

# Independent

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## Pakistan, Iran condemn Israel's genocidal acts; pledge to coordinate anti-terror efforts

Ishaq Dar reiterated the call for establishing a viable, independent, and contiguous state of Palestine on the basis of pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital



ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Iran on Tuesday condemned Israel's unrestrained military aggression in the Middle East and its genocidal actions against innocent civilians, and questioned the international community's failure to stop the Zionist regime from its violation of international laws and UN Charter.

tuted the root cause of all tensions in the Middle East. Besides exchanging views on the current situations and developments in the Middle East and across the globe, both sides discussed focusing on the Middle East crisis, the denial of the right to self-determination, and the need for upholding international law and advancing accountability.

In his remarks, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar said that both sides emphasized the need for reaching an urgent ceasefire, de-escalation, and dialogue, aiming to realize the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

He recalled Pakistan's

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ISLAMABAD: Chief justice Yahya Afridi presiding over meeting of judicial Commission of Pakistan at Supreme Court, in the Federal Capital.

## Principled & courageous officers are our asset & pride: CM awards commendation certificates to Saboor, Dostain on best public service

Mir Sarfraz Bugti exhorts young civil officers to follow both senior officers; says implementation on effective mechanism is possible in guidance of good officers for establishing good governance

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has highly appreciated the administrative services of two senior provincial civil officers including Abdul Saboor Kakar and Dostain Khan Jamaldini on Tuesday.

In recognition of their services for the public and administration, the Chief

Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti awarded the commendation certificates to Abdul Saboor Kakar and Dostain Jamaldini.

During a course of meeting, the Chief Minister gave away the pride of performance certificates to both the senior officers.

Also present on the occasion were Principal

Secretary to Chief Minister, Imran Zarkoon and Additional Secretary CM Secretariat Muhammad Fareedoon.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister said that the principled and courageous officers are the pride asset of the province. He said that the provincial

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## Ahsan for roadmap to implement Gwadar Master Plan in three years



ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday directed officials concerned for developing a comprehensive roadmap to implement the Gwadar Master Plan over the next three years, ensuring a sustainable growth model for its development.

He passed these direc-

tives while chairing a progress review meeting on the development of Gwadar Port and Free Zone that was attended by high-ranking officials from various ministries and divisions, a news release said.

In the opening discussion on transport infrastructure, relevant departments

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## 26th amendment 2 senior judges of SC demand of CJP to constitute full court to hear petitions

ISLAMABAD (Online): Two senior judges of Supreme Court (SC) has written letter to Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi for formation of full court in connection with 26th constitutional amendment.

They have placed other demands too including formation of full court.

The letter was written by justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Munib Akhtar to the CJP. In the letter both the senior judges demanded for fixing the 26th constitutional amendment case before full court during the current

week.

It was said in the letter that it was decided in October 21 committee meeting to fix 26th amendment case in full court for hearing. Case will be heard by full court from November 4. No cause list was issued despite committee decision. Both of senior judges had demanded of CJP to convene committee meeting on October 31.

It was told in the text of letter written to CJP that we judges summoned committee meeting under section 2 after the meeting was not convened by CJP.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Iran H.E. Seyyed Abbas Araghchi calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## Pak desires to strengthen Iran ties through high-level exchanges, multiple cooperation: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reaffirmed that Pakistan desired to further strengthen its brotherly relationship with Iran through maintaining regular high-level exchanges and enhancing mutually advantageous cooperation across all spheres of shared interest.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Foreign Minister of Iran Seyyed Abbas Araghchi, who called on him here, reiterated Pakistan's unequivocal support to the Palestinian people in their just struggle for self-determination and statehood.

He strongly condemned and expressed grave concern over Israel's ongoing genocidal campaign against the Palestinian people, according to a PM Office press release.

Welcoming Foreign Minister Araghchi on his first official visit to Pakistan as Foreign Minister of Iran, Prime Minister Shehbaz conveyed his sincere regards and good wishes to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei and President Massoud Pezeshkian.

The prime minister also emphasized the need for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, provision of unhindered humanitarian assistance and, above all, grant of the inalienable right to self-determination to the Palestinian people, as guaranteed to them by the relevant resolutions of the UN, as well as OIC.

The prime minister also reiterated strong condemnation of Israel's attack against Iran on October 26, 2024, while reaffirming support for Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

## 2 FC personnel martyred, 4 injured in DIK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Two soldiers of the Frontier Constabulary (FC) were martyred after an ambush by Khawarij terrorists near Daraban Police Station in Dera Ismail Khan on Tuesday.

According to a statement from the Ministry of Interior spokesperson, the FC vehicle came under heavy fire by the terrorists, resulting in deaths of two FC soldiers, Sher Rehman and Syed Ameen, and leaving four others injured.

The Ministry confirmed that both martyred soldiers heroically confronted the assailants and attained the high rank of martyrdom while defending their country.

The spokesperson provided details about the martyred soldiers, Sher Rehman from South Waziristan and Syed Ameen hailing from Swabi Gadun.

## With representation from all four provinces JCP approves 7-member Constitutional Bench

Justice Aminuddin Khan nominated as head of constitutional bench

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) on Tuesday approved a seven-member Constitutional Bench with representation from all four provinces for a term of two months.

The JCP, reconstituted under the 26th Constitutional Amendment, convened its first meeting chaired by Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, Chief Justice of Pakistan / Chairman of the Judicial Commission here at the Supreme Court of Pakistan. The meeting was attended by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Mr. Azam Nazeer Tarar, Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Mr. Mansoor Usman Awan, Attorney-General for Pakistan, Senator Farooq Hamid Naek, Senator Syed Shibli Faraz, Sheikh Aftab Ahmad, Member of the National

Assembly, Mr. Umar Ayub Khan, Member of the National Assembly and Ms. Roshan Khurshid Bharucha.

The Commission considered the formation of a Constitutional Bench within the Supreme Court to consider constitutional matters/cases. The Chief Justice expressed the views of the judges regarding the Constitutional Bench under Article 175(A) of the Constitution and suggested certain duration of the Bench. Other participants also expressed their views on the matter which was considered and thoroughly debated.

Following a vote, the majority (7 out of 12) approved a seven-member Constitutional Bench with representation from all the four provinces for a term of two months, comprising

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ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Republic of Turkey, Irfan Neziroglu, calls on the Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Hajj quota fixed at 179,210 for next year as federal cabinet approves policy

ISLAMABAD (APP): The federal cabinet on Tuesday gave the green light to the Hajj Policy 2025, paving the way for 179,210 Pakistani nationals to perform Hajj next year.

As per the Policy, the Hajj quota will be split evenly between government and private schemes and those under 12 years of age will not be allowed to travel for Hajj, according to a PM Office press release.

The meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, was told that selection under the government scheme will be made through a computerised balloting.

As per policy, 1,000 seats would be allocated for hardship cases and 300 for laborers and low-income employees registered under

the Employees Old-Age Benefit Institution or Workers Welfare Fund.

Under the policy, Road to Makkah facility would be available at Islamabad and Karachi international airports.

The Hajj Group Organisers would sign a Service Provider Agreement with the Ministry of Religious Affairs, which would be strictly monitored.

It was told that a new portfolio of Nazim (administrator) had been introduced to facilitate the pilgrims. One Nazim will be appointed for each 100 pilgrims, who would be selected from among the welfare staff.

Under the policy, the compensation for the heirs of the deceased has been

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QUETTA: Spokesman of Government of Balochistan Shahid Rind, Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafaqat and Dr. Faisal addressing a Press conference.

## No final agreement reached between GoB & PPL on extension in lease, says Spokesman Shahid Rind

QUETTA: The Spokesman, Government of Balochistan, Shahid Rind has categorically stated that no final agreement has been reached between the provincial government and Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) on the extension in lease, however, they (provincial government & PPL) are engaged in talks in this regard.

In an official statement issued here on Tuesday regarding the extension in the lease agreement, the spokesman said that final agreement has not been finalized between the provincial government and PPL yet.

He said that the provincial government has made

it clear to the PPL administration to hold the interests of masses on high esteem in the proposed agreement.

He said that PPL is bound to play role for social development of the site areas according to the international and country's standards.

The spokesman said that the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti put forth the stance of provincial government in meeting with the Chief of PPL.

The spokesman asserted that the extension in the lease agreement has been made conditional with public aspirations, and as such any decision would be made with their consultation.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti awarding the commendation certificates to senior officers Abdul Saboor Kakar and Dostain Jamaldini in recognition of their services for the public and administration.

## We can overcome challenges facing Balochistan through effective financial discipline, emphasizes Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that our resources are limited, but problems are very big, and it is very difficult task to maintain balance between the limited resources and increasing needs.

However, we can overcome the challenges being faced by the province with effective financial discipline.

He stressed that we desperately need the forward looking economic vision to move ahead the economic system to attain development and prosperity besides mobilizing the available resources and creating new prospects of development and

construction.

The Governor was speaking to the Provincial Minister for Finance and Mineral Development, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani, who called on him here at the Governor's House on Tuesday. During the course of meeting, also present were the Parliamentary Secretary Muhammad Khan Lehri and Principal Secretary to Governor Hashim Ghilzai.

The Governor maintained that we have to adopt a comprehensive strategy for increasing our resources, creating new modern means of income and reducing the unnecessary expenditures. He said that the fruits of development must benefit the people.

## Secretary Information Ambreen given additional charge as MD PTV



ISLAMABAD (APP): The federal government on Tuesday gave the additional charge of Managing Director of Pakistan Television Corporation to Federal Secretary Information and Broadcasting Ambreen Jan, said a notification issued by Cabinet Secretariat, Establishment Division.

Ambreen Jan has currently been serving as Federal Secretary Information and Broadcasting.

The Government of Pakistan has given the additional charge of the post of Managing Director of Pakistan Television Corporation to Federal Secretary Information under clause 10 of the Civil Servants Act, 1973 for a period of three months or until regular appointment.

## Court approves bail of BNP's leaders

ISLAMABAD (APP): An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Tuesday granted post-arrest bails to BNP-Mengal's leaders Akhtar Langu and Shafi Muhammad in case pertaining to taking weapons in Senate. ATC Judge Abul Hasnat Muhammad Zulqarnain approved the bails against surety bonds worth Rs 20,000 each and ordered the police to release the two persons.

The court accepted the bail petitions after hearing arguments from the petitioners' lawyers.

## Govt. launches Development Package aimed at transforming infrastructure & overall development of Quetta

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has launched the "Quetta Development Package," a visionary initiative aimed at transforming the infrastructure and overall development

of Quetta, the provincial capital.

The package focuses on creating a more inclusive and accessible city that meets the diverse needs of its residents, with special attention to the require-

ments of women across Balochistan.

Chairperson of the Balochistan Commission on the Status of Women (BCSW), Ms. Fauzia Shaheen, emphasized that

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ISLAMABAD: Balochistan Minister for Communications and Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa, MNAs Sardar Yaqoob Nassar and Jamal Shah Kakar meeting with Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq.



ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani addressing the 14th International Public Health Conference-2024 as a Chief Guest, organised by the Health Services Academy.

## Pak highlights denial of Kashmiri & Palestinian peoples' right to self-determination at UN

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Despite the right to self-determination being U.N. Charter's "core principle", Pakistan has voiced great concern that millions of people around the globe, notably the people of Kashmir and Palestine, still await the fulfillment of this right's promise of freedom and equality for all people.

"The continued suffering of these people serves as a stark reminder of our unfulfilled obligations," Ambassador Usman Jadoon, acting permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told the General Assembly's Third Committee, which deals with social, humanitarian and cultural issues, on Monday.

"Today, millions, including Kashmiris, are systematically deprived of their right to determine their destiny," he said during a de-

bate on the "Right of the peoples to self-determination". "As we discuss self-determination in this debate, we renew our collective responsibility to eliminate the remnants of colonial and foreign occupations that deny people their legitimate rights."

On October 27, 1947, he recalled India forcibly occupied Jammu and Kashmir, initiating a brutal chapter in the disputed region's history that continues to deny Kashmiris their right to self-determination. "Despite clear international recognition through more than a dozen Security Council resolutions, Kashmiris continue to live under foreign occupation of India."

In August 2019, Ambassador Jadoon said, India escalated its repression in Kashmir through unilateral and illegal actions that

amount to de facto annexation, blatantly violating international law and UN Security Council resolutions. Since then, Kashmir has witnessed a rise in heinous human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, torture, denial of civil liberties, enforced disappearances, and collective punishments, the Pakistani envoy said. "Furthermore, India has intensified its attempts at demographic engineering, aiming to alter the social fabric of the occupied territory and erase its indigenous character by granting more than 4 million domicile certificates."

These atrocities, he said, were well-documented by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), as well as numerous human rights organizations and global media.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding World Bank Projects

## Hajj quota fixed at 179,210...

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increased from Rs1 million to Rs 2 million while the injured ones would be given Rs1 million.

The cabinet members were told that a special Hajj Management App has been developed to facilitate the pilgrims and arrangements have been made for their training.

The federal cabinet called for preference to the intended pilgrims who could not succeed during the last year's balloting. The

meeting also stressed the need for taking all-out measures for the facilitation of the pilgrims.

The cabinet approved the appointment of Saeed Iqbal, Moazzam Ahmed, Madiha Khalid, Usman Haider and Muhammad Sajjad Farouqi in the board of Public Private Partnership Authority as private members.

On the finance ministry's recommendation, the cabinet gave post-facto approval to the agree-

ment on transfer of Foreign Commercial Financing Facility from London Interbank Offered Rate to Secured Overnight Financing Rate.

The meeting approved the Jammu and Kashmir Estate Property Budget for fiscal year 2024-25, besides endorsing an agreement between Directorate General of Ports and Shipping Karachi and Bahria Classification Society on the certification of the classification of ships.

## Ahsan for roadmap to...

Continued from page 1

briefed that while partial connectivity to Gwadar was currently available via the N-10 Coastal Highway and N-85 (linking Gwadar to Quetta), the completion of the M-8 motorway and other critical roads remained pending due to funding needs.

The minister directed the immediate release of allocated funds for M-8 in two portions this year and stressed the importance of expediting CPEC infrastructure projects to enhance Gwadar's connectivity.

He also directed the relevant departments to resolve Gwadar Free Zone land disputes swiftly as per agreements with China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC).

On Gwadar's tax exemption policy, officials explained that under the Finance Act, COPHC and other Free Zone businesses were entitled to tax holidays and incentives.

However, they said these companies still faced turnover tax and various import duties.

Ahsan Iqbal clarified that there was no turnover tax in Gwadar, and any ambiguity in tax exemption policies should be removed to encourage investment. The minister further

reviewed the infrastructure projects in Gwadar aimed at providing power, water and sewage services to the local residents.

He directed the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) to complete pending transmission lines within three months to enhance Gwadar's power supply and submit weekly progress reports to the CPEC Secretariat on Gwadar's electricity situation.

Discussing the Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan and the Gwadar Port Master Plan, it was noted that the master plan, originally developed in 2005-06 with Chinese support and formally approved in 2019, is progressing rapidly.

Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the need to initiate more projects through public-private partnerships to make Gwadar an attractive destination for private investment.

He suggested offering incentives to foster a favourable investment environment, encouraging diverse companies to explore opportunities in Gwadar.

The minister also highlighted the recent completion of Gwadar Airport and stressed the need to stimulate local economic activities to promote tourism.



QUETTA: Vice Chancellor Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University Prof. Dr. Rubina Mushtaq and Country Manager SI-UK exchanging MoU signed by SBKWU and SI-UK.

## Ahsan discusses development agenda with Pak envoy to UN

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal met with Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations (UN), and discussed the country's development agenda, COP29 preparations, and economic growth strategies.

"Pakistan is aligned with the UN's development agenda. It will actively participate in the COP29 conference in Baku this month and discuss its strategic priorities about effectively tackling the environmental challenges," he said in a recent meeting with the envoy, according to a news release on Tuesday.

He said the Pakistani delegation would stress the need for strengthening regional cooperation to strengthen the environmental stance.

During COP29, the minister said, there would be a significant international participation in the Round

Table on Environment to be held in the Pakistan Pavilion.

Talking about Pakistan's continuous efforts for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan was the first country to adopt the SDGs in the Parliament as soon as they were introduced and set.

"All our development projects are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals," the minister said, adding that the SDG Unit was established in the Ministry of Planning following the announcement of the UNSDGs. "Today the unit is functioning as a regular department."

He said as many as 17 task forces in the Ministry of Planning were being established on a fast-track basis, which would monitor projects at the national and provincial levels, ensuring their complete alignment with the objectives of the SDGs.

## FC organizes Mega Sports Events in parts of Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Frontier Corps (FC) Balochistan North organized mega sports events in various regions of Balochistan, including a series of fifteen tournaments in cricket, football, and other sports.

These tournaments were held in areas such as Chaman, Loralai, Nushki, Zhub, Pishin, Sui, Kohlu, Harnai, Sibi, Qamardin Karez, and Pir Koh.

In the All Pakistan Football Tournament held in Chaman district, a total of 12 teams participated, with over 20,000 local people enjoying the final match. In the cricket tournament held in Harnai district, 14 local teams took part.

Spectators expressed that these events organized by FC are promoting positive activities among the youth of Balochistan.



Local elders and residents appreciated the efforts of FC Balochistan (North) in organizing these sports events.

## Pakistan, Iran condemn Israel's...

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timely and strong condemnation of Israel's military strikes on Iran in grave violation of Iran's sovereignty. Dar reiterated the call for establishing a viable, independent, and contiguous state of Palestine on the basis of pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

"We reject the propensity by occupying powers to equate the right of self-determination with terrorism, which is nothing but a ploy to prolong their occupation and apartheid policies. The long-standing Palestinian issue and the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, which are based on the denial of the right to self-determination, must be addressed through peaceful means, fully respecting the rights and aspirations of the affected populations, in line with relevant United Nations resolutions and the UN Charter," he remarked.

He told the media that both sides also discussed ways and means to enhance cooperation across several key areas, including trade, energy, and border security, besides agreeing to intensify collaboration on border management and address shared challenges.

The two foreign ministers underscored that terrorism and extremism posed a serious threat to regional peace and pledged to coordinate their joint efforts to eradicate these challenges.

Dar thanked his Iranian counterpart for Iran's support for Pakistan's membership at the BRICS Forum, and also the pilgrims visiting holy places in Iran.

As both leaders are scheduled to meet at the upcoming Joint Islamic Summit in Jeddah, they agreed to pool their efforts to ensure coming up with a joint approach to the issues for which this Joint Summit has been called.

Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said that Israeli regime had committed blatant crimes and acts of genocide in Gaza and continued its wide-

spread aggression in Lebanon and other places. These crimes have now spread to Lebanon. The Zionist regime further displayed its belligerent and aggressive nature by attacking Iran on October 26th, he added. "Unlike the Israeli regime, the Islamic Republic of Iran does not seek escalation; however, we reserve our inherent right to legitimate defense under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, and we will certainly respond to the Israeli aggression at the appropriate time and in a measured and well-calculated manner," he commented.

The Iranian foreign minister appreciated the strong and commendable stance of the government and people of Pakistan in condemning the Zionist regime's aggression against Iran. "Pakistani authorities, particularly the honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan, have taken a strong and clear position for which we are deeply appreciative. The government and people of Pakistan have also shown significant support for the people of Gaza and the Palestinian cause over the past year." He said that unfortunately, the international community had failed to stop the Zionist regime from continuing its genocide and acts of aggression, which endanger both regional and international peace and security.

He said both sides reiterated their commitment and dedication to further strengthening their cooperation in all areas, including economic, trade, political, academic, cultural, and tourism activities.

Calling the phenomenon of terrorism a shared and common threat to the two countries and the whole region, as well as a collective threat on a global scale to the entire international community, both foreign ministers reiterated their commitment to address and combat this phenomenon bilaterally through mutual collaborations and with the cooperation of regional countries.

## Gilani emphasizes steps for easing public access to equitable healthcare facilities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Tuesday emphasized the importance of collective efforts to ensure everyone has access to healthcare facilities, stressing that providing equitable, low-cost, and quality healthcare was among the government's priorities.

The acting president, addressing the two-day 14th International Public Health Conference-2024, organised by the Health Services Academy, said the basic medical facilities must reach those in need and said that a healthy environment was also must for the citizens along with basic medical facilities.

He lauded the Health Services Academy's role in improving public healthcare and skill training the new generation in the medical field

that would extend its benefits to the national level by improving the facilities and skill training.

Highlighting a special focus on healthcare facilities in rural areas during his premiership, the acting president said the government was striving to uplift the health sector by promoting innovation, investment and research.

He said the conference would prove to be an effective platform to address the challenges associated with the health sector.

He appreciated the role of his former Principal Secretary Nargis Sethi in the establishment of the Academy and said that service delivery in the health sector could be improved by providing professional skills and resources to health professionals.

"Healthcare is not just about treatment, it's about creating conditions that help improve people's health," he said.

He stressed the importance of necessary legislation, policy measures and measures to provide an enabling environment for health institutions and promote innovation, investment, and research.

Acting President Gilani said that by understanding social and lifestyle factors, better policies and programs could be designed to address health issues. He said medical treatment facilities could be improved by combining research, innovation and practices, and assured that the issues raised by the institution would be resolved through the Standing Committee on Health.



QUETTA: Chief Executive Officer of BRSP Tahir Rasheed meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti.

## 2.5% reduction in mark-up rate insufficient to combat inflation: Hub Chambers

HUB (INP): The President of the Hub Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Yakoob H. Karim welcomed the reduction of 250 Basis points (2.5%) reduction in the interest rate by the State Bank of Pakistan, however he said that this reduction is still insufficient to boost the economic activity vis-à-vis low prevailing inflation rate of 7%.

Yakoob H. Karim again emphasized on the demand of business community for an immediate 4% reduction in the rate of interest followed by further reduction to bring down the rate of interest to 9% by June 2025.

He further said that the only way of success for the government's aim to reduce inflation is to incentivise the business and industrial sector for expanding their trade and industry in many folds and creating employment opportunities. This would not be possible on current discouraging high rates of interest for investments.

The Government of Pakistan's objective to control inflation is not possible without the bunnies and industrial progress. With the mark-up rate of 15.0%, even after current reduction by the State Bank.

## JCP approves 7-member...

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of the judges including Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, (Chairman), Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha A. Malik, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Musarrat Hilali and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan.

Earlier, the Chairman JCP welcomed the participants and congratulated them on their nomination. At the outset, Mr. Umar Ayub objected to the quorum of the Commission highlighting the absence of one member. This objection was later put to a vote and by majority, the meeting affirmed that the proceedings are in consonance with

the Constitution and can continue in the absence of one member.

The Commission discussed the establishment of a dedicated Secretariat to support and perform its functions and, after thorough consideration, the Commission authorized the Chairman to proceed with its rule making and establishment.

This initial session of the reconstituted Judicial Commission marks a procedural step in advancing the functions of the Commission under the new framework provided by the 26th Constitutional Amendment. The meeting ended with a note of thanks to and from the Chair.

**CANCELLATION OF TENDER**

The Tenders advertised by this office in daily newspapers vide A.B NO.362/04-10-2024 (TSE-242510563863, TSE-242510563873, TSE-242510563883, TSE-242510563893) are hereby cancelled. New date for the tenders will be intimated accordingly.

CHIEF OFFICER  
DISTRICT COUNCIL PISHIN.

AB No.457/05-11-2024

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**TENDER NOTICE**

The Executive Engineer (Building) CW PP&H Department Pishin invites sealed bids from eligible bidders who can prove their eligibility and qualification as mention in the bidding documents for the work mentioned below. The work estimated cost and other information of works as under tender based on Composite Schedule of Rates 2023. Government of Balochistan amended up-to-date as required from interested contractors / firms for the work listed below under BPPRA Rules. Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and Bid Security 2%

S.No.	Name of Work	E/Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING FOR BHU KILLI HAJAJIZ GHARAGHI TOBAA KAKARI TEHSIL BARSHORE DISTRICT PISHIN	14.461 M TSE-242511585403

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan public Procurement Rules-2014. BASIC ELIGIBILITY: Eligibility Criteria & Evaluation Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents. METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: Single stage - one Envelop Bidding Procedure. BIDDING / TENDER DOCUMENTS: The Bidding document can be downloaded for www.bppra.pk and the same can also be obtained from the office of the under signed upon payment of prescribed tender fee deposited in the head of account C-02716 NBP Bank green challan is verified by treasury. DEAD LINE OF SUBMISSION: Manual Bid submit in the office of Executive Engineer Building CWPP&H Department District Pishin before 21, November, 2024 at 11:30 Hrs. Opening: "Technical Bids" will be opened on the same day i.e. 21, November, 2024, at 12:30 Hrs before procurement committee in the presence of bidders. Address: Office of the Executive Engineer (Building) CWPP&H Department District Pishin

Executive Engineer (Building)  
CWPP&H Department District  
Pishin

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## PM breaks ground for two Rs 8bln interchanges; vows to make Islamabad tourism model

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday laid the foundation stones for two road-interchanges projects at Jinnah Avenue-Ninth Avenue and Serena-Convention Center intersections to ease traffic congestion on the main arteries of the federal capital. The prime minister, who unveiled the plaques for both mega road projects valued over Rs 8 billion, emphasized the swift completion of the work and believed that the projects would usher in an era of progress and prosperity for the residents of Islamabad and its suburbs.

Addressing the ceremony, the prime minister said what was initially planned to be completed in six months will now be completed in just 100 days. The Serena Chowk project will be finalized in 60 days.

He also extended his felicitations to Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi for his leadership in executing

key projects. A detailed briefing on the plans was given to the prime minister by Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa, who outlined the designs and expected benefits of the projects for local residents and commuters.

"Interior Minister, Mohsin Naqvi has maintained his exemplary record of Punjab and has shown great commitment to beautifying and modernizing Islamabad," the prime minister remarked and also appreciated Information Minister Attaullah Tarar's efforts in repairing and beautifying the SCO CHG conference hall. He praised the security arrangements made by law enforcement agencies, particularly the beautification of Islamabad for the recently successful conduct of the SCO CHG conference, which had been widely appreciated by foreign dignitaries including the Chinese and Russian premiers.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif unveiling a plaque to mark the construction of Jinnah Avenue-9th Avenue Intersection.

## Acting President Gilani urges media to acquaint people with Mohtasib's role in addressing public grievances

ISLAMABAD (APP): Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Tuesday urged the media to raise awareness about the role of federal Ombudsmen offices in resolving numerous grievances, with many more anticipated to be addressed in the near future.

The acting president heard representations against the orders of the Ombudsmen at the federal level. Justice Irfan Qadir, the nominee of the President of Pakistan to process and decide these representations, was also present on the occasion.

These representations included matters pertaining to Wafaqi Mohtasib, Federal Ombudsman for Protection Against Harassment at Workplace (FOSPAH) and Federal Insurance Ombudsman. After the hearings, the acting president said that in the last six months, the President of Pakistan through his nominee had decided hundreds of cases, providing relief to the downtrodden, widows, persons with disabilities, including persons belonging to minorities and backward areas against the maladministration of the executive.

"Such prompt disposal of cases in recent times is unprecedented", he remarked.

Acting President Gilani stated that large scale relief was also provided to citizens and overseas Pakistanis in the taxation and banking sector. He said that the institution of Ombudsmen at the federal level, inclusive of the Apex forum of the President's nominee, had provided relief to the general public against the maladministration of the executive in issues concerning all the departments of the federal Government, Autonomous Bodies and other public and private sector organizations of national importance.

In this way, over 200,000 cases per year are being decided where the President of Pakistan is the highest forum, he added.

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## KSrelief concludes 50,000 Shelter NFIs, Winter Kit Project Across Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief) has successfully completed its extensive 50,000 Shelter Non-Food Items (NFIs) and Winter Kit Project for 2023-24, bringing essential aid to some of Pakistan's most vulnerable communities.

Spanning four phases from September 2023 to October 2024, the initiative targeted areas severely affected by flash floods, heavy rainfall, and snowfall across 44 high-need districts in Pakistan.

Through this effort, KSrelief distributed a total of 25,000 Shelter NFIs and 25,000 Winter Kits, aimed at helping communities withstand harsh winter conditions and rebuild their lives in the aftermath of these disasters.

This project highlights KSrelief's dedication to delivering humanitarian support in response to the increasing challenges posed by climate-induced natural disasters.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq presenting shield to DIG Operations Islamabad Police Syed Ali Raza at Parliament House. Deputy Speaker National Assembly Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah and other Members of Parliament are also present.

## Court accepts exemption plea of Bushra in Bulgari jewelry case

RAWALPINDI (Online): Special judge central Shahrukh Arjumand has accepted exemption from attendance plea of Bushra Bibi in new case of acquisition of expensive Bulgari jewelry from Toshakhana.

The court has directed Bushra Bibi to ensure her attendance on next hearing.

The counsels for the accused gave arguments on acquittal pleas during the hearing of the case in Adiala jail Tuesday. Zulfiqar Abbas Naqvi counsel for FIA while opposing acquittal plea of former chairman PFI and Bushra Bibi took the stance acquittal pleas are bid to delay the proceedings of indictment.

The court has given 3 to 4 dates for indictment but indictment is not being allowed to be framed. Therefore court should indict the accused persons.

Barrister Suleman Saifdar counsel for the accused requested the court he wanted to file some documents in support of acquittal.

## Ayaz commends Islamabad Police for apprehending suspects involved in recent bank robbery

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Tuesday praised Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Islamabad Police Syed Ali Raza and his team for their swift action in apprehending suspects involved in a recent bank robbery in federal capital. During meeting with DIG Islamabad Police, he commended the Islamabad Police for their successful operation, congratulating them on their effective performance and awarding a shield in recognition of their achievements. The Speaker lauded the police force's prompt and effective response, noting that such actions have strengthened public trust in law enforcement.

"Law enforcement agencies play a vital role in maintaining peace and security," he said, adding that the Islamabad Police's measures to ensure public safety and crime prevention are commendable.

He further emphasized that the police force's improved performance is a significant step toward making the capital a safer city. "Such measures reflect the government's commitment to finding lasting solutions to security issues and fostering a peaceful society," he stated. Speaker praised the Islamabad Police's professional conduct, underscoring the importance of a secure and peaceful environment for the country's progress and the prosperity of its people. He also expressed his good wishes for the police's future efforts to serve the public and eradicate crime. Deputy Speaker National Assembly Syed Mir Ghulam Mustafa Shah and Members of the National Assembly Syed Khurshed Ahmed Shah.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Denmark, Jakob Linulf calls on Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) and Kashmir Affairs Engineer Amir Muqam.

## Kashmiris to observe Jammu Martyrs' Day today

ISLAMABAD (APP): Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and across the world will observe Jammu Martyrs' Day, tomorrow, to reiterate their resolve to carry on the martyrs' mission until they achieve their inalienable right to self-determination.

According to Kashmir Media Service, hundreds of thousands of Kashmiris were martyred by the forces of Dogra Maharaja Hari Singh, the Indian Army, and Hindu fanatics in different parts of the Jammu region while migrating to Pakistan during the first week of November 1947.

All arrangements have been finalized to commemorate the historic day on both sides of the LoC and worldwide.

In Azad Jammu and Kashmir, anti-India demonstrations, seminars, and symposiums will be organized in towns across all districts and in various parts of Pakistan to pay homage to the Jammu martyrs.

The day will begin with special prayers in mosques for the early liberation of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir from Indian occupation and for the progress, prosperity, and stability of Pakistan and AJK.

## Senate penal summons CDA Chief, DC over D-12 illegal construction issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Housing and Works on Tuesday summoned the Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and the Deputy Commissioner to appear at the next session to investigate the issue of illegal construction in D-12, as well as other pending matters.

The meeting, chaired by Senator Nasir Mehmood at the Parliament House, also instructed the FIA to provide an update on ongoing investigations into various housing authorities, including PWD, FGEHA, PHA-F, and NESPAK.

The committee discussed a variety of critical issues concerning ongoing housing projects and departmental inefficiencies.

After thorough deliberation, they reached a consensus to further investigate allegations of mismanagement, prioritize accountability, and ensure transparency in future housing schemes.

A key agenda item was the discussion of the long-delayed 200-bed Center of Excellence in Gynecology and Obstetrics in Rawalpindi. Approved in 2007 with an estimated cost of Rs 166 million, the project has faced numerous setbacks, primarily due to funding challenges.

Although construction resumed in 2010, claims for the project escalated to Rs 218 million by 2023. However, discrepancies in these claims raised questions about their authenticity.



ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani hearing representations against the orders of the Federal Ombudsmen, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Romina says: Business leaders' role in achieving sustainable development crucial

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam said that the present government was committed to boost collaboration with various stakeholders involving countries and non-governmental organizations for achieving sustainable development goals.

During her meeting on Tuesday with a high-profile six-member delegation from Yuanhe Holdings and the Green and Low-Carbon Committee of the Sino-International Entrepreneurs Federation (SIEF), she emphasized that engaging with development partners and countries with sound technical know-how, technology, and expertise in implementation of the UN's sustainable development goals is present government's top agenda, aiming to achieve poverty reduction, environmental sustainability, climate resilience, gender empowerment and other socio-economic development related goals.

SIEF delegation was led by its Dr. Ma Chengliang, senior advisor of the Green and Low-carbon Committee met PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam at the climate change and environmental coordination ministry. Both sides expressed commitment to collaborate for achieving sustainable development in Pakistan through joint working in areas including environment, climate change.

## Pak universities' pioneer in adopting HEC's 'Maktab' best tech solution

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Universities are pioneer in adopting Higher Education Commission (HEC's) 'Maktab' technology to automate operations as per global best practices.

According to the details from official sources, HEC, via its Higher Education Development Program -HEDP will bring Maktab, the world's best technology solution, to Pakistani universities.

By automating the entire student lifecycle, Maktab will not only reduce operational costs but also offer a state-of-the-art academic experience at significantly subsidized rates, the sources added.

Muhammad Nawaz Shareef University of Agriculture, Multan; AROR University, Sukkur; Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design, Lahore; Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar; UET, Peshawar; and Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University, Quetta pioneered to digitize their operations from student admissions till graduation (ERP-SLC).



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam chairs a meeting with a high-level six member delegation of Sino-International Entrepreneurs Federation (SIEF).

## CCP engages Law students on Competition Law

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), as part of its partnership with the Directorate of Legal Education (DLE), held an interactive session at the School of Law, Quaid-e-Azam University.

This initiative, part of CCP's ongoing commitment to fostering legal knowledge and advocacy, brought together students and professionals to discuss key aspects of competition law, said a press release issued here on Tuesday.

Ms. Bushra Naz Malik, Member CCP, highlighted the Commission's core principles of transparency, integrity, and independence, encouraging law students to embody these values in their future careers. She emphasized the vital role of Competition Law in fostering economic growth, noting how a fair and competitive market can significantly contribute to Pakistan's GDP and overall economic health.

Usama Malik, Director, Directorate of Legal Education highlighted the significance of the session as a valuable learning opportunity for students. He highlighted the critical role of Competition Law in promoting fair market practices, which are essential for a balanced and equitable economic environment.

Hasan Raza Pasha, Member Executive, Pakistan Bar Council discussed how market manipulation, particularly by cartels and intermediaries, places a burden on consumers.

## IHC removes objection on plea for missing person's recovery

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday removed the objections of registrar office on a petition seeking recovery of a missing citizen of Azad Kashmir.

IHC's Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani heard the case along with the objections of registrar office. The office has objected that the citizen Raja Mudrasir went missing from Azad Kashmir so the case couldn't be filed in IHC.

## Pakistan's growing e-waste crisis: A call for action

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan, despite contributing less than 1% of the world's 53.6 million metric tons of electronic waste (e-waste), faces serious challenges in managing its annual 500,000 metric tons. In contrast, countries like China, the United States, and India generate nearly 38% of the global e-waste due to high consumer demand and rapid technological upgrades. China produces an estimated 10.1 million metric tons, followed by the U.S. with 6.9 million and India with 3.2 million tons.

Without an adequate infrastructure for safe disposal, much of Pakistan's e-waste is processed in informal sectors, exposing workers and communities to dangerous toxins like lead and mercury. This also includes significant volumes of imported e-waste, further taxing the country's limited waste management resources. To address this growing problem, Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination spokesperson Muhammad Saleem Shaikh talking to APP highlighted that the National Environment Policy (NEP) of 2005 and the National Hazardous Waste Management Policy (NHWP), approved in 2022, aim to tackle the generation, trade, and disposal of e-waste. These policies align with international standards, such as the Basel Convention, to reduce the environmental impact of hazardous waste.

Saleem stressed the importance of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to improve e-waste recycling. By collaborating with private sector companies, the government is working to establish efficient collection and recycling systems. One critical initiative is the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program, which holds electronics manufacturers accountable for their products' end-of-life disposal.

"EPR programs will be key to ensuring that electronics producers are held accountable for the entire lifecycle of their products," Saleem says. "These programs are not only vital for minimizing environmental harm, but they also open up new economic opportunities in the recycling industry." Pakistan's growing e-waste sector also presents a hidden economic opportunity. Proper recycling and processing of e-waste can recover valuable materials such as gold, silver, and copper, significantly reducing the need for imported raw materials. For instance, recycling 100,000 mobile phones can yield around 2.4 kilograms of gold, 900 kilograms of copper, and 25 kilograms of silver. This highlights the financial potential of formal e-waste recycling operations. Moreover, transitioning from informal, hazardous work to formalized, regulated recycling facilities could create safer, skilled employment opportunities. "With the right infrastructure, e-waste recycling could not only improve environmental outcomes but also provide a safer, more sustainable livelihood for thousands.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Bushra Anjum Butt, Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

ISLAMABAD: Senator Bushra Anjum Butt, Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

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**Smog hazard**

The Punjab government would be keen to forget its first year of treating smog as 'a year-round epidemic' instead of a seasonal issue.

The policy shift, announced in July this year, has so far failed to yield the desired results. Indeed, the air quality in Lahore is now worse than it has ever been, with the Air Quality Index exceeding 1,000 on Sunday for the first time ever. Children have been told to stay at home this week as primary schools up to Grade 5 have been shut by the provincial government due to the smog hazard.

The polluted air, which carries hazardous chemicals many times over the standards set by the World Health Organisation, can cause a host of respiratory diseases, as well as strokes, heart disease and lung cancer. Children are particularly at risk because of their underdeveloped respiratory systems and propensity to breathe more rapidly, which causes them to inhale more pollutants relative to their size than adults.

Of course, combating smog was never going to be easy, no matter how keenly the Punjab chief minister wanted to see it prevented this year. Though the provincial government has attempted to clamp down on all sources of pollution, including restaurants emitting excessive smoke from their barbecues, the Pakistan Air Quality Experts' Group, comprising leading air quality experts, researchers, doctors and scientists, deems these measures ill-planned, insufficient and therefore unlikely to have a meaningful impact on the larger problem.

Another factor has also been blamed extensively by the Punjab authorities: cross-border pollution from India, from where smoke from stubble-burning and fireworks during the recently concluded Diwali celebrations are blowing over this week into Pakistan. The Punjab chief minister is now seeking a joint effort by the two Punjab provinces to combat the smog crisis, which, the WHO warns, is reducing the life expectancy of the citizens residing in their territories.

With the authorities told to go back to the drawing board — the provincial environment minister on Monday said they will "use this week to conduct research, mapping, and studies to reassess and determine if extended school closures are needed" — this is a good time to reflect on past policies that have led to this point, and to plan more extensively about how the crisis can be averted in future.

It should be acknowledged that the catastrophe unfolding in Lahore has been years in the making; it is the product of our authorities' repeated failure to recognise the environmental impact of rapid urbanisation and industrialisation. The smog crisis in Lahore should also serve as a stark warning to administrators of other urban centres. If immediate steps are not taken to address pollution, millions more may soon find themselves choking on toxic air.

**Arifa Noor**

It is becoming harder and harder to find something new to write about as far as politics in Pakistan is concerned.

The country is stuck in a time warp and so is one's commentary. So much so that I spend more time staring at the screen than I do pounding on the keyboard — with the occasional exception, such as the previous chief justice's retirement for which the sentences had been simmering in my head from the beginning of the year. But other than that, deadlines arrive and I go through my version of 'I have nothing to wear' routine.

Should it be about a jittery government? What else can one call a set-up which has managed a constitutional amendment only to realise it is still not in control of the judiciary as such? Not a lawyer out there, who is worth his or her salt, thinks the matter is done and dusted. For there is little clarity about the judiciary losing all hope and

deciding to capitulate altogether. There are rumours aplenty of what can and might happen in the coming days.

Even if the government can dominate the new Judicial Commission of Pakistan, there is no guarantee the ensuing decision will go its way. For instance, how will the review of the reserved seats be heard by a bench formed by the JCP because the original issue was heard by the full court? And even if the government gets to choose a smaller bench which hears the matter, will all the judges give a 'convenient' judgment?

But then, this is an issue best left to the legal eagles who have replaced retired bureaucrats as the most frequent visitors on newspaper op-ed pages and talk shows than to half-literate hacks who dabble in political commentary.

Then there is human rights, which is always good for a lament in Pakistan any day of any week. And this past week, we also managed to hit new lows. The week began with the arrest of

Imaan Hazir and Hadi Ali Chattha under the terrorism act for having removed a security barrier and ended with the news of the disappearance of 10 Baloch students from Rawalpindi as well as heartbreaking footage of lawyer Intezar Panjutha, who was 'recovered' by the police; the official account of his 'recovery' was one that even the concerned police officer's dotting mother would have had trouble believing.

There is something of a lament to be written for how the government and its allies barely blinked at these events; ignorance is a convenient plea, especially when working long hours to strengthen the terrorism act itself by legalising a three-month custody of suspects.

Perhaps I could count the blessings — at least Imaan and Hadi Ali were arrested before the passage of the act and didn't face a three-month-long incarceration. Or should there be hope that the Baloch students who were picked up will now not simply disap-

pear and be presented in court because they can now be held for three months, no questions asked?

But how many times can one write on human rights and their blatant disregard by those in power, civilian and military? And what difference does it make? Of all the lost causes a journalist is compelled to speak about in Pakistan, nothing is as hopeless as human rights.

Then there is the topic much beloved of our all-knowing journalists — the PTI, its rifts and plans. Apparently, it makes for good television in a country where no channel seems to think content matters though opaque ratings do. So there is endless speculation about a deal, now that the PTI has, despite much bluster, not brought any crowds on the roads and Imran Khan's wife has been given bail after nearly nine months of imprisonment.

That this is being pondered over by many who have spent months telling us that the PTI and Imran Khan could

never be forgiven for their unforgivable sins is not mentioned by anyone. Nor how the news of a deal could be all that surprising because the PTI has never hidden its interest in talking to the establishment. So the question should not be that there is a deal but why the other side came around. But then, our political discussions are hardly known for being focused.

Even so, it is interesting that people in the government are hinting at the possibility of a 'deal' without being asked in a polite way, 'phir tera kiya ho gaa kaaliya' (what will happen to you then?).

Of course, as we tend to focus on the elite side of politics without sparing a thought for the ordinary people, this whole deal or dheel or no-deal brouhaha never ventures beyond party leaderships and few will ever focus on the reaction of the people. Will the voters be as disillusioned with Imran Khan as they were with Nawaz Sharif after the vote of no-confidence, and if so, who

will they turn to? Or will they become disillusioned with politics altogether? After all, Nawaz Sharif was seen to be the most popular leader in Punjab till his brother became prime minister and showed everyone that democracy's revenge doesn't even spare relatives.

And then came the best story of the week. The failed privatisation bid of PIA, where the only one left in the game was a property dealer.

And why not? If the real power resides with property dealers, why shouldn't one of them run the national airline too? It's a good metaphor for the country — though the state of governance in the country is best explained through the claims of two provincial governments which have no capacity to raise the revenues needed for their expenditures but feel they can run an airline. The only problem is that it is less of an insight into politics and more a joke for a stand-up comedy routine. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Choked by politics****Time to let Pak-India ties wait**

Punjabi shopkeepers still struggling with the trauma of 1947.

There was a time too when prime minister Vajpayee instructed his cricket team to win hearts in Pakistan. Indians who came to Lahore to watch the long overdue one-day international in 2004, found themselves lavished with warmth they had never imagined. There was amazing hospitality everywhere. Many returned home loaded with gifts and fond memories of free rides in taxis and exotic food courts that didn't charge them a paisa.

There was a time too when young Pakistanis were taught to see India as an enemy country and Indians were taught with the state's help to respect their brethren everywhere. A four- or five-year-old cousin from Pakistan told us in the Ayub era how he wanted to become a pilot and drop bombs on India. Today, it is India's turn to indoctrinate its masses to hate Muslims, among them Pakistanis and Bangladeshis. This, ironically, when everyone barring the extremists in Pakistan seek improved ties with India.

Mani Shankar Aiyar, the incorrigible optimist and campaigner for India-Pakistan friendship, wrote recently that he saw an opening for better days ahead in the visit to Islamabad by India's foreign minister, who represented Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the SCO summit last month.

Aiyar spoke of a few ideas about connectivity and prosperity in Indian External Affairs Minister S u b r a h m a n y a m Jaishankar's address to the Shanghai club. The SCO charter, however, also speaks of good neighbourly relations, which Jaishankar perhaps unknowingly skipped.

Aiyar sees improved ties with Pakistan as paving the way for happier tidings for Indian Muslims. The question then needs to be asked: if the horse befriends the grass what would it eat? Why would a patently communal government stop hating Muslims?

If keeping bad relations with Pakistan is an element in the political drive to target Muslims, which the Hindutva clan has benefited from, then the hatred has to be first

exorcised at home. Or, as the cynics would say, give Adani or Ambani a share in a gas pipeline project in Pakistan, to override Hindutva's communal necessity. That would reset the ties to a new high, though the people on both sides would not be integral to such rapprochement.

Wasn't there an Indian tycoon lodged in a Lahore hotel with a missive from PM Modi not too long ago? Either way, it doesn't make sense to clamour for India-Pakistan ties in which the people don't have a central role. The Nobel Peace Prize went to Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin, but to what avail? Genuine peace needs to be rooted in the people's interest, not the tycoons' or the ever-lurking foreign strategy minders.

It is curious, therefore, to see the Indian media that spouts vitriol against Pakistan being always ready to broach the status of the ties. The world is teetering on the brink of an unutterable catastrophe, but Indian journalists rarely fail to undermine the grim reality. For them, it's India-Pakistan ties come what may, re-

plete with their overt or covert slant.

A former ambassador to Islamabad went a step further. He claimed in his memoirs that India was planning to shoot missiles into Pakistan had it not promptly returned the air force pilot it had captured after shooting down an Indian warplane. And Pakistan would have sat on its haunches? What else can be called other than puerile propaganda and obsessive one-upmanship between two nuclear upstarts?

Give the hacks half a chance and they would muscle their way through the most urgent discussions on the table, say, on the collapsing political world order, the sapling planted by BRICS to challenge the dollar's hegemony, apocalyptic environmental degradation, the unspeakable massacres underway in Gaza, Congo, Ukraine, and, above all, the eerie Israel-Iran spiral, to frame a discussion on India-Pakistan troubles.

The Maldives was hosting a summit of the Saarc nations in 1997 where it underlined the threat to its existence by

global warming as the rising ocean would swamp it. But the Indian and Pakistani prime ministers entered the room, and the topic turned to their tang.

In a similar spectacle recently, the Iranian ambassador in New Delhi was being interviewed by an Indian journalist. While the Middle East is on fire, her concern focused on why Iran's supreme leader mentioned Kashmir to target India. The seasoned ambassador benignly let the female TV anchor grind his delicately woven Persian carpet in the room with her nail-head heels. As a parting shot, though, he let her know that India had ongoing run-ins with other countries, for example, the US or the UK over Sikh expatriates. But it scantily affected their stable ties.

Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif has since the Lahore summit favoured talks with India. On a day when he should have held forth on the importance of the SCO summit underway he was expressing hopes for better ties to a visiting Indian journalist even as the world was exploding not far away.

**'Endure, my heart'****Waqas Younas**

We recently faced internet interruptions and wondered about the cause. Unsurprisingly, the larger the problem, the harder it is to promptly find the cause here. Eventually, we learned it was a problem in the submarine cable. Could a tiny black fish have sliced it? Oh well! Her cheap thrills, our tangled ills.

What that little fish did sent ripples far and wide. Many businesses took a hit, and productivity plunged. The effect was anything but favourable for those striving to better their family's livelihood.

I have a dream. I wish we had a little fish that could work with the same precision, but instead of causing trouble, would solve our problems. A dream that stretches too far, I know.

When the news broke about the cause of our internet troubles, another troubling story caught my attention on Dawn TV's Zara Hut Kay, featuring Nousheen Zaidi's analysis of water pollution in various parts of the country. The researcher's water samples from different areas in Lahore revealed poor water quality, harming the health of children, women, and men. When asked if any city in Pakistan could boast clean tap water, the researcher, while acknowledging the absence of large-scale studies, suggested there may be no such place. A nuclear arsenal, institutions fed with billions, and scores of men hungry for power in their citadels, yet no clean water. Tragedy or farce, I can't decide. But heartbreak? For sure.

Bit by bit, we shrink the size of our dreams for this country. I once hoped for justice for all, world-class education, and healthcare. Now, all I hope for is that, in my lifetime,

my children can drink safe water at home. Good and inexpensive education and healthcare are now a distant dream. One wonders whether we'll ever see the day when we no longer have to console ourselves with the Homeric plea, "Endure, my heart?"

An Iranian teacher, critic, and writer named Sarmad Behranghi wrote a popular story called The Little Black Fish. It tells the tale of a small black fish living in a secluded stream alongside others who are content with their simple, quiet lives. But the little black fish is filled with curiosity, eager to explore the world beyond the stream, and has an irresistible urge to find the answer to a burning question: "Where does the stream go?"

The little fish faces plenty of resistance from family, all urging it to abandon the idea of venturing out. But nothing could quench the little fish's desire to explore. Eventually, it sets out on its journey. Along the way, the little fish meets various creatures, most of whom are discouraging. Some play the role of authoritarian figures and societal gatekeepers, trying to frighten the fish with warnings of danger and dismissing its questions about the world. But the little fish remains unwavering in its resolve.

Some creatures, however, offer help and encouragement, showing that there are those who support and nurture curiosity. The final challenge the little fish faces is a bird that seeks to crush freedom and curiosity. The little fish is left with a choice: either submit to its power or sacrifice its life for freedom and justice. In the end, the little fish chooses to give its life.

The little fish led a remarkable life. It chal-

lenged dogmas, searched for truth, and became a symbol of intellectual freedom. Every other fish that stayed behind in the stream accepted their circumstances without question — and left no legacy. They are forgotten. But the little black fish, with its defiance, questioned the norms, embraced forward-thinking ideas, and left a lasting mark.

Yesterday, there were a few among us who, like the little black fish, sought truth and intellectual freedom. To-day, there are more. And tomorrow, there will be many.

Many parents want their children to ask hard questions, push boundaries, and not fear the consequences of their curiosity. Hand on your heart — would you honestly tell your child to speak their mind in this country? Words, as Shakespeare said, should not be daggers to our ears.

No nation has ever risen without giving the courage to its citizens to speak openly. The path to progress is paved not with silence. We must give our people the strength and the assurance that their voices matter — that they can challenge, question, and declare, even when their words make us uncomfortable. Nay, precisely when their words make us uncomfortable, when they shake the ground we stand on, when they pierce the veils of our illusions, then we should know we must listen and not attack.

The day a person in this country can stand firm on one side holding an opinion that differs from the entire nation standing on the other side, without fear of being silenced or fear of his or her life, will be the day that will mark our path to progress. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Mohammad Ali Babakhel**

Following 9/11, the ashes of the World Trade Centre in New York ignited fires in different parts of the world. Even now, 23 years later, those fires are proving difficult to extinguish. The so-called War on Terror (WoT), much like the Cold War, has been an expansive war, which has directly or indirectly affected almost every nation. It would, therefore, be of interest to examine their similarities and differences.

The term 'Cold War' was first used by George Orwell, the nom de plume of Eric Arthur Blair, in an article in 1945. The war itself commenced with the announcement of the Truman Doctrine in 1947 and concluded with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The WoT started about 10 years later, in 2001. The withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan in 2021 was celebrated as the end of the WoT. However, post-withdrawal developments proved that the WoT had merely entered a new phase. The US may have physically withdrawn from the theatre, but its strategic interests remained intact. Even today, the great powers and major terrorist groups do not know when the WoT will end.

While the Cold War was between two blocs, with other states taking a side, the ongoing WoT was supposed to be between nation-states and violent non-state actors. In reality, some states did provide space, finances, and ideological and diplomatic support to violent non-state actors; otherwise, it would be difficult for the latter to survive.

Therefore, though terrorist groups were also active during the Cold War, the post-9/11 era saw a

**Two wars**

mushroom growth in their numbers. Al Qaeda was established much before the WoT, but it spawned and inspired a number of extremist groups thereafter. The WoT not only impacted the sovereignty of states but also the territorial integrity of a few. Countries like Syria, Iraq, Libya, Yemen, and Afghanistan faced instability and were confronted with civil war-like situations.

The Cold War was primarily an ideological confrontation between capitalism and communism; the WoT was about combating terrorism based on a struggle against extremist ideologies. The Cold War and WoT both influenced international relations, with alliances shaping geopolitics. The Cold War saw Soviet expansion, with the capitalist bloc trying to contain it. For some analysts, the Cold War was a smokescreen for the US to influence and control events in Western Europe and Japan. On the other hand, the WoT remained largely focused on specific regions, particularly in the Middle East. The Cold War spawned a nuclear race and indirect military engagements, while the WoT saw direct and prolonged military engagements, as seen in Afghanistan and Iraq.

To recognise its strategic partners in 1987, the US designated Major Non-Nato Ally (MNNNA) status to various countries.

MNNAs are not members of Nato but are entitled to certain benefits in military cooperation. Out of the 20 countries with MNNNA status, eight received it before 9/11, while 12 countries obtained this status in the post-9/11 era. This highlights how the US grew its military influence around the world following the WoT.

The WoT is not restricted to national bor-

ders and involves many countries and international coalitions. The WoT often involves state actors combating non-state actors and has therefore influenced security legislation and policies such as the US's Patriot Act, which extended surveillance and law-enforcement powers within the world's most powerful nation as well. The WoT also brought with it human rights concerns, especially about torture, detentions (for example, Guan-ta-nam-Bay) and targeted killings via drones.

During the initial phase of the WoT, religious extremism, ethnic divisions, and political marginalisation further complicated the mix. The WoT gained impetus from globalisation, technological innovations, the openness of media and the strength of social media, which triggered rights and peace movements on the one hand, while enabling the speedy dissemination of hate material and fake news on the other.

States with weak economies cannot completely isolate themselves as either parties or victims of violent conflicts. The survival and effectiveness of states require a greater focus on countering violent narratives, which is not possible without investing in social empowerment and improving public service delivery. Terrorism is a transnational phenomenon.

There is a need for an increased realisation that terrorism and conflicts benefit only a few powerful entities, while the rest pay the costs. For powerful states and violent non-state actors, terrorism is a commercial enterprise and a source of power, pleasure, and profit. The truth is that sole reliance on military might is not an antidote. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Governor says: All must unite to eliminate extremism, sectarian violence

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday stressed that we all must unite to eliminate extremism and sectarian violence.

He said this during a meeting with a delegation of Tehreek-e-Nifaz Fiqa Jafariya (TNFJ) at Governor House, led by Provincial President Syed Ghazanfar Ali Shah, included senior vice president Maulana Malik Ijlal al-Hyderi, provincial vice president Zulfiqar Haider Jameel, Advocate Zulnoorain Haider, and other members.

The TNFJ delegation raised several important issues concerning the

security and welfare of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the nation as a whole.

They demanded the full implementation of all clauses of the National Action Plan to ensure lasting peace and the complete eradication of terrorism in the province and across Pakistan.

The delegation also called for the practical banning of proscribed organizations, enhancing the security of the Peshawar-Parachinar road, constructing alternative routes for the residents of Parachinar, and halting cross-border infiltration.

They further brought up the deteriorating condition of the Mir Ahmed Shah Shrine in

Orakzai, and to restore the road leading to the shrine and carry out necessary repairs. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi assured the delegation that maintaining peace and order in the province was a shared responsibility.

He expressed optimism about the collective efforts to bring peace to the region soon. "We all must unite to eliminate extremism and sectarian violence. The people of our province are peaceful and peace-loving," he said.

The Governor also emphasized the natural beauty and resources of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which attract people from across the country.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi presides over a meeting with Jaz Cash and Public Sectors Universities representatives regarding Cash Free digitalisation services at Governor House.

## KP cabinet committee visits judicial academy to discuss new campus development

PESHAWAR (APP): A Special Committee of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cabinet members visited the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy, Peshawar (KPJA), to discuss establishment of the KPJA's New Campus, on already acquired/allotted land measuring 150 Kanal, at Regi Model Town (RMT), Peshawar.

The distinguished guests were received by the Director General, Dean and other staff of the Academy. Detailed presentation was given to the Committee. The meeting/presentation was attended by Mr. Aftab Alam Afridi, Minister for Law, Mr. Arshad Ayub Khan, Minister for Local Government, Mr. Nazir Ahmed Abbasi, Minister for Finance, Mr. Shah Faisal Utman Khel, Advocate General, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Barrister Ikhtiar Khan, Registrar, Peshawar High Court, Mr. Akhtar Saeed Turk, Secretary Law

Department, Ms. Tallat Fahad, Additional Secretary, Administration Department, Mr. Jehanzeb Shinwari, Director General, KPJA, Mr. Zia ur Rehman, Dean Faculty, KPJA, Dr. Qazi Ataullah, Senior Director Research and Publication KPJA and other respectable guests. In his welcome address, the Director General extended a warm welcome to all the distinguished guests and expressed his gratitude to the Cabinet Committee Members. He emphasized the role of the judiciary's essential role in delivering inexpensive and expeditious justice, as enshrined in Article 37-D of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. He said that comprehensive trainings to enhance the knowledge and skills of Judges/ Qazis, Lawyers, Prosecutors, District Attorneys, and Court Staff are essential, for upholding the statutory mandate of the Academy.

## Swati directs for considering historical worth of KP PA

PESHAWAR (APP): Speaker of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Babar Saleem Swati has issued directives for considering the historical significance of the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Despite its extensive parliamentary history, it has not been properly preserved and highlighted. Therefore, the Assembly Secretariat requires the services of the University of Peshawar Arts & Design Department and other relevant provincial departments to preserve this important historical heritage and present it for public exhibition and to students. These thoughts were expressed by the Acting Secretary of the Provincial Assembly, Syed

Waqar Shah, during a meeting with Dr. Imrana Ismail, Chairperson of the University of Peshawar Arts & Design Department and her accompanying delegation at the Assembly Chamber in Peshawar on Tuesday. Representatives from the Public Relations and Research Sections of the Assembly Secretariat were also present on this occasion. In this meeting between the Acting Secretary and the representative delegation of the University of Peshawar Arts & Design Department, detailed discussions were held on framing the historical aspects of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly in the form of exhibition Portraits and highlighting the historical significance.

## Girl killed, brother injured in road accident

MULTAN (APP): A young girl, who was pillion rider, died while her brother sustained injuries when their motorcycle was hit by bus of Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU), at Syedwala Bypass, here on Tuesday.

According to Rescue 1122, both were on their way to their educational institutions when the accident occurred at 8:50 am.

They informed that the deceased was identified as Iqra Mehr (18) d/o Iqbal while her brother Abuzar (15) sustained injuries.

The young girl died on the spot, they said, adding that according to witnesses, siblings were hit by the university bus from the rear side which resulted in the death of Iqra on the spot.

Later, the body was shifted to Nishar Hospital for autopsy by the rescuers, they informed.

## Multan sees significant drop in crime in October

MULTAN (APP): Multan police have reported a substantial reduction in major crimes throughout October, including a marked decrease in incidents of robbery, theft, and vehicle snatching.

According to the latest report, diligent efforts by the police have led to an 83% decrease in dacoity cases and a 30% reduction in robberies.

The report further details a 33% drop in vehicle snatching cases, while motorcycle theft incidents fell by 27%. Additionally, house robberies saw a 57% reduction, and overall theft cases declined by 52% compared to previous months. "These achievements reflect the hard work and ongoing crackdown by our police teams against criminal elements," stated Multan's City Police Officer (CPO), Sadiq Ali Dogar.



MULTAN: MPA Rana Iqbal Siraj presenting bouquet to the Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani upon his arrival at Multan International Airport.

## CM Murad launches modern Counter-Terrorism Fusion Centre

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah inaugurated a cutting-edge facility, the Fusion Centre of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), within the provincial police, aimed at enhancing the provincial government's counterterrorism efforts.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar, Inspector General of Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, Additional IG CTD Imran Yakoob Minhas, and DIG CTD Asif Aijaz Shaikh, along with other senior officials.

The Fusion Centre, established by the National Radio and Telecommunications Corporation (NRTC), is equipped with advanced technology and infrastructure to strengthen the CTD's capacity to combat terrorism. "The provincial government has allocated Rs722 million for the Fusion Centre in the fiscal year 2023-24 to support the centre's operational and developmental needs," the CM said.

The centre is designed as a central hub that integrates online and offline data from all relevant stakeholders, enabling efficient analysis, collaboration, and decision-making. Through the project, the CTD aims to streamline intelligence-sharing and bolster the

scientific investigation of terrorism cases and other government-assigned matters.

The Sindh Chief Minister Shah Syed Murad Ali Shah, speaking on the occasion, said that his government was committed to equipping the provincial police with modern resources.

"The provincial government has focused on strengthening the Sindh police with improved training, transportation, budgetary support, and essential equipment," he said.

He added that it was the responsibility of the police to protect the lives, property, and liberties of the people of the province.



KARACHI: Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wabab along with Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad addresses to media persons during press conference, held at Old KMC building in Karachi.

## Zero waste to be ensured in cities, villages under 'Suthra' Punjab; Provincial Minister

RAWALPINDI (APP): Provincial Minister for Local Government and Community Development, Zeeshan Rafique here on Tuesday said that zero waste would be ensured in cities and villages through 'Suthra' Punjab programme.

Chairing a meeting held here in Commissioner Office regarding 'Suthra' Punjab the Minister said that the programme was launched on the directives of Chief Minister Punjab and it is a gift for the people.

Members of National and Provincial Assemblies, divisional administration officers, contractors and others attended the meeting.

The officers concerned gave a briefing on the steps being taken by Rawalpindi Waste Management Company regarding 'Suthra' Punjab.

Zeeshan Rafiq said that environmental friendly sustainable measures are being taken under 'Suthra' Punjab programme. All the required resources are being provided by the Punjab Government, after which there should be no problem in ensuring 100 percent cleanliness.

He said that outsourcing of cleanliness and sanitation system in rural areas would ensure manual, mechanical sweeping, waste collection, drain cleaning and waste disposal.



MOHENJO DARO: A tourist delegation from Germany (German Family) are visiting and expressed keen interest in the historical ruins of the World Heritage Monuments of Mohenjo Daro.

## CM's Apni Chhat program Rs 600 mln disbursed to 850 beneficiaries in first tranche

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' programme is continuing successfully.

Tranche-1 payment to more than 850 applicants under the programme has been completed. Various citizens across Punjab have received Rs 600 million to build their own houses under 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' programme.

According to handout issued here on Tuesday, most of the houses of the citizens who received loans in the first phase under 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar'

programme are nearing completion. The process of verification of applicants is going on swiftly from 21<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> August.

CM Maryam Nawaz directed the Assembly Members to accompany Deputy Commissioners so as to visit the citizens who are building their houses under 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' programme.

The Assembly Member will also handover special letter of congratulation on behalf of CM Punjab to the beneficiaries under 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' program.

## KP govt launches mega solarization project for sustainable energy

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the committee for the solarization of government buildings.

The initiative is aimed at addressing power shortages and promoting sustainable energy solutions across the province.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Minister's Advisor on Finance, Muzammil Aslam, and other key committee members.

The meeting focused on the proposed plan to solarize a wide range of government infrastructure across the province, including hospitals,

schools, colleges, universities, police stations, jails, government offices, as well as tube wells and streetlights.

The committee was briefed on the ongoing data collection process regarding the electricity needs of government buildings. So far, data for 13,000 units has been compiled.

To solarize these buildings, approximately 73,000 megawatts of solar system capacity will be required, which will generate an estimated 92 million units of solar electricity annually.

The total estimated cost of the solarization project is approximately 10 billion rupees. Once completed,



LAHORE: Chairperson Women Protection Authority Hina Pervez Butt talking to 13 years maid girl who was tortured.

## CM message on World Tsunami Awareness Day

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has highlighted the growing threat of natural disasters, particularly tsunamis, as a result of the hazardous effects of climate change.

In her message on World Tsunami Awareness Day, she acknowledged that Pakistan is also facing significant challenges due to climate change and emphasized the need for a robust strategy to address and mitigate the impact of such natural calamities.

"Natural disasters like tsunamis are an increasing global concern, and Pakistan is no exception," said CM Maryam Nawaz. "It is crucial that we learn from international experiences to strengthen our preparedness and response strategies in dealing with disasters such as tsunamis."

She further outlined the steps taken by the

Punjab government, including the introduction of a comprehensive climate policy aimed at protecting human life and property during natural disasters.

"The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab is being modernized and equipped with the necessary resources to improve disaster response," she added.

The chief minister also emphasized the importance of public awareness in disaster preparedness. "We will continue to hold regular awareness programs to educate citizens about the precautionary measures they should take in the event of natural calamities," she stated.

CM Maryam Nawaz reiterated the importance of adopting earthquake-resistant construction techniques as part of ongoing infrastructure development in Punjab.



HYDERABAD: Taluka administration Sarfaraz Town conducting anti Dengue virus spray in Fakir ka Pir area as the number of dengue patients increasing day by day in the city.

## LDA seals 152 properties

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Development Authority (LDA) teams conducted operations against defaulters of commercial fee and illegal commercial activities, and sealed 152 properties on different schemes here on Tuesday.

The LDA teams conducted operations in Gulberg, New Garden Town, Allama Iqbal Town, Canal Road, Shalimar Link Road, Main Boulevard Gulshan Ravi, Poonch Road, and Samanabad. The sealed properties include bakeries, shoe stores, banks, call centers, cafes, solar shops, grocery stores, malls, furniture shops, electronics stores, and others.

In Gulberg and New Garden Town, 37 properties were sealed due to illegal commercial use and non-payment of

commercial fees. In Allama Iqbal Town, 20 properties were sealed and 25 in Sutlej Avenue. The teams sealed 70 properties in different areas including Canal Road, Shalimar Link Road, Main Boulevard Gulshan Ravi, Poonch Road, and Samanabad. The sealed properties include bakeries, shoe stores, banks, call centers, cafes, solar shops, grocery stores, malls, furniture shops, electronics stores, and others.

The operation was supervised by Chief Town Planner 1, Asad Uz Zaman, and Chief Town Planner 2, Azhar Ali.

## Session held to create awareness about dangers of illegal migration

PESHAWAR (APP): Labor Education Organization (LEO) in collaboration with Migrant Resource Center Islamabad on Tuesday arranged an awareness session in Swabi focusing safe and legal migration for citizens.

The initiative was aimed at providing comprehensive information to people regarding migration for employment, education

and residence, and the dangers with illegal migration. Tahseen Ullah from the Migrant Resource Center and Hassan from LEO emphasized the importance of choosing legal migration avenues to safeguard one's life and property.

They highlighted that many individuals who opt for migration in search of better futures, lack reliable information.



KARACHI: Policemen stand guard outside a factory where two Chinese nationals were allegedly shot, in the Provincial Capital.

## Aurangzeb reviews progress on REMIT initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): World Bank, GCSI and Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired a meeting of Revenue Mobilisation, Investment and Trade Programme (REMIT) Steering Committee on Tuesday to review the status and progress on the implementation of decisions taken by the Committee in its earlier meeting with regard to revenue mobilization, investment climate, trade and macro-economy.

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb appreciated the overall progress of the Programme and called for a more proactive and dedicated approach on the part of different stakeholders for urgent implementation of final deliverables under the Programme.

The minister said he would personally oversee progress on completion of various activities.



**PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi presides over a meeting with SNGPL authorities regarding gas issues in DLKhan and all districts at Governor House.**



**ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chaired a meeting of the Revenue Mobilisation, Investment, and Trade Programme.**

## Planning minister directs 'proactive analysis' of demand & stocks to maintain prices of essential items

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday directed the quarters concerned to conduct "proactive analysis" of demand and stocks to maintain prices of essential commodities on a regular basis, especially during high-demand seasons like Ramadan and Eid-ul-Azha.

"Preparation for these high-demand seasons should anticipate potential supply pressures to prevent market disruptions and price spikes," he said while chairing a meeting of

the National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC).

The meeting was attended by senior officials, including Additional Secretary Planning Kamran Rehman, Economic Advisor Dr Imtiaz Ahmed, Chief Statistician Dr Naeem Uz Zafar, Joint Chief Economist, Deputy Commissioner ICT, Deputy Commissioner (MP & FP), and representatives from the Ministry of Food and provincial governments, according to a news release.

The minister also instructed local market committees to play an active role in monitoring demand and supply, ensuring adequate availability of essential commodities.

The NPMC gave every Deputy Commissioner task to maintain oversight of district-level stock levels to avert shortages.

The committee reviewed recent inflation data, particularly in food and essential commodities, using insights from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on the

Consumer Price Index (CPI). Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the need for data-driven strategies in price monitoring, advocating for detailed reports on inflation drivers to facilitate targeted interventions.

In October 2024, non-perishable food items experienced a controlled rise of 1.01% as compared to previous month and a decrease of 1.46% if compared to last year October 2023. Major decrease observed in the prices of wheat flour (-34.73%), sugar (-9.15%) and cooking oil (-10.2%).

## Task force to negotiate about saved amount with 18 IPPs in next phase: Senate body told

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Power was informed on Tuesday that the task force would negotiate about saved amount with the 18 Independent Power Producers (IPPs) from 1994 and 2002, as well as the government power plants in next phase.

The committee which met with Mohsin Aziz in the Chair was told that the task force's negotiations would be completed in the next three to six months.

Briefing the Senate Panel, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Power, Muhammad Ali said that the task force was negotiating with the IPPs, and recently, five power plants have been terminated by the task force on the recommendation of NTDC, which resulted in benefit the country Rs. 60 billion annually for the country.

He highlighted that the task force has negotiated with the IPPs for the payment of the

saved amount which should be paid back to the government of Pakistan.

The Senate Committee deliberated on Mr. Muhammad Ali's report on IPPs issued in the year 2020. Senator Mohsin Aziz argued as per report, the investment made by IPPs in the installation of power plants was earned back in two to four years.

However, in the case of coal power plants, the investment was redeemed in two years. SAPM on Power, Muhammad Ali, stated that in Pakistan, approximately 13 to 17 percent returns were given, which was twice the returns offered in any other country.

Muhammad Ali opined that the government should step back from the power business and focus on developing power markets, as practiced in other countries.



**UAE: Zubair Motiwala, Chief Executive, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan along with Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Envoy to UAE inaugurated the Pakistan Pavilion at the 10th Edition of Gulfood Manufacturing 2024.**

## SECP conducts start up summit 2024, in Karachi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) held a press briefing at its Head Office in Islamabad on the upcoming Pakistan Start-up Summit.

A press release issued here said the event, scheduled for November 11 and 12 in Karachi, is a transformative platform for Pakistan's entrepreneurial ecosystem. The technology has changed the way business is done.

Innovative products, payment channels and modes of business have given birth FinTech, EdTech, HealthTech and InsureTech companies worldwide. In Pakistan technology-driven businesses are on the rise, however, the room for growth and potential opportunities it provides are manifold.

The summit is designed to foster an environment of innovation and collaboration,

providing stakeholders with an opportunity to explore cutting-edge solutions, examine the latest regulatory developments, and address pressing challenges and opportunities across key sectors, including finance, technology, education, and logistics.

With a strong focus on sustainable, inclusive, and resilient business models, the summit will cover essential themes such as embedded finance, data protection, peer-to-peer lending, and digital financing solutions, all tailored to meet the unique needs of Pakistan's dynamic market landscape.

"Pakistan's start-up ecosystem has immense potential, and this summit is an essential step toward realizing that potential," said the Chairman SECP. "Through knowledge-sharing, collaborative discussions, and actionable insights, we aim to empower start-ups to thrive and scale."



**ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yezhan Kistafin called on the Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain.**

## Pakistan's exports to UK increase by 8.39% in Q1 of FY2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's export of goods and services to the United Kingdom (UK) witnessed an increase of 8.39 percent during the first quarter of the current fiscal year (2024-25) as compared to the corresponding quarter of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

The overall exports to the UK were recorded at US\$562.749 million during July-September (2024-25) against exports of US\$519.142 million during July-September (2023-24), SBP data revealed.

On a year-to-year basis, the exports to the UK also surged to \$196.379 million in September 2024 against the export of \$167.869 million in September 2023.

Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to the UK witnessed an increase of

7.27 percent during September 2024 as compared to the exports of \$183.066 million in August 2024, the SBP data revealed.

Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed an increase of 7.82 percent in the first three months, from US\$6.952 billion to US\$7.495 billion, the SBP data revealed.

On the other hand, the imports from the UK into the country during the months under review were recorded at US\$180.442 million against US\$187.938 million last year, showing a decrease of 3.98 percent in July-September (2024-25).

On a year-on-year basis, the imports for the US also decreased to US\$48.082 million in September 2024, against the export of US\$58.822 million in September 2023.

## PTA organizes Telecom Cybersecurity Awards 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) held the Cybersecurity Awards 2024 on Tuesday to honour outstanding achievements in enhancing cybersecurity within Pakistan's telecom sector. In her address, Minister of State for IT and Telecommunications Shaza Fatima Khawaja reaffirmed the government's commitment to establishing a robust cybersecurity framework critical for the country's economic and digital stability.

She said Pakistan has

been recognized in the Top Tier-1 (Role-Modelling) category of the ITU-Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI V5) 2024. This recognition highlights the nation's progress in bolstering cybersecurity and resilience, a testament to the collective efforts of the Ministry, stakeholders in government, industry, academia, and law enforcement agencies.

She said the PTA has introduced critical telecom data infrastructure regulations, encouraging operators to adopt substantial cybersecurity

measures to enhance overall preparedness.

She shared insights from her recent visit to Karachi, where the Digital Pakistan Cybersecurity Hackathon 2024 was launched. She announced plans for legislation to establish a National Digital Commission, which will be headed by the Prime Minister and include representation from the provinces and the private sector, to enhance national cybersecurity.

She said, "We will bring legislation in this regard within a week."

## PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 366 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 366.32 points, a positive change of 0.40 percent, closing at 92,304.32 points as compared to 91,938.01 points on the last trading day.

A total of 752,664,527 shares were traded during the day as compared to 589,546,678 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 32.827 billion against Rs.29.959

billion on the last trading day. As many as 452 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 223 of them recorded gains and 169 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 60 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Power Cement with 66,262,505 shares at Rs 7.79 per share, Sui South Gas with 51,962,511 shares at Rs 16.68 per share and Fauji Foods Limited with 32,398,093 shares at Rs.10.57 per share.



**ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja addressing Telecom Cyber security Awards-2024 Ceremony.**

## 80,000 farmers to get Livestock Cards: Ashiq

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Livestock and Agriculture Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani has said that the Livestock Card is an interest-free loan program and 80,000 livestock farmers will get benefit from this scheme. He was addressing the memorandum of understanding signing ceremony on Tuesday which was held for the Chief Minister Punjab Livestock Card program at Bank of Punjab head office Lahore. The registration process of livestock card has started from Tuesday. Parliamentary Secretary Livestock Sardar Asim Maken were also present on this occasion. The MoU

was signed by Secretary Livestock Punjab Saqib Ali Ateel and President Bank of Punjab Zafar Masood.

The Minister for Livestock and Agriculture said that the Livestock Card is launched by the Punjab government with an amount of Rs11 billion. He explained that 4 lakh animals will be prepared for the fattening program. Their quality meat will be exported as well as fulfilling the local needs. The livestock minister maintained that interest-free loan will be given on equal installments quarterly. 27 thousand rupees loan will be provided per animal. Loan facility of Rs 135,000 to Rs 270,000.

## Steps being taken to promote, develop livestock sector: Fazal

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Fazal Hakeem Khan Yousafzai has said that result oriented steps were being taken for development and promotion of livestock sector.

He said this during a visit to Government Cattle Breeding and Dairy Farm Harichand District Charsadda. Members of

## SNGPL legal adviser appointed

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited has appointed Advocate, Malik Ateeque Khokhar its legal adviser for Bahawalpur region with immediate effect and until further orders.

The SNGPL has notified posting of Mr. Khakhar in this regard. He would look after legal matters of SNGPL in Bahawalpur region. He has assumed charge of his new office.



**FAISALABAD: Farmers cutting green fodder for animals with the help of machine in his farm.**

## Canadian investor Luqman says: Hundreds of exploration companies ready to come to Pakistan for investment

Independent report ISLAMABAD: Luqman Ahmed, a Canadian investor and associated with the mineral industry, visited the capital office of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Canadian investor Luqman Ahmed met the officials of FPCCI.

Vice President of the Federation Tariq Jadoon and Incharge Capital Office Karim Aziz Malik, Chairman Coordination Capital Office Malik Sohail also attended the meeting.

President FPCCI Aif Ikram Shaikh said on this occasion that there are investment opportunities in Pakistan, the business community is playing a role to restore the confidence of investors, trade and investment

between Pakistan and Canada. want to promote, a delegation of Pakistani businessmen will visit Canada and America in March, a delegation of 25 to 30 people will visit.

Speaking on this occasion, Canadian investor Luqman Ahmed said that hundreds of exploration companies are ready to come to Pakistan, there are opportunities for exploration in the field of mining and minerals in Pakistan, there is a need to improve the image of Pakistan in the outside world.

Pakistani companies are also coming towards exploration, our two exploration projects have been successful in Peru, if the business environment in Pakistan's mining sector is improved,

## PSX appointed new CEO

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Tuesday announced the appointment of Farrukh H. Sabzwari as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

According to a notice issued by PSX, Sabzwari will assume his office as CEO of Pakistan Stock Exchange on November 18, 2024.

Farrukh Sabzwari has spent more than 25 years in senior management roles in the investment banking industry, both locally and abroad, the press release said adding he had previously served as CEO and MD of KASB Securities (local partner of BoA Merrill Lynch), BMA Capital and Country Head for CLSA Emerging Markets in Pakistan.

His time abroad includes stints at CLSA Emerging Markets in NY, USA, where he was VP sub-continent sales.



**GUANGZHOU: Pakistan-China B2B Investment Meeting on Leather and Footwear Sector in Guangzhou (China).**

## At least 29 Palestinians killed in Israeli airstrikes in several areas in Gaza

### Monitoring Desk

RAMALLAH: At least 29 Palestinians were killed early on Tuesday in Israeli airstrikes on tents housing displaced people in several areas of Gaza, including Beit Lahiya, Deir Al-Balah and the town of Al-Zawayda, the official Palestinian news agency WAFA reported.

According to WAFA, 20 people were killed in a heavy airstrike on a home in Beit Lahiya, located in the northern part of Gaza, two people were killed when a tent in central Deir al-Balah was hit and four people were killed and others injured in a similar attack on a tent in al-Zawayda.

The 13-month war between Israel and Hezbollah has killed more than 3,000 people in Lebanon, the country's Health Ministry said on Monday, more than double the number of people killed since their last major war two decades ago.

The war shows no

signs of ending, and Israel has said it is carrying out new operations targeting Hezbollah infrastructure across Lebanon and in parts of Syria while Hezbollah continues to launch dozens of rockets into northern Israel.

Hezbollah began firing rockets into northern Israel the day after Hamas' surprise attack into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023 ignited the war in Gaza. Hezbollah and Hamas are both allied with Iran.

For nearly a year, the conflict was mostly contained to the areas along the border between Israel and Lebanon. The conflict dramatically escalated on Sept. 23 with intense Israeli airstrikes on south and east Lebanon as well as Beirut's southern suburbs, leaving hundreds dead and leading to the displacement of nearly 1.2 million people.

Israel began a ground invasion of south Lebanon on Oct. 1, causing wide destruction in border villages but making little advances

on the ground inside Lebanon. Israel says it is destroying Hezbollah weapons and command centers near the border, including an extensive tunnel system built by Hezbollah.

The Lebanese Health Ministry said 16 people were killed and 90 injured in attacks on Sunday, bringing the death toll to 3,002. At least 13,492 have been injured. The ministry does not differentiate between civilians and Hezbollah fighters in its toll. Israel claimed hundreds of Hezbollah fighters have been killed.

In Israel, 72 people have been killed by Hezbollah attacks, including 30 soldiers, according to the prime minister's office. More than 60,000 people have been displaced from their homes.

Also on Monday, Israel announced it terminated the agreement facilitating the work of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, the main aid provider in Gaza.



Displaced Palestinians make their way after fleeing the northern part of Gaza amid an Israeli military operation, in Gaza City.

## Australian foreign minister raises allegations with Indian counterpart of targeting Sikhs in Canada

### Monitoring Desk

MELBOURNE: Australia's foreign minister said Tuesday she raised allegations with her Indian counterpart that India has targeted Sikh activists in Canada.

Foreign Minister Penny Wong said she discussed the Canadian allegations with Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar while he was in the Australian capital, Canberra.

India has denied Canada's allegation that Indian Home Minister Amit Shah ordered the targeting of Sikh activists inside Canada.

Wong said her message to the Sikh community was

that people have a right to be safe and respected in Australia, regardless of who they are.

"We've made clear our concerns about the allegations under investigation. We've said that we respect Canada's judicial process," Wong said at a news conference with Jaishankar.

"We convey our views to India as you would expect us to do and we have a principled position in relation to matters such as the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary and also, frankly, the sovereignty of all countries," she added.

## Head of Myanmar's military government visits close ally China for the first time since taking power

### Monitoring Desk

BANGKOK: The head of Myanmar's military government embarked Tuesday on an official visit to China, the embattled Southeast Asian nation's most important international ally, for several regional meetings.

It is the first time Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing has traveled to the neighboring country since his army seized power in February 2021 from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Myanmar's army suffered unprecedented battlefield defeats over the past year, especially in areas near the Chinese border. Both Myanmar's ruling generals and China's government have shown concern as pro-democracy guerrillas and armed ethnic minority groups, sometimes working hand in hand, have taken the initiative in their fight against military rule.

But Beijing is now

concerned about instability that threatens its strategic and business interests in Myanmar. China's government has maintained good working relations with Myanmar's ruling military, which is shunned and sanctioned by many Western nations for the army takeover and for major human rights violations.

State-run MRTV television said that Min Aung Hlaing departed on a flight from the capital, Naypyitaw, Tuesday morning to begin his visit.

He will visit the Chinese city of Kunming on Wednesday and Thursday to attend three summits: The Greater Mekong Subregion, the Ayeeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy and the Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Vietnam Cooperation. Kunming, the capital of China's Yunnan province, is about 400 kilometers (250 miles).

## Iranian female student who stripped at university is 'troubled', govt says

### Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: A female student who stripped to her underwear at an Iranian university does not represent a security issue but is a "troubled individual" who is receiving treatment, a government spokesperson said.

The young woman undressed on Saturday at the Islamic Azad University in Tehran, an act that was widely perceived on social media as a protest against Iran's strict Islamic dress code.

"Instead of viewing this issue under a security lens, we are rather looking at it with a social lens and seek to solve the problems of this student as a troubled individual."

## Delhi wants artificial rain to tackle worsening air pollution

### Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: India's capital territory of Delhi is keen to use artificial rain to fight air pollution this year, its Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Tuesday, as deteriorating air quality in the region led to an increase in respiratory illnesses.

Large swathes of north India battle pollution each winter as cold air traps dust, vehicle emissions and smoke from farm fires in the breadbasket states of Punjab and Haryana, shrouding the national capital and its suburbs in a toxic haze. Cloud-seeding — the method of triggering rain by seeding clouds with salts — was considered to curb pollution in 2023.



Voters cast their ballots at Longley Elementary School in Maine's 2nd congressional district on Election Day in Lewiston, Maine, U.S.

## North Korean troops in Russia are shelled by Ukrainian forces, an official says

### Monitoring Desk

KYIV: North Korean troops recently deployed to help Russia in its war with Ukraine have come under Ukrainian fire, a Kyiv official said Tuesday.

It is the first time a Ukrainian official has said that Pyongyang's units were struck, following a deployment that has given the war a new complexion as it approaches its 1,000-day milestone.

"The first North Korean troops have already been shelled, in the Kursk region," Andrii Kovalenko, the head of the counter-disinformation branch of

Ukraine's Security Council, wrote on Telegram. He provided no further details.

Western governments had expected that the North Korean soldiers would be sent to Russia's Kursk border region, where a 3-month-old incursion by the Ukrainian army is the first occupation of Russian territory since World War II and has embarrassed the Kremlin.

U.S., South Korean and Ukrainian intelligence assessments say up to 12,000 North Korean combat troops are being sent by Pyongyang to the war under a pact with Moscow.

## Iranian forces kill 8 after deadly attack in southeast: state media

### Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Iran's military has killed eight militants in an operation in the restive southeast since a deadly attack last month on a police station, state media reported on Tuesday.

On October 26, militants from the Jaish al-Adl group killed 10 police officers in Taftan county, Sistan-Baluchistan province — one of the deadliest attacks in the region in recent months.

"A total of eight terrorists have been killed" during operations in the province, Revolutionary

Guards commander Ahmad Shafahi said, quoted by the official IRNA news agency.

"Fourteen other terrorists have been arrested," including key figures involved in the Taftan attack, he said, adding security forces seized a large amount of weapons and ammunition.

Late on Monday, IRNA quoted Guards commander Mohammad Pakpour as saying the militants who carried out the October 26 attack "were not Iranian," without specifying their nationalities.



Prince William, Prince of Wales, meets the President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, at his Official Residence in Cape Town, South Africa.

## Pennsylvania judge allows Elon Musk's \$1 million voter giveaway

### Monitoring Desk

PHILADELPHIA: A Pennsylvania state judge on Monday allowed Elon Musk's \$1 million-a-day giveaway to swing state voters to proceed, after a surprising day of testimony in which the billionaire's aide acknowledged his political group selected the contest's winners.

With one day to go before the tightly contested US presidential election between Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris and Republican Donald

Trump, lawyers for Musk's pro-Trump America PAC sought to persuade Judge Angelo Foglietta that the contest was not an "illegal lottery," as Philadelphia's top prosecutor alleged.

Lawyers for America PAC and its director, Chris Young, said the group could out the funds based on who would be the best spokesperson for its pro-Trump agenda, despite the billionaire's assertion that winners would be chosen randomly.

## Activists rally in Belgrade to protest railway station disaster

### Monitoring Desk

BELGRADE: Hundreds of opposition activists rallied in Belgrade on Sunday to protest over a deadly accident at a railway station in Serbia's north, for which they blame negligence and corruption by the authorities.

The disaster on Friday in the city of Novi Sad, about 70 km (40 miles) northwest of Belgrade, happened when roofing along the entrance to the station suddenly collapsed, killing 14 people and severely injuring three.

Protesters carrying banners reading "The blood is on your hands," and "Corruption kills," and chanting "Arrest (President

Aleksandar) Vucic", marched by government buildings in the center of the Serbian capital. "We are all shaken and furious... the state is directly responsible for this," said Djordje Dimitrijevic, a protester.

Serbia's opposition politicians, activists and rights groups accuse authorities loyal to Vucic and his Serbian Progressive Party of rampant corruption, ties with organized crime, nepotism and excessive red tape. Vucic and his allies deny such allegations.

Serbia's Prime Minister Milos Vucevic said on Sunday authorities were investigating who is responsible for the disaster.

## Mexico's Sheinbaum chides Supreme Court for overstepping remit on judicial reform

### Monitoring Desk

MEXICO CITY: Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum criticized the country's Supreme Court on Monday for what she described as overstepping its authority as it weighs whether to deem part of a recently-enacted judicial reform unconstitutional.

The dispute pits a majority of the 11-member top court against the new president, who took office last month, over the limits of the court's power to review the constitutional judicial overhaul that requires a switch to a system.

## New Zealand police probe mosque arson attack

### Monitoring Desk

SYDNEY: New Zealand police are investigating an arson attack at an Auckland mosque early on Tuesday, when a fire smoldered for eight hours before it was noticed and emergency services were called.

Mosque attacks resonate in New Zealand after 51 people were killed in its worst mass shooting in 2019 that targeted Muslims attending Friday prayers in Christchurch, an assault livestreamed on Facebook by gunman Brenton Tarrant.

## Harris vs Trump is too close to call

### Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: A presidential election unlike any other in US history entered its last full day with Donald Trump and Kamala Harris scrambling for an edge in a tight contest each portrays as an existential moment for America.

Even after the astonishing blur of events of the last few months, the electorate is divided down the middle, both nationally and in the seven battleground states expected to determine the outcome.

The winner may not be known for days after Tuesday's vote. Former President Trump, a 78-year-old Republican, survived two assassination attempts weeks after a New York City jury made him the first former US president to be convicted of a felony.

Vice President Harris,

60, was catapulted to the top of the Democratic ticket in July - giving her a chance to become the first woman to hold the world's most powerful job - after President Joe Biden, 81, ended his reelection bid after a disastrous debate performance against Trump prompted calls from his party to drop out.

For all of that turmoil, the contours of the race have changed little, and opinion polls have shown Harris and Trump running neck and neck since the summer.

More than 80 million voters have already cast ballots in early voting, according to the University of Florida's Election Lab, and both candidates plan to spend the campaign's final hours doing everything they can to ensure their remaining supporters vote on Tuesday.

## Israeli settlers burn cars in West Bank attack: Palestinians

### Monitoring Desk

AL BIREH: Israeli settlers torched nearly 20 cars early Monday in the occupied West Bank city of Al-Bireh near Ramallah, according to the Palestinian civil defence and an Israeli security source.

An AFP journalist saw several cars completely charred, and the blackened facade of the five-storey building outside which they were parked.

An alert rang "at 3:30am (0130 GMT) signalling that settlers entered the area and committed acts of vandalism," said Rami Omar, head of the local civil defence office.

An Israeli security official told AFP notification of the incident came at 4:00 am and soldiers were sent who arrived on site after the settlers had gone.

The official, who was not authorised to speak publicly on the matter, said 19 vehicles had been burned by settlers.

Israeli police, soldiers and Shin Bet security

agency officers collected evidence in Al-Bireh for the investigation, the official added.

Israeli authorities did not yet know where the settlers came from and what their motives were.

Ihab al-Zabin, a resident of the damaged building, told AFP he saw the arsonists run away towards the nearby Israeli settlement of Beit El.

Zabin said he saw around 10 people he identified as settlers "pouring liquids on vehicles in front of the building and then setting them on fire."

"I yelled from my apartment, and at that moment they ran away," he said. "When I went down with my neighbours to put out the fire, settlers shot towards us."

Abdullah Abu Rahmah from the Palestinian Commission against Settlements told AFP that the attackers belong to a group of arsonists who have attacked other nearby villages in the past.

## Gaza aid situation not much improved, US says as deadline for Israel looms

### Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Israel has taken some measures to increase aid access to Gaza but has so far failed to significantly turn around the humanitarian situation in the enclave, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Monday, as a deadline set by the US to improve the situation approaches.

The Biden administration told Israel in an Oct. 13 letter it had 30 days to take specific steps to address the dire humanitarian crisis in the strip, which has been pummeled for more than a year by Israeli ground and air operations that Israel says are aimed at rooting out Hamas militants.

Aid workers and UN officials say humanitarian conditions continue to be dire in Gaza.

"As of today, the situ-

ation has not significantly turned around. We have seen an increase in some measurements. We've seen an increase in the number of crossings that are open. But just if you look at the stipulated recommendations in the letter, those have not been met," Miller said. Miller said the results so far were "not good enough" but stressed that the 30-day period had not elapsed.

He declined to say what consequences Israel would face if it failed to implement the recommendations. "What I can tell you that we will do is we will follow the law," he said.

Washington, Israel's main supplier of weapons, has frequently pressed Israel to improve humanitarian conditions in Gaza since the war with Hamas began with the Palestinian militant group's Oct. 7, 2023.

## Palau, US security ally in Pacific, holds election

### Monitoring Desk

SYDNEY: The Pacific Islands nation of Palau, important to the US military amid tensions with China, and among a dozen allies of Taiwan, holds a national election for president on Tuesday.

President Surangel Whipps Jr is contesting the post against his brother-in-law, former president Tommy Remengesau, who stood at traffic intersections on Monday directly appealing to drivers for support.

Voters will also elect 13 members of the national senate. Palau this year renewed a Compact of Free Association with Washington, in a deal that will see it receive \$890 million in economic assistance over 20 years in return for allowing continued US military access to its maritime zone, air space and land.

Palau's population of 18,000 is spread across an archipelago that sits between the Philippines and the US military base on Guam. The US military is constructing an over-the-horizon radar on Palau, scheduled to be completed in 2026.

Palau is one of only 12 countries that have diplo-

matic ties with Taiwan, and Whipps has said China's move to bar tourist groups from travelling to Palau, and a cyber attack in March, are examples of pressure from Beijing to switch ties.

To counter the fall in Chinese tourist arrivals, Palau has opened direct flights to Japan and Australia, with support from those governments.

Tax reform has emerged as an election issue, with Remengesau's campaign arguing big business is not paying enough, and pledging tax incentives for small business.

The Palau Media Council, in a statement on Saturday, said it was concerned by a lawsuit filed against the Island Times newspaper by Surangel and Sons Co, a retail and construction company owned by Whipps' father, after the newspaper reported allegations circulated on social media about the company's tax payments.

The defamation lawsuit alleges the newspaper did not verify the social media claims, which were false, and designed to sway voters, the president's father said in several statements.



A Soyuz-2.1b rocket booster with a Fregat upper stage carrying satellites blasts off from its launchpad at the Vostochny Cosmodrome in the far-eastern Amur region, Russia.

## Resilient youth to make Pakistan developed and prosperous country: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Tuesday that Pakistan's youth with its hard work, resilience, and determination would make it a developed and prosperous country.

Addressing the National Youth Summit as chief guest here, he said that Pakistan was founded on the dream of Allama Iqbal, which turned into reality under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The minister said that the youth of the subcontinent gained freedom by supporting the Quaid-e-Azam in the struggle for freedom.

"Through the resolve and determination of the Muslim youth of the subcontinent we achieved the goal of freedom", he maintained.

The youth carried the message of the Quaid-e-Azam to every nook and cranny of the subcontinent and helped create awareness among the Muslims about the importance of Pakistan.

He said it was an honour to address the best and most talented youth of Pakistan present at the event.

He said Pakistan had abundance of talented youth who were playing an important role in the development of the country.

Young people were representing Pakistan on every forum, he said adding that they could shape the world scenario in a unique way.

He said there was a need for a lot of work as far as climate change was concerned.

"We have suffered many losses due to adverse effects of climate change in the shape of floods and cyclones", he remarked.

He expressed the hope that Pakistani youth would play their role in mitigating the effects of climate change.

He said Pakistan's youth were striving for gender equality, better health facilities, and the overall well-being of the people of the country and region.

He said local youth were working in the digital field and Pakistani startups were considered the best in the world.

He said empowering the youth was the need of the hour and the government was taking various steps to empower the youth.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf addressing the course participants of 26th National Security Workshop at Naval Headquarter Islamabad.

## Participants of 26th National Security Workshop visit NHQ

ISLAMABAD (APP): The participants of the 26th National Security Workshop, led by Director General Institute of Strategic Studies and Research Analysis (ISSRA) Major General Muhammad Raza Aizad, visited Naval Headquarters here Tuesday.

The workshop participants received a briefing on contemporary maritime challenges and Pakistan Navy's response options, including PN's contributions to maritime awareness and socio-economic development of coastal communities, said a news release issued by Director General Public Relations (Navy).

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf also engaged with the participants.

In his address, the Naval Chief elaborated on issues related to maritime security and Pakistan's blue economy potential.

He emphasized on the efforts to enhance maritime and coastal security through Regional Maritime Security Patrols and Coastal Security & Harbour Defence initiatives.

The visiting delegation, comprising parliamentarians, politicians, bureaucrats, Armed Forces officers, and representatives from civil society, highly appreciated the Pakistan Navy's efforts and offered valuable suggestions.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Muhammad Khan Lehari meeting with Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Nausherwani.

## Govt. committed to development, prosperity of nation: Syedaal Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Acting Chairman of the Senate, Syedaal Khan, Tuesday said that the current government is committed to the development and prosperity of the nation.

During the meeting, with a delegation comprising notable figures and students from Balochistan, he highlighted the vigorous efforts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in recent

decreases in commodity prices and an increase in job opportunities for the youth.

He urged all political parties to rally behind the government's legislative initiatives aimed at improving the country. "Effective legislation will not only ensure justice for the people but also pave the way for national development," he said.

## Senator Siddiqui calls for global intervention to end bloodshed in Gaza

DOHA (APP): Senator Irfan Siddiqui, Parliamentary Leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in the Senate, on Tuesday urged the international community to hold Israel responsible and end the bloodshed in Gaza by involving the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

During the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) meeting on budget and planning in Doha, Qatar, Senator Irfan Siddiqui stated that the violence in Gaza has reached alarming levels, with innocent civilians, including women and children, suffering brutal killings. This latest escalation has placed regional peace in serious jeopardy.

Condemning Israel's actions against Lebanon and Iran, Siddiqui urged the APA to actively promote sustainable peace, essential for Asia's growth and prosperity.

Without it, the region's aspirations for development and well-being cannot be achieved.

Senator Irfan Siddiqui expressed concerns regarding the APA's budget issues, stating that this problem has persisted unresolved for the past decade.



QUETTA: A delegation of Balochistan Editors Council meeting with Director General Public Relations Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran.

## Indus Shield Chinese exercise 2024 concludes

RAWALPINDI (APP): Indus Shield-Chinese, a bilateral module of Exercise Indus Shield 2024, being conducted separately between Chinese and Pakistan Airforces has concluded at an operational air base of Pakistan Air Force.

The exercise witnessed participation from People's Liberation Army Air Force of China, with its personnel and high-tech equipment comprising AESA Radar and Long Range BVR Equipped J-16 & J-10C fighter aircraft, Lethal HQ-22 Surface to Air Defence system, Potent Airborne Electronic Warfare YTG-9 Platform, alongside KJ-500 Airborne Early Warning system pitched against PAF's J-10C and JF-17 Block-III fighter jets simulating contemporary aerial combat scenarios.

## Two killed, one injured in Parachinar firing

PESHAWAR (APP): Two persons were killed and a woman sustained injuries in a firing incident that took place near Ochat area located near Lower Kuram, Parachinar, tv channels quoting police reported on Tuesday.

According to details, unidentified gunmen opened fire on two vehicles going towards Parachinar from Peshawar. As a result of firing, two persons died on the spot, while a woman sustained injuries in the same incident.

A police team rushed to the site and shifted the dead and injured to nearby hospital. Police have cordoned off the area to trace the culprits behind this firing. However, no success was made so far till the filing of this report.

## PTIMPs sloganeering, ruckus lead to prorogation of NA session

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ruckus and sloganeering of members belonging to Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI) on Tuesday led to the prorogation of the National Assembly session for indefinite period. Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, an independent member of the National Assembly was speaking on point of order when PTI lawmakers started sloganeering which compelled the Deputy Speaker to read the prorogation order signed by President.



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

## Ayaz Sadiq says Pak-Kazakhstan parliamentary contacts pivotal to further solidifying existing bi-lateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Tuesday said that parliamentary contacts between both the parliaments of Pakistan and Kazakhstan could play a pivotal role in further solidifying the existing bi-lateral ties.

During the meeting with Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin who called on him at the Parliament House, Ayaz Sadiq said that Pakistan highly values its cordial ties with Kazakhstan and both the countries are tied in the eternal bond of shared religion, history and culture.

He also said that enhancing ties between both nations is pivotal for regional growth and prosperity.

During the meeting, it was discussed to enhance collaboration and cooperation between both the countries in the fields of agriculture, education, information technology, infrastructure and trade.

Ayaz Sadiq emphasized Pakistan's strategic geographic position as a key facilitator of global trade, asserting that the country has significant potential to enhance bilateral cooperation in agriculture, energy and IT sector.

He said that Pakistan's strengths in agriculture and investment present valuable opportunities for both nations.

Yerzhan Kistafin acknowledged the importance of fostering stronger ties between the two countries, emphasizing the need for sustained dialogue to enhance cooperation in various sectors.

He commended Pakistan's role in connecting Central Asia with global markets and expressed Kazakhstan's readiness to deepen bilateral relations.

The Ambassador also congratulated Pakistan on successfully hosting the recent SCO Summit 2024.

While highlighting the historical significance of the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan's visit to Pakistan to attend the SCO Summit, he said that Prime Minister Olzhas Bektenov is the first ever Kazakh PM in history who visited Pakistan. He expressed satisfaction with the outcomes of the summit, which aims at bolstering regional cooperation.

The Ambassador also extended an invitation to the Speaker National Assembly to visit Kazakhstan along with a parliamentary delegation.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, called on the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, at the Finance Division.

## FM Aurangzeb meets Ambassador Munir

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, who called on the Finance Minister at Finance Division here Tuesday.

During the meeting, matters related to follow-up and progress on meetings, consultations and discussions held between the minister and stakeholders, including heads of leading financial institutions, commercial and investment banks, bilateral partners, think tanks and government officials came under discussion.

Ambassador Munir Akram highlighted Pakistan's efforts for underscoring the need for climate justice, scaling up climate finance and trade reforms to supporting developing countries, early operationalization of the Loss & Damage Fund, implementation of the agreement to re-channel 50% of the 2021 SDR (Special Drawing Rights) allocation to development, and putting Secretary-General's SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Stimulus proposal into action through an inter-governmental process at the UN.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran and Haji Noor Muhammad Durrani holding a meeting.

## Shaikh appreciates role of UN bodies in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Mohamed Yahya, United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC), called on Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh. Geir Tonstol, representative of International Labor Organization, also participated in the meeting.

The minister welcomed both guest on their arrival in ministry of maritime affairs. Discussion started from maritime sector, the minister said that International Maritime Organization (IMO) of United Nations and Ministry of Maritime Affairs are working collectively to address the issues of Pakistan's maritime sector.

The minister added that Pakistan's maritime industry is transforming to environment friendly model in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under United Nations Development Programs. Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh said that for this purpose we are focusing on aquaculture, electric and hybrid vessels and route optimization and digitalization.

## Anti-Corruption Balochistan files case in drugs scam

QUETTA (APP): Anti-Corruption Balochistan has filed a case in drugs scam worth millions of rupees, Balochistan government spokesperson Shahid Rind said on Tuesday.

He said a case has been registered against several employees for allegedly damaging drugs and medical equipment worth millions of rupees.

It may be recalled that during a recent visit to Bolan Medical Complex (BMC) by the Chief Minister of Balochistan, several complaints regarding the drugs were presented to him.

Expressing his displeasure, the Chief Minister ordered an investigation by the Anti-Corruption Balochistan.

Following his directive, Director General Abdul Waheed Kakar formed an inquiry team led by Deputy Director Investigation Kamran Bashir, with Assistant Directors Investigation Ayaz Tareen, Abdul Qayoom, and Qambar Baloch as team members.

The inquiry revealed significant issues at Bolan Medical Complex, including non-functional CT scan machines and expired medicines worth millions that were improperly stored instead of being utilized.

Besides several CT scan machines were found idle, while other valuable medical equipment remained unused.

The investigation, extending to the records of the Medical Complex Hospital Quetta, uncovered the presence of expired medicines worth approximately 10 million rupees, suggesting serious lapses and potential misconduct.



ISLAMABAD: Mohamed Yahya, United Nations Resident Coordinator, calls on Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh.

## Minister PHE directs to collect complete data of tube wells installed all over Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering and WASA, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran has directed to the concerned high ups to collect complete data of the tube wells installed at government expense all over the province. He also directed to submit detail of the tube wells which are non-functional. The Minister PHE issued these directives taking notice of the public issues regarding water supply in the province, here on Tuesday.

He also directed to take stern action against those responsible in the areas where either the tube wells are non-functional or from where the water is not being supplied to the people.

In addition to this, prompt steps must be taken to make the non-operational tube wells functional all over the province, he directed further.

The Minister also took notice of the non-supply of water from the tube wells installed in four walls of the houses at the expense of government.

Seeking details of such tube wells, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran said that these tube wells are not meant for individuals, rather these have been established to benefit the general public, adding he made it clear.

He also directed to submit plan for vacating the possession of people from the government tube wells.



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

## IGP Khalid Khattak appointed as National Coordinator of NACTA

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Interior Tuesday appointed Inspector General of Police (IGP) Muhammad Khalid Khan Khattak as the National Coordinator of the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NCTA).

According to a notification, IGP Khattak, an officer of the Police Service of Pakistan (PSP) with nearly three decades of distinguished service, now holds one of the most critical roles in Pakistan's counterterrorism landscape.

With 29 years of extensive experience in policing and law enforcement, IGP Khattak has an impressive track record, having served in diverse roles at both the federal and provincial levels.

His career, which began in November 1995 when he joined the PSP, spans roles that include fieldwork, strategic positions in the Ministry of Interior, and responsibilities as a Staff Officer to the Inspector General of Police.

He has commanded several districts, led teams on the ground, and managed crucial law enforcement portfolios, underscoring his deep expertise in public safety and security.

## Polio case count increases to 23 in Balochistan as another case reported from Killa Saifullah

Independent Report

QUETTA: The polio case count has increased to 23 in Balochistan during the current year as another case of polio has been reported from Killa Saifullah district on Tuesday.

According to the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme, the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health has confirmed the detection of another wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) case in the country.

The lab confirmed detection of the virus in a male child hailing from Killa Saifullah district of Balochistan, bringing the number of total cases in Balochistan this year to 23 and in country to 46.

It may be mentioned here that this is the second polio case from Killa Saifullah, where several environmental samples have tested positive for WPV1. With this, so far, 23 cases have been reported from Balochistan province, 12 from Sindh, nine from KP and one each from Punjab and Islamabad.

Earlier, six cases of polio had been reported from Killa Abdullah with three cases reported from Quetta and two each from Chaman, Pishin, Zhob and one each from Dera Bugti, Chaghai, Jhal Magsi, Kharan, Noshki and Killa Saifullah.

Needless to mention here is that a full fledged anti-polio campaign was run in the province recently.