further told that for the last one decade the FDC was facing an investment loss of Rs360 million due to ban on movement of timber.

The Special Assistant said coping with environmental issues in the province was a big challenge and cutting of trees for domestic and commercial use and then not planting new trees was a matter of concern. He directed the Forest Department to ensure maximum plantation in their respective jurisdictions.

He asked the Forest Department to ensure a zero tolerance policy against illegal movement of timber.



KARACHI: A large numbers of students gather to attend Aptitude Test Examination ceremony of the IT courses program under "Bano Qabil Mega Project 4.0" organized by Al-Khidmat Foundation, held at North Karachi Hockey Stadium in Karachi.

## Punjab Home secretary reviews implementation of prison reforms

LAHORE (APP): Home Secretary Punjab Noor Ul Amin Mengal presided over a meeting to review the progress on the installation of modern cameras in prisons across Punjab.

It was decided in the meeting that 9,200 modern cameras would be installed in 43 jails of Punjab under the Safe Prisons Programme. He said that state-of-the-art cameras capable of facial and vehicle recognition and a visitor management system would also be operational to monitor all visitors in the prisons. Modern cameras would monitor the attendance and movement of the accused as well as prison staff with the help of artificial intelligence, the secretary said.

system, panic button should be installed in all jails of Punjab.

The meeting was told that modern eight mega pixel cameras would be installed in all the jails under the Safe Prisons Programme.

He said that state-of-the-art cameras capable of facial and vehicle recognition and a visitor management system would also be operational to monitor all visitors in the prisons. Modern cameras would monitor the attendance and movement of the accused as well as prison staff with the help of artificial intelligence, the secretary said.



MUZAFARABAD: School students protesting at Azadi Chowk for the establishment of Muzafarabad and Rawalkot Board.



# Netanyahu says strikes on Iran 'hit hard' as war on Gaza, Lebanon rages

**Monitoring Desk**  
JERUSALEM: Israel's air strikes "hit hard" Iran's defences and missile production, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, but Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the damage from Saturday's attack should not be exaggerated.

With warfare raging in Gaza and Lebanon, direct confrontation between Israel and Iran risks spiralling into a regional conflagration. But a day after the air strikes, there was no sign they would spark another round of escalation.

However, heavy fighting in Lebanon between Israeli forces and Iran-backed Hezbollah, which sharply intensified over recent weeks, continued on Sunday with an Israeli airstrike killing eight people in a residential block in Sidon, medicals said.

"The air force attacked throughout Iran. We hit hard Iran's defence capabilities and its ability to produce missiles that are aimed at us," Netanyahu said in a

speech, calling the attack "precise and powerful" and saying it met all its objectives.

The Islamic Republic has not signalled how it will respond to Saturday's long-anticipated strikes, which involved scores of fighter jets bombing targets near the capital Tehran and in the western provinces of Ilam and Khuzestan.

The heavily armed arch-enemies have engaged in a cycle of retaliatory moves against each other for months, with Saturday's strike coming after an Iranian missile barrage on Oct 1, much of which Israel said was downed by its air defences. Khamenei said Israel's calculations "should be disrupted". The attack on Iran, which killed four soldiers and caused some damage, "should neither be downplayed nor exaggerated", he said.

The Iranian parliament speaker, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, said Iran was entitled to self-defence and its response "will be definite, in compliance with the requirements".

US President Joe Biden called for a halt to escalation that has raised fears of a wider Middle East war arising from the year-old Israeli-Hamas conflict in Gaza and Israel's thrust into south Lebanon to stop Hezbollah rocketing northern Israel.

Separately, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said Iran was no longer able to use its allies Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon against Israel. The two groups "are no longer an effective tool" of Tehran, he said in a speech.

Gallant added that Hamas was no longer functioning as a military network in Gaza and that Hezbollah's senior command and most of its missile capabilities had been eliminated.

Hamas has repeatedly said it is still able to function militarily, and Israel has recently conducted major new operations in devastated north Gaza against what it calls regrouping Hamas militants.



Displaced Palestinians ordered by the Israeli military to evacuate the northern part of Gaza take a rest as they flee amid an Israeli military operation, in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip.

# Sudanese need protection, but conditions not right for UN force, says Guterres

**Monitoring Desk**  
UNITED NATIONS: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed to the Security Council on Monday for its support to help protect civilians in war-torn Sudan, but said conditions are not right for deployment of a UN force.

"The people of Sudan are living through a nightmare of violence — with thousands of civilians killed, and countless others facing unspeakable atrocities, including widespread rape and sexual assaults," Guterres told the 15-member council.

War erupted in mid-April 2023 from a power struggle between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces ahead of a planned transition to civilian rule, and triggered the world's largest displacement crisis.

"Sudan is, once again, rapidly becoming a nightmare of mass ethnic violence," Guterres said, referring to a conflict in Sudan's Darfur region about 20 years ago that led to the International Criminal Court charging former Sudanese leaders with genocide and crimes against humanity.

The current war has produced waves of ethnically driven violence blamed largely on the RSF. The RSF killed at least 124 people in a village in El Gezira State on Friday, activists said, in one of the conflict's deadliest incidents.

The RSF has previously denied harming civilians in Sudan and attributed the activity to rogue actors.



Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi waving to crowd in India's Gujarat.

# Spanish PM in India seeking to bolster trade ties

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez was welcomed to India on Monday with a flower-filled open-top parade alongside counterpart Narendra Modi, as Madrid seeks to boost investment in the world's fifth-largest economy.

The duo waved to crowds in a vehicle smothered in orange marigold garlands on their way to inaugurate a military aircraft factory, a collaboration between Tata Advanced Systems and Airbus, in Vadodra in Gujarat state. It is the first visit by a Spanish premier to India for 18 years.

India's defence ministry agreed to a \$2.5 billion deal for 56 cargo and troop-carrying C295 aircraft from Airbus Defence and Space in 2021. While 16 will be assembled in Seville in Spain — with the first deliveries made last year — the 40 remaining will be built in India. The Indian plant in Vadodra will complete the first "Made in India" C295 aircraft in 2026.

"This factory will not only strengthen India-Spain relations, but also the 'Make in India and Made for the World' mission."

# Around 40 soldiers killed in attack on Chad military base

**Monitoring Desk**  
DAKAR: Around 40 soldiers were killed in an attack on a military base in Chad's Lake region on Sunday, the central African country's presidency said on Monday.

President Mahamat Idriss Deby launched an operation to track down the assailants, the statement said.

The presidency did not name the group responsible for the attack.

The region is often attacked by the Boko Haram insurgency, which erupted in northeast Nigeria in 2009 and spread to the west of Chad.

# Asia clearly the powerhouse of global economy, says IMF official

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: Asia, which is contributing 60 percent to global growth, is clearly the powerhouse of the global economy, said Krishna Srinivasan, director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s Asia and Pacific Department.

"This is the most dynamic region of the world. It has a huge amount of labor force. A lot of that is also skilled labor force. It's a region which is highly integrated in global supply chains. And lastly, it's a region which has seen huge increase in productivity growth," Srinivasan told Xinhua in an interview earlier this week.

"For these three reasons, this region is contributing a lot more than other regions," he said. In its latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) report released on Tuesday, the IMF maintained its global growth forecast in 2024 at 3.2pc, consistent with its projection in July. Emerging and developing Asia, meanwhile, is expected to grow 5.3pc.

"Emerging markets in Asia are pulling their weight much more than advanced economies," as advanced economies are still seeing interest rate tightening and weak domestic demand, Srinivasan said.

# Pressure mounts to oust Bangladesh President Shahabuddin

**Monitoring Desk**  
DHAKA: Bangladesh's President Mohammed Shahabuddin faced growing pressure on Monday to quit from leaders of the revolutionary coalition that toppled autocratic ex-prime minister Sheikh Hasina in August, who argue he was her appointee.

Shahabuddin, 74, widely known as "Chuppu", was elected by parliament in 2023 by Hasina's now ousted Awami League, but while the post is largely ceremonial, his potential removal from the role has sparked fears of a constitutional vacuum.

"Any decision regarding the removal of the president will be based on political consensus," Shafiqul Alam, press advisor to the interim government that replaced Hasina.

# France hijab bans in sports 'discriminatory': UN experts

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: United Nations rights experts on Monday slammed decisions in France barring women and girls who wear the hijab from sports competitions as "discriminatory", demanding they be reversed.

France invoked its strict rules on secularism to ban its athletes from wearing religious symbols, including the hijab, during the Paris 2024 Olympics.

France's football and basketball federations have also opted to exclude players wearing the headscarf from competitions, including at the amateur level.

These decisions "are disproportionate and discriminatory, and infringe on their rights [of French athletes] to freely manifest their identity, their religion or belief in private and in public, and to take part in cultural life," said a statement signed by eight independent UN experts.

"Muslim women and girls who wear the hijab must have equal rights to participate in cultural and sporting life, and to take part in all aspects of French society of which they are a part," they said.

# Swiss president backs lifting re-export ban on arms to Ukraine

**Monitoring Desk**  
BERN: Switzerland's president said on Monday she was in favour of revising a ban that currently prevents Swiss-made arms from being re-exported from another country to Ukraine, saying the embargo was hurting her country's industry and security.

Switzerland calls for a neutral state to break with centuries of tradition as a neutral state have been growing both at home and abroad since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022. Its parliament has already recommended that the arms rules be eased.

# Virginia asks US Supreme Court to reinstate removals of 1,600 voter registrations

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: Virginia asked the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene to allow the state to remove roughly 1,600 voters from its rolls that it believes are noncitizens.

The request comes after a federal appeals court unanimously upheld a federal judge's order restoring the registrations of those 1,600 voters, whom the judge said were illegally purged from the rolls under an executive order by the state's Republican governor.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin says he ordered the daily removals in an effort to keep noncitizens from voting. But on Friday, U.S. District Judge Patricia Giles said Youngkin's program was illegal under federal law because it systematically purged voters during a 90-day "quiet period" ahead of the November election.

The Justice Department and a coalition of private groups sued to block Youngkin's removal program earlier this month. They argued that the quiet period is in place to ensure that legitimate voters aren't removed from the rolls by bureaucratic errors or last-minute mistakes that can't be rectified in a timely manner.

Youngkin said he was simply upholding a state law that requires Virginia to cancel noncitizens' registration.

On Sunday, a three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia, sided with the judge who ordered the restoration of voters' registrations.

The appeals court said Virginia is wrong to assert that it is being forced to restore 1,600 noncitizens to the voter rolls.

# UK anti-Islam activist 'Tommy Robinson' jailed for breaching injunction

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: British anti-Muslim activist Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, known by the pseudonym Tommy Robinson, was jailed for 18 months after he admitted contempt of court on Monday by breaching an injunction made after he was successfully sued for libel.

Yaxley-Lennon was sued for libel at London's High Court by Syrian refugee Jamal Hijazi and in 2021 was ordered to pay damages. He was also made subject to an injunction preventing him from repeating the libellous statements.

# Key mediator Egypt proposes a 2-day Gaza cease-fire and the release of 4 hostages

**Monitoring Desk**  
RAMAT HASHARON: Egypt's president announced Sunday his country has proposed a two-day cease-fire between Israel and Hamas during which four hostages held in Gaza would be freed. There was no immediate response from Israel or Hamas as the latest talks were expected in Qatar, another key mediator.

President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi said the proposal includes the release of some Palestinian prisoners and the delivery of humanitarian aid to besieged Gaza.

It aims to "move the situation forward," he said, adding that negotiations would continue to make the cease-fire permanent.

Talks in pursuit of a longer, phased cease-fire have repeatedly stalled. Hamas wants Israeli forces out of Gaza as a precondition, but Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said they will remain until destroying Hamas. There hasn't been a cease-fire since November's weeklong pause in fighting in the earliest weeks of the war.

# France's Macron to visit Morocco in effort to repair ties

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron will travel to Morocco on Monday, kicking off a three-day visit during which the two countries are expected to sign multiple agreements and discuss their "new ambitions for the next 30 years".

French President Emmanuel Macron will begin his visit to Morocco on Monday, in a bid to repair relations with the North African country following years of tensions.

# Sikh separatist claims Indian 'spy network' operates in US and Canada

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK CITY: Canada and the US must get tougher on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government for trying to silence dissidents on foreign soil, a controversial Sikh separatist who was the target of an alleged India-led murder plot said in an interview. The US Justice Department has unsealed indictments against two Indian nationals in connection with an alleged plot to kill Gurbat Singh Pannun, a dual US-Canadian citizen, in New York.

The US and Canada "need to put their foot down that regimes like Modi's... should not be allowed to come to America or Canada, challenge their sovereignty and get away with it."

indictment said worked as an intelligence officer at the time and had orchestrated the assassination plan.

Pannun told Reuters earlier this month that the Modi government should not be allowed to conduct hostile activity in foreign countries and said India's consulates in the US and Canada were running a "spy network", although he did not provide any proof.

# Police out in force to prevent rowdy Halloween celebrations in Shanghai

**Monitoring Desk**  
SHANGHAI: Shanghai police patrolled the downtown streets over the weekend to crack down on Halloween celebrations in China's most international city.

Local authorities appeared to be trying to prevent a repeat of last year, when Halloween revellers thronged central Shanghai, with some dressed in costumes that poked fun of the Chinese stock market, youth unemployment and strict COVID-19 policies.

This weekend, the police presence, online postings about a crackdown and constant rain kept the revelry to a minimum.



Japanese Prime Minister and leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Shigeru Ishiba speaks next to LDP lawmakers during a press conference a day after Japan's lower house election, at the party's headquarters in Tokyo, Japan.

# NATO confirms that North Korea has sent troops to join Russia's war in Ukraine

**Monitoring Desk**  
BRUSSELS: NATO on Monday confirmed that North Korean troops have been sent to Russia to aid in its almost three-year war against Ukraine and that some have already been deployed in Russia's Kursk border region, where Russia has been struggling to push back a Ukrainian incursion.

"Today, I can confirm that North Korean troops have been sent to Russia, and that North Korean military units have been deployed to the Kursk region," NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte told reporters.

Rutte said that the move represents "a significant escalation" in North Korea's involvement in the conflict and marks "a dangerous expansion of Russia's war." His remarks came after a high-level South Korean delegation including top intelligence and military officials as well as senior diplomats briefed the alliance's 32 national ambassadors at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

Rutte said NATO is "actively consulting within the alliance, with Ukraine, and with our Indo-Pacific partners," on developments and that he is due to talk soon with South Korea's president and Ukraine's defense minister. "We continue to monitor the situation closely," he said.

Adding thousands of North Korean soldiers to Europe's biggest conflict since World War II will pile more pressure on Ukraine's weary and overstretched army, as well as stoking geopolitical tensions in the Korean Peninsula and the wider Indo-Pacific region, including Japan and Australia, Western officials say.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is keen to reshape global power dynamics. He sought to build a counterbalance to Western influence with a summit of BRICS countries, including the leaders of China and India, in Russia last week.

# Japan PM under pressure after debacle election

**Monitoring Desk**  
TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba was on thin ice on Monday after his ruling coalition was projected to have lost its parliamentary majority in disastrous snap elections.

Ishiba, 67, called Sunday's vote days after taking office on October 1, but voters angry at a slush fund scandal punished his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

"We are receiving severe judgement," Ishiba, who the LDP chose as leader last month precisely because he was seen as popular among voters, told national broadcaster NHK after polls closed on Sunday.

The Japanese people "expressed their strong desire for the LDP to do some reflection and become a party that will act in line with the people's will", he said.

Even worse, the projections suggest that the previous coalition of the LDP and the smaller Komeito party had missed Ishiba's election goal of winning 233 seats in the 456-member lower house.

The LDP won 191 seats and Komeito 24, according to NHK tallies as of Monday morning.

Ahead of the election, local media had speculated that if this happened, Ishiba could potentially quit to take responsibility, becoming Japan's shortest-serving prime minister in the post-war period.

# Indonesia's Prabowo wants key buildings in new capital ready in 4 years

**Monitoring Desk**  
JAKARTA: Indonesia's new leader Prabowo Subianto wants to complete key government and parliamentary buildings in the country's \$32 billion new capital city in the next four years, according to a cabinet minister.

The capital project, an initiative of former President Joko Widodo, seeks to move Indonesia's seat of power about 1,200 km (745 miles) away from sinking and congested Jakarta to Nusantara, located in a jungle of Borneo island.

"He (Prabowo) even hopes that the inauguration of the next Indonesia president and vice president in 2029 could be done in Nusantara," forestry minister, Raja Juli Antoni, said on Saturday on his Instagram account. The remarks on Prabowo's intentions come amid doubts that he will pursue the project at the same speed as Widodo, who tacitly backed him for the election, and whether the state budget can stretch to fund Nusantara alongside his multi-billion dollar free-meal programme, his signature election campaign promise.

Further there should be no questions of Prabowo's commitment to continue his predecessor's legacy project, as he has already guaranteed he would complete it. "For him (Prabowo), Nusantara is the capital of politics. That is why in the next four years, apart from government buildings, we must complete buildings for legislative and judiciary bodies," the minister added.

Key government buildings, like the presidential palace and some state officials housing were recently completed, while toll road and airport construction are underway.

Since construction started in 2022, the project has faced difficulties in attracting foreign investment, which will help to expedite its progress.

The government had agreed that only a fifth of the total budget would come from the state.

It received its first foreign investment last month when Chinese property firm Delonix Group invested 500 billion rupiah (\$31.80 million) to build hotels and offices.

## Gilani, Matvienko reaffirm commitment to regional security, bilateral coop.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, and Speaker of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Ms Valentina Matvienko, on Monday reiterated their commitment to regional security, particularly in combating illicit drug trafficking through joint initiatives.

In a meeting with the Russian delegation led by Ms. Matvienko, the Chairman extended a warm welcome as the two nations marked the 76th anniversary of diplomatic relations. The discussions highlighted the evolution of bilateral ties since 1948, with both leaders emphasizing the importance of ongoing cooperation in defense, economic infrastructure, and energy sectors.

Recalling previous discussions with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Yousuf Gilani noted the constructive exchanges aimed at enhancing collaboration. He commended Russia's contributions to Pakistan's oil and gas industries and infrastructure development, including significant projects such as the Pakistan Steel Mills and Gudu Thermal Power Station.

He acknowledged the recent momentum in bilateral relations, catalyzed by high-level meetings, especially between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Putin at the SCO summit, where energy cooperation and trade initiatives were focal points.

The dialogue also celebrated surpassing \$1 billion in bilateral trade in 2023, with both sides keen to maintain this upward trajectory. Key initiatives, including the North-South Transport Corridor, were discussed, positioning Pakistan as a critical gateway to global markets.

He emphasized the importance of direct business ties and timely project execution under the Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, and Scientific Cooperation.

During the meeting, Gilani conveyed Pakistan's desire for Russian support to secure BRICS membership, to which Ms. Matvienko responded positively, noting Russia's interest in deepening cooperation with BRICS.

He also recognized the role of cultural diplomacy in fostering bilateral relations, referencing the awarding of the Pushkin Medal to a Pakistani literary figure in 2017 as a symbol of shared values and collaboration.

The two sides expressed a commitment to advancing parliamentary exchanges and regional cooperation, with a focus on stability. The meeting underscored a continued effort to strengthen ties, ensuring mutual benefit across various sectors.

In a significant development, the Senate of Pakistan and the Federation Council of the Russian Federation signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), marking a new chapter in Pakistan-Russia relations.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, Saleem Khosa, Mir Sadiq Umrani, Barkat Rind and MPs Mir Zabid Ali Raiki, Mir Asadullah Baloch, Maulana Hidayatur Rehman, Junaid Raiki and Khalil-ur Rehman Dhani negotiating with activists of Mekran Border Trade Alliance protesting in front of Balochistan Assembly.

## Aleem Khan lauds NHA's 100pc revenue surge, M-Tag implementation, technical upgradation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Communications, Board of Investment and Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan on Monday visited the National Highway Authority (NHA) headquarters, inspected the National Traffic Operation Center and commended Pakistan's motorway and GT road notable revenue growth and technological upgrades.

Aleem Khan expressed satisfaction over the transition of 99 percent of vehicles on the Lahore-Sialkot Motorway to the M-Tag system, which has

greatly reduced traffic congestion and streamlined toll operations. "The shift to M-Tag has improved traffic flow significantly and I am pleased with NHA's efforts to modernize the toll collection process," Aleem Khan stated.

Aleem Khan further highlighted the record-breaking financial achievements of the NHA, reporting a 100 percent increase in revenue, with the projected target rising to Rs 110 billion from last year's Rs 64 billion.

"This is an unprecedented milestone, marking the first time a public institution will generate an additional Rs 50 billion in revenue," the minister said.

The federal minister directed the NHA to reduce cash lanes across all motorways and increase the number of M-Tag booths.

He also instructed that all toll plazas be equipped with camera systems to monitor vehicles and capture license plate information, emphasizing that these updates should be available to the Secretary of Communications and the NHA Chairman.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications and Privatization, Mr. Abdul Aleem Khan, visits the National Highway Authority (NHA) headquarters in federal Capital.

## Law profession has important role in maintaining justice, protection of human rights: Mandokhail

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the law profession has very important role in maintaining justice and protection of human rights in the society.

He said that our lawyers are the guardians of human rights. The lawyers not only play role in dispensation of Justice to the

masses but also promote equality and justice.

He was speaking to the delegation of lawyers who called on him under leadership of provincial president of Pakistan Muslim League-N lawyers wing, Anwar Nasim Kasi here at the Governor's House on Monday.

The Governor said that the professional expertise and honest legal practice can bring about positive and constructive changes in the society.

Earlier, the members of delegation apprised the Governor about the issues being faced by the lawyers community.

The Governor gave patient hearing to the issues of lawyers and assured them of his every possible cooperation to resolve them.

## 26th amendment to safeguard democracy, constitution: Fazl

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Jamiat-e-Ulema-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman has said the 26th constitutional amendments would play a key role in safeguarding democracy and the constitution.

He expressed these views while addressing scholars and dignitaries at Jamia Arabia Naumania here on Monday.

The JUI-F chief also expressed concern over the poor law and order situation in Khyber

## Petrol, diesel prices expected to drop from November 1

ISLAMABAD (INP): Petrol prices in Pakistan are likely to go down further from November 1 amid decline in global oil prices.

The fuel prices in the global market have decreased by \$1.5 and \$2.5 per barrel respectively in the last 15 days.

Keeping in view the current exchange rate and current tax rates, the government is likely to provide relief to masses by reducing the prices of petrol and HSD by Rs3 and Rs2.30 per liter, respectively.

## Balochistan's first phase survey for solarizing 50 tubewells completed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The detailed surveys for solarizing 50 agricultural feeders, out of a total of 581 tubewells, have been successfully completed in the first phase, as informed during the question hour in the National Assembly on Monday.

In a written response, Minister for Energy (Power Division) Sardar Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari stated that the completion of the survey was a vital step towards implementing solar solutions that would benefit the farmers and enhance agricultural productivity.

The survey was conducted in collaboration with the Energy Department of Balochistan, QESCO teams, and representatives from the Zamindar Action Committee, with support from Law Enforcement Agencies.

The project aims to solarize 27,437 registered tubewell connections at an estimated cost of around Rs 55 billion, with funding divided as 70 percent from the federal government and 30 percent from the provincial government. An MoU was signed on July 8, 2024, to formalize this initiative.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on July 8, 2024, for the solarization of agricultural tubewells. It is important to note that compensation of up to Rs. 2.01 will be provided for the solarization of each tubewell. Additionally, five RFO/Gas/Imported Coal-based IPPs totaling 3,742 MW have been commissioned in various areas of Balochistan with the facilitation of the Private Power Infrastructure Board (PPIB), while a 300 MW imported coal-based power project in Gwadar is currently undergoing financial processes.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Sadiq Umrani, MPs Mir Sadiq Sanjrani and Ashok Kumar meeting with Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (ret'd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai.

## Development, prosperity of Balochistan govt's top priority: Ministers

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Minister for Communication and Work (C&W) Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa and Minister for Planning and Development (P&D) Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi on Monday said that the development and prosperity of the province was the top priority of the government for providing facilities to masses.

They expressed these views while during meeting here. Provincial Minister of P&D Mir

They said that our first priority was to complete all the ongoing development projects in the province on time so that the people of the province get the fruits of these development projects.

Both ministers said that if the province develops, peace and prosperity would come and it was the first priority of their government to make the province developed and prosperous.

God willing, the day is not far when our province will be developed and prosperous, they said adding that their focus was on important issues of roads, building sector, health and education development projects and most important unemployment.

## Nazeer Tarar calls for global cooperation to uphold rule of law

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, on Monday emphasized the need for collective efforts to ensure the rule of law, protect human rights, and prevent crimes against humanity.

Speaking at the 47th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), hosted by Pakistan, the minister reiterated the country's commitment to working with the international community to achieve global peace and justice.

During the session titled "The Regional Perspective on the Enforcement of Rome Law and Reforms in Local Legislation," the Senator highlighted Pakistan's dedication to promoting peace, stability, and respect for human rights.

He said that parliamentarians played a key role in safeguarding human rights and advancing democracy.

He also reaffirmed Pakistan's active participation in global efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee, Asghar Ali Tareen chairs a meeting held in Quetta.

## Govt. approved 9 Green & 3 pink buses for Balochistan, says Secretary Transport

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has approved nine Green and three Pink buses in the province.

According to the reports quoting Secretary Transport, Hayat Khan Kakar, nine Green Buses were approved for Quetta and Turbat. Out of these, five Green Buses would be run in Quetta while four others have been approved in Turbat.

The Secretary Transport maintained that the

## NA Speaker urges global action on common challenges

ISLAMABAD (Online): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has called for unified global action to address challenges being faced by the world community. He was addressing inaugural ceremony of 45th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action in Islamabad Monday. The Speaker said climate change is a looming threat which requires concerted international efforts.

Highlighting the plight of innocent Palestinians in Gaza, the Speaker said every Parliamentarian should raise his voice in every Parliament of the world to end these atrocities. He said dialogue is the only way out to resolve issues and even end wars. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq urged all participants to actively engage in discussions and chalk out a way forward so they can raise the issues discussed at their respective parliaments.

Parliamentarians from 39 countries, international jurists, intellectuals, media personnel and civil society representatives are attending the forum.

## Resolution regarding issuance of Blue passport to MPAs & family members adopted in BA

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Balochistan Assembly adopted a resolution about issuance of the Blue passports to the members of provincial assembly and their family members here on Monday.

The Speaker, Captain (Ret'd) Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai was in the chair.

The resolution regarding issuance of the blue passports to the members of assembly and their family members was tabled by the Parliamentary Secretary for Population Welfare, Hadia Nawaz.

Later, another resolution was also adopted demanding establishment of the sub campus of Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University in Jaffarabad.

The resolution was tabled by the Parliamentary Secretary Abdul Majeed Badini. Later, the session was adjourned for an indefinite period.



QUETTA: National Party (NP) Chief, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch addresses during 7th National Congress and Balochistan Wahdat Convention held in Quetta.

## Pakistan prepares for COP2024, calls for support to combat climate crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): 2022, our nation has shown unparalleled perseverance. Yet, the scale of these challenges exceeds our capacity, requiring immediate global support," Ahsan Iqbal said.

The Minister noted that while the catastrophic floods of 2010 led to huge number of fatalities, strategic preparedness efforts helped reduce the toll during the 2022 floods.

Although three times more severe, these efforts brought fatalities down, underscoring the life-saving impact of resilience planning. "Our success in mitigating human loss shows that preparedness is not only crucial but lifesaving. However, continued resources and expertise are essential to sustain this progress," he added.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof Ahsan Iqbal here on Monday chaired a high-level meeting in preparation for the upcoming COP2024 to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan in November, emphasizing Pakistan's urgent call for international support to combat the intensifying climate crisis. The Minister highlighted Pakistan's critical vulnerability to climate impacts, with recent floods positioning the country as a pivotal case study on the frontlines of climate resilience and adaptation.

"Pakistan is not only the worst victim of the climate crisis but also the most resilient. Despite the devastating floods of 2010 and



QUETTA: Chief Executive Officer QESCO Engineer Shafqat Ali addressing the field operation of officers during online review meeting.

## Sardar Khetran says: Speedy development of districts important part of our priorities

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering (PHE), Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran has stated that speedy development of the districts is an important part of the government's priorities.

He said that the present government is taking steps for development of the districts under a comprehensive strategy. He said that he would raise forceful voice resolving the public issues at the district level.

Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran was speaking to different delegations who called on him here on Monday. During the course of

meeting, the members of delegation apprised the Minister about their issues.

Speaking on the occasion, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran said that all the development projects would be devised with consultation of the elected representatives of the districts. In this regard, the basic needs of the people would be kept in view, he said adding that the projects would be given preference which may benefit the people.

The Minister said that no injustice would be done with any election constituency when it comes to talk about the execution of development projects.

## PML-N's Ashok Kumar takes oath as MPA on minority reserved seat

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The PML-N's minority leader, Ashok Kumar was elected as Member Provincial Assembly on the seat reserved for the minorities in Assembly.

The Speaker Provincial Assembly, Abdul Khaliq Achakzai made announcement in this regard, and administered oath of the Member Assembly to

Ashok Kumar in the session chaired by him on Monday afternoon.

The Speaker and other members of the assembly congratulated Ashok Kumar on his election as MPA.

It may be mentioned here that the reserved seat of assembly had fallen vacant due to the death of Saint Patrick Maseih.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan presides over the meeting to review action taken on the directives of Prime Minister.