

# Independent

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**TURBAT:** Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti addressing participant of grand tribal jirga. Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, Corps Commander Balochistan Lt. General Rahat Naseem Ahmed Khan, Provincial Ministers and other high officials are also present.

Grand Jirgah held in Turbat attended by Governor, CM, Corps Commander:

## No one to be allowed to create hurdle in peace & development of Balochistan, asserts CM Bugti

*Tribal elders highly appreciate key role of law enforcement agencies for establishing peace in province; assure wholehearted cooperation*

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has categorically declared that no one would be allowed to create hurdle in peace and development of the province.

He said that martyring innocent labourers in Balochistan is sorrowful and the State is standing with the oppressed.

He also asserted that those challenging the State would be dealt with strictly.

He announced that the provincial government would extend assistance to the bereaved families of the innocent people martyred

in the acts of terrorism after 2000.

He also announced that the provincial government would bear the educational expenditures of children of the martyrs.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the participants of Grand tribal Jirgah in Turbat on Thursday.

The Grand Jirgah was participated by Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, Corps Commander, Lt. General Rahat Naseem Ahmed Khan, Inspector General Frontier Corps, Major General Bilal Sarfaraz Khan, provincial

ministers, Senators, regional elders, high civil and military high officials, women, students and local people.

In start of the Jirgah, participants laid floral wreath on the monument of martyrs and offered fateha for them.

The participants of Jirgah also had meeting with the tribal elders, business men, women, students and representatives of other segments of the society belonging to Makran Division.

During the course of interaction, problems of the people were discussed. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister announced the Benazir Schol-

arship Programme under which the provincial government would bear all the expenses of educated students doing Ph.D abroad.

In addition to this, the Chief Minister added, the provincial government would also bear expenditures of education of 16 years of top 10 students of Matric and Intermediate examinations from all districts of the province.

Besides, the skills development programme is also being launched for the youngsters and unemployed people of the province, he added.

The tribal elders and others highly appreciated the key role of the law enforcement agencies for es-

tablishing peace in the province and assured wholehearted cooperation to them.

They also expressed complete confidence and satisfaction over the steps taken for development and peace in the area by the provincial government and armed forces.

Meanwhile, the chief guest distributed prizes among the students demonstrating outstanding performance in the speech competitions organized by FC Balochistan (South) to introduce the philosophy and message of Allama Muhammad Iqbal. The competitions were organized to mark the Iqbal Day.

## PM stresses further deepening Pakistan-Turkiye trade, defence cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday expressing satisfaction at the growing bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Turkiye, stressed the need to further deepen bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, and defence sectors.

The prime minister said this in a meeting with newly-appointed Ambassador of Turkiye to Pakistan Irfan Neziroglu, who called him at the PM House.

The prime minister welcomed Ambassador Neziroglu, who presented his credentials to President Asif Ali

Zardari on October 28, 2024, and said that he looked forward to working closely with the ambassador to further strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries, according to a PM Office press release.

Recalling the historic, longstanding and brotherly ties between Pakistan and Turkiye, the prime minister expressed gratitude for Turkiye's consistent support to Pakistan on Kashmir and said that Pakistan would also continue to lend its strong support to Turkiye on its core interests.

The regional situation, particularly in Gaza and the Middle East also came under discussion.

The prime minister conveyed his warm greetings and best wishes to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and reiterated his invitation to the Turkish President to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience. Ambassador Neziroglu thanked the prime minister for warmly receiving him and assured him of his full commitment and support to further strengthen the strong and historic bonds of friendship between both countries.



**ISLAMABAD:** Ambassador of the Republic of Turkiye, Irfan Neziroglu calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## CJP emphasis ATCs to clear backlog for swift justice

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi on Thursday expressed concern over the backlog at anti-terrorism courts (ATCs) across the country and emphasized the importance of expediting these cases to ensure justice was not delayed.

A meeting of the Administrative Judges of Anti-Terrorism Courts (ATC) was held at the Supreme Court of Pakistan, chaired by the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi.

The meeting reviewed the performance of ATCs and took stock of key challenges to ensure the swift and efficient dispensation of justice in anti-terrorism cases.

It was attended by monitoring judges from Supreme Court Justice, Jamal Khan Mandokhail (via

video link), Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Musarrat Hilali, Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan and monitoring judges of ATC courts and Prosecutors General from all provinces and ICT.

The meeting was also attended by Registrar, Supreme Court and Secretary, Law and Justice Commission were also present.

Opening the meeting, the Chief Justice welcomed the participants and outlined the purpose of the session, which was to assess the current status and performance of ATC cases, as well as to identify and address barriers to the efficient delivery of justice.

He reminded the participants of the immense responsibility that they carry in dispensing justice, urging them to uphold the

law, impartially and without fear or favor.

During the meeting, it was disclosed that a total of 2,273 ATC cases are currently pending in Pakistan, with a significant portion — 1,372 cases — awaiting resolution in Sindh alone.

The Chief Justice expressed concern over the backlog and emphasized the importance of expediting these cases to ensure justice is not delayed.

Key challenges facing ATC courts were discussed, including: Ensuring adequate security for witnesses, facilitating online appearances for witnesses, Establishing and enhancing Forensic Scientific Laboratories (FSL) to support evidence-based decisions, creating additional ATC courts to manage high caseloads effectively.



**ISLAMABAD:** Ambassador of the State of Qatar, Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater, calls on the Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Acting President for further strengthening bilateral ties with Qatar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Thursday said that Pakistan greatly valued its relations with Qatar and underscored the importance of further expanding bilateral relations in the areas of mutual benefits.

He expressed these views while talking to the Ambassador of Qatar, Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Talking to the Ambassador, the acting president stated that both brotherly linkages between the two countries had great scope

for increasing economic and trade relations. He highlighted that Pakistan offered investment opportunities and Qatari companies should benefit from the investment-friendly environment of Pakistan.

Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani applauded Qatar on the successful holding of the FIFA World Cup 2022.

The acting president also thanked the Government of Qatar for hosting a Pakistani Diaspora, which served as a strong bridge to promote cultural linkages between the two countries.

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## PM Shehbaz to visit KSA, Azerbaijan next week for Arab Summit, COP29

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is scheduled to visit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Azerbaijan next week to attend the Second Joint Arab Islamic Summit being held in Riyadh and World Leaders Climate Action Summit in Baku.

The prime minister will visit Saudi Arabia to participate in the Second Joint Arab Islamic Summit being held in Riyadh on November 11, Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said.

Being convened at the initiative of the Saudi government, the summit will be a follow-up to the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit held on November 11, last year in Riyadh to discuss the situation in Gaza and other occupied territories, she said at her weekly press briefing.

The heads of state and government and senior of-

icials from Arab League and OIC member countries are expected to participate in the summit.

She said that at the summit, the prime minister would reiterate Pakistan's full support for the Palestinian cause and call for an immediate end to the genocide in Gaza, an urgent and unconditional ceasefire, and an immediate cessation of ongoing Israeli adventurism in the region that endangers the security of countries in the Middle East. Pakistan will also call for international protection for the Palestinian people and the establishment of an independent State of Palestine on the borders of 4 June 1967, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, she added.

On the sidelines of the summit, the prime minister is also expected to hold bilateral meetings with leaders from other Arab League and OIC member states.

## Chairman PAC summons meeting of DCs of different districts to discuss about unused funds

QUETTA: The Chairman Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Asghar Khan Tareen has summoned the meeting of Deputy Commissioners of different districts on November 14 in the committee room of Provincial Assembly here.

The meeting has been summoned by the Chairman PAC to discuss the matter of unused funds by the Deputy Commissioners.

This was decided in a meeting of the PAC chaired by Chairman, Asghar Tareen here at the committee room of provincial assembly on Thursday.

The meeting was attended by the members of PAC Zabid Ali Reki, Fazal Qadir Mandokhail, Senior Member Board of Revenue, Qambar Dashti, Director General, Audit, Shuja Ali, Additional Secretary PAC, Siraj Lehri.

## Naqvi reaffirms commitment to Chinese security after Karachi incident

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi visited the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad following an incident in Karachi where two Chinese nationals were injured by gunfire from a security guard.



Showing solidarity and diplomatic engagement during his meeting with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zedong, Minister Naqvi expressed regret over the incident and conveyed Pakistan's commitment to ensuring justice and enhancing security for Chinese nationals in the country. He conveyed heartfelt sympathy to the injured Chinese nationals and their families, underscoring that Pakistan places the utmost priority on the well-being and security of Chinese citizens, particularly those working on projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

## Raheela Durrani pledges to give comprehensive road map to revamp education

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Minister for Education Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani on Thursday raised concerns over 39 percent of children in Balochistan who have never attended school and pledged to give a comprehensive road map to revamp the education sector and improve the quality of education.

Raheela said that the students getting scholarships from Islamic Relief Pakistan should play their vital role in the development of the country and serve the nation. The minister said that due to the tremendous efforts of President Pakistan Muslim League Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, education opportunities are being provided to the students of Balochistan. Raheela Durrani urged the members of Balochistan Assembly to take on an educational institute each and strived for its improvement to make it as model institute.

Addressing the scholarship distribution ceremony held under the 'Wasila Program' of Islamic Relief Pakistan, she said her vision regarding bringing reforms in education department is clear and taking efforts to bring the out of school children to school and ensure best educational opportunities at their door step.

She linked the poverty ratio with school enrollment, said that the school enrollment ratio can be increased with the decreasing of poverty numbers.



**ISLAMABAD:** Brig Gen Hojjatullah Qureshi Deputy Minister of Defence & Armed Forces Logistics Islamic Republic of Iran called on Vice Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami at Naval Headquarters.



**QUETTA:** DG Levies Naseebullah Kakar meeting with Provincial Advisor for Trade and Industry Mir Ali Hassan Zehri.

## Pakistan's maritime sector earns 90 bln rupees profit in last FY: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaisar Ahmed Sheikh on Thursday said Pakistan's maritime sector recorded a profit of 90 billion rupees in last fiscal year due to strategic initiatives and investments aimed at transforming Pakistan into a regional maritime hub.

Addressing a press conference here at Press Information Department (PID), the minister said the share of maritime earnings in across the globe are almost 8 percent of their GDP, whereas Pakistan's maritime earnings are 0.5 percent of our GDP which is less than 2 billion.

The minister highlighted the growing importance of natural ports, noting that larger vessels are now docking at the country's ports. Previously, ships carried around 4,000 to 5,000 containers; however, vessels with ca-

pacities of 20,000 to 22,000 containers are now arriving. This shift has led to a reduction in global freight costs and significantly increased activity at nearby ports.

This year, key among these achievements, the Karachi Port Trust's global ranking improved from 84 to 61, signaling a boost in operational efficiency, he added.

He said the inclination of all companies towards our ports has increased. The world's biggest companies are showing their interests to invest in Pakistan because from here they can transport their goods to Central Asian States easily.

The minister said Abu Dhabi Ports will invest \$330 million over the next three years, and global shipping company Hutchison Ports has agreed to invest \$1 billion.

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Trump 2.0**

Come January and Donald Trump will move back into the White House to begin his second presidential term, having crossed the barrier of 270 electoral college votes needed to clinch the presidency.

A flood of congratulations pouring in from world leaders indicate that global capitals are now preparing to deal with a Trump presidency. Though much of his politics is divisive, Donald Trump has engineered a remarkable return to the top of the American power structure. Felony convictions, assassination attempts, and a lack of coherent policy prescriptions — nothing could stop his march back to the White House.

Domestically, high inflation was likely the biggest trigger that prompted Americans to vote for Mr Trump. The Democrats' hubris — for example, President Joe Biden calling Trump supporters 'garbage' — also played a part in their defeat. In fact, the Democratic party and much of the mainstream media have perhaps failed to properly explore the reasons fuelling 'Trumpism' and the disenchantment of many Americans with mainstream politicians, which helped propel the rise of Mr Trump as a political entity.

On the foreign front, the Biden administration's unyielding support for Israel's genocidal campaigns in occupied Palestine and Lebanon alienated most Arab- and Muslim-Americans — many of whom form significant voting blocs in swing states. Many amongst these constituencies likely voted for Trump not out of any ideological affiliation with the Republicans — who are as pro-Israel, if not more, than the Democrats — but to punish Mr Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris.

By January, the surprise in many quarters at Mr Trump's return would have fizzled out, and he will have to deliver on his promise of 'making America great again'. Domestically, he will need solid plans to reduce inflation and bring manufacturing jobs back to the US. But to the rest of the world, his real test will lie in ending the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East. Mr Trump has claimed he could end the Ukraine conflict in "24 hours", and has called the Ukrainian president a "salesman", indicating that US dollars to Kyiv could very soon dry up.

As for Israel, Donald Trump is an unabashed supporter of Tel Aviv, and the far right in Israel is jubilant at his return. It remains to be seen how his promises to Arab-American voters to bring 'peace' to the Middle East reconcile with his blatantly pro-Israel bias. Moreover, while the neocon wing of Trump supporters will call on him to expand America's 'forever wars', the America First faction will counsel him to abandon foreign conflicts and focus on the homeland. Time will tell which camp prevails. As for Pakistan, the last few American administrations have maintained lukewarm ties with this country, and there is little to suggest an improvement in relations under the new Trump set-up.

**A single life**

F.S. Aijazuddin

How many deaths give a single life meaning? In Pakistan, even the massacre of 150 APS students and teachers in Peshawar in 2014 was not enough. They have become a statistic. To the Chinese, every national is priceless. This was brought to the fore at a conference in Islamabad on Oct 29 to celebrate China's 75 years of 'Progress, Transformation and Global Leadership'.

During the conference, Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar dilated for over an hour on Pak-China ties. Deviating from his prepared text, he made some unguarded remarks suggesting that President Xi Jinping, during his meeting with our PM, had told him that China regarded Pakistan as an exception in matters of the security of Chinese nationals.

Dar told his audience: "The Chinese are very clear; no matter how lucrative an investment is anywhere, if the security issue is there, they do not send Chinese personnel. Your country is the only exception."

Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong publicly contradicted Mr Dar's recollection of the PM/Xi meeting, insisting that for Beijing, "Security is the biggest concern". Jiang continued: "It is unacceptable for us to be attacked twice in only six months," and urged Pakistan to take action against "all anti-China terrorist groups". Alluding to the vulnerability of CPEC, he said: "Without a safe and sound environment, nothing can be achieved."

Our Foreign Office entered the fray. In response to a question during the FO briefing later, a correspondent asked the FO spokesperson whether "any action [would] be taken against

the Chinese ambassador for violating the diplomatic norms and rebuking our foreign minister" (shades of the demarche sent by the previous government in 2022 over US diplomat Donald Lu's "bad manners and sheer arrogance").

The spokesperson responded with the official line that "Pakistan is committed to providing full security to Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in Pakistan", adding gratuitously that "the statement of the Chinese ambassador is therefore perplexing in view of the positive diplomatic traditions between Pakistan and China".

The Chinese have a better institutional memory than our officials. They have not forgotten that 200 Chinese workers died while building the Karakoram Highway. They are buried in Gilgit. In 2021, nine Chinese workers were killed in a terrorist attack in KP. In 2022, a suicide bomber killed three Chinese instructors at the Confucius Institute in Karachi.

In March 2024, five Chinese nationals were killed in a suicide bomb blast in Shan-gla district. Last month, two Chinese nationals died in an explosion near Karachi airport.

After each of these attacks, our governments have resolved to "resolutely act against all such forces and defeat them". Equally often, the Chinese government has insisted on Pakistan taking "tangible actions rather than [offering] assurances". Why is security of every Chinese so important to Beijing? Because the one-child policy has meant that if anything happened to any individual bread- or noodle-winner, six people would be affected: two parents and four grandparents. The Chinese have a 5,000-year history of resilience, tempered by adversity. Pakistan has a

77-year-old history of insecurity, compounded by debilitating insolvency. China would lose nothing by discarding Pakistan. It has other customers in line on its One Belt, One Road initiative. Pakistan may have strategic value for China, but that interest is not open-ended. Pakistan puts its indebtedness at risk. It owes its iron brother \$26 billion of debt and has \$65bn committed to CPEC projects.

If a single life matters to the Chinese, a single American life, an individual chosen by over 70m US voters, will have significance for billions beyond the Atlantic and Pacific. Donald Trump has claimed the presidency. He has been mandated to decide the world's security.

Trump is a bruised giant, with a narcissistic, insular 'America First' mentality. Kamala Harris promise to "strengthen, not abdicate" America's global leadership cut no ice with American voters. Trump has won. Democracy has only itself to blame. Harris has lost. President Joe Biden is to blame. He (like Queen Elizabeth II) delayed in handing over the sceptre to another generation.

Nato, Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu, Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky, and immigrants should worry. Trump has plans for them. Trump and Russia's Putin feel comfortable with each other. They enjoy a "very good relationship". President Xi expects no quarter from Trump. He is ready and equipped to fight a trade and tariff war with the US and its partners.

Pakistan, however, may be forced to choose between a tired benefactor (US) and an increasingly impatient creditor (China), to whom even one life matters more than CPEC and diplomatic platitudes. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Trump & Pakistan**

Touqir Hussain

How will the election of Donald Trump affect US-Pakistan relations? Let's first clear up a myth. It is not true that Pakistan had good relations with the US when Trump was president. He wanted to get out of Afghanistan for which he sought former prime minister Imran Khan's help in talking to the Taliban.

Khan was rewarded with a visit to Washington and exceptional public praise from Trump. But once the deal with the Taliban was done, Trump turned his back on Pakistan, leaving no imprint on the relationship.

Trump notices only issues of high public interest, which have political traction. The present state of US-Pakistan relations is not one of them, neither are its domestic dynamics. Trump will most likely continue with the Joe Biden policy of low-intensity engagement with Islamabad, marked neither by significant aid levels nor by sanctions, the two extremes between which the relationship oscillated for much of its history.

There was a search under Biden for a new balance in relations that best responds to the completely changed regional and geopolitical landscape, and the shifting US foreign policy that faces challenges at home and overseas. Rising powers abroad are curtailing America's global primacy by staking a role in reformatting the global economic and strategic order.

At home, the politics and policy of issues like globalisation, China, big power relationships, alliances, and America's 'forever wars' are being reshaped by Trump's worldview, changing the way the US perceives and is perceived by the world.

Under Trump, the relationship will likely be handled by the State Department and Pentagon whose Pakistan policy has had four elements.

The first has been a derivative of US policies towards China, India and Afghanistan. The US would like to limit China's political and economic influence in Pakistan, and it also wants Islamabad to not undermine the centrality of India to its Indo-Pacific strategy. As for Afghanistan, its stability is key to the broader regional security including that of Pakistan.

The second element has been a direct US interest in Pakistan, focused on its economic weakness, potential for political instability, and the threat of extremism and regional insurgency to internal security, from which emerges America's ultimate concern about Pakistan's possible radicalisation or breakdown threatening the safety of its nuclear assets.

The third factor has been counterterrorism. Here, Pakistan is seen in many different roles: partner, target or victim. Washington needs Islamabad's cooperation to act against the transnational terrorists who endanger the US and global security. It would also like Islamabad to deal with any militant threat against India and Pakistan's own stability. Washington is willing to help where possible.

The fourth element is the developing US-Pakistan cooperation in the economic area, principally in energy, IT and agriculture.

Investment sentiment remains cautiously hopeful. And the US continues to be the top destination of Pakistan's exports.

The sum total of the above points to the need for engagement. What

might impact it, however, is Trump's thinking on certain critical policy areas: less military involvement abroad, decreased military aid, increased pressure on allies to contribute more to their defence, a rise in trade tariffs, and possibly a harder line on China. We do not know how it would play out. Biden's policies had already de-emphasised military aid to Pakistan. The Trump presidency should have no practical effect here. But it is too early to tell whether tariffs would hit Pakistan. Under the last Trump presidency, they affected India, des-pite its crucial role in the Indo-Pacific strategy which Trump will likely continue.

We should not take Trump's offer of help to solve the Kashmir dispute, which he made the last time, seriously. The offer had nothing to do with Kashmir. It was about himself. He wanted to please Pakistan and appear to his base as a popular world leader being looked up to by other countries to solve complex disputes.

Trump's transactional approach will always focus on what a country has to offer America before he does anything for it. Pakistan has to ensure that its ties with the US are handled through quiet diplomacy, especially if they involve issues that incite public interest in the US negatively. That would invite Trump's retribution.

Trump's policies are not knowledge- or institution-based but personality-focused and politics-driven. They are a one-man show. He is at the centre of his own agenda that goes with the politics of the day. To quote The Guardian, Trump will basically "freelance" his foreign policy. So be prepared for surprises. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain presided over a meeting of the Sugar Advisory Board (SAB).

**Punjab Governor says:**

**Pakistan is best country in the world in terms of agricultural products**

LAHORE (Online): A delegation of the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan led by Chairman Faisal Jahangir Malik and Chief Patron Punjab Pir Syed Nazim Hussain Shah met with Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at the Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, the delegation presented proposals to the Governor Punjab regarding improving rice exports.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem

Haider Khan said that Pakistan is the best country in the world in terms of agricultural products and its products have a special recognition all over the world. He said that it is a matter of great joy that our rice exports are increasing every year, which is not only increasing the country's foreign exchange but also making the country's name famous at the global level. Governor Punjab said that our basmati rice is an example for the world. He

said that by focusing on other crops along with rice, further improvement can be brought to the country's economy. Governor Punjab said that everyone should work together to make the country better and stronger. He said that stability in the country's economy and increasing business opportunities are the promise of a bright Pakistan. Governor Punjab further said that the doors of the Governor House are always open for you people.

**Machinery imports up by 21.68% in Q1 of FY 2024-25**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The imports of the overall machinery group experienced a substantial increase of 21.68 percent during the first quarter of the current fiscal year (July -September) compared to 2023-24.

The growth in machinery imports would help elevate productivity and spur technological advancements in essential sectors, leading to economic expansion and progress in infrastructure development.

The total imports of the machinery group during the three months of the FY 2024-25 stood at \$2,014.339 million against the imports of \$1,655.55

million of the corresponding period last year, according to official data of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

The import of agriculture sector machinery and equipment surged by 115.88 percent from \$13.757 million to \$29.699 million; textile machinery 39.82 percent from \$35.867 million to \$50.151 million; power-generating machinery 27.13 percent from \$106.624 million to \$135.551 million; construction and mining machinery 51.78 percent from \$19.532 million to \$29.645 million; electrical machinery and apparatus 77.85 percent from \$488.696 million.

**Gold prices decrease by Rs.5,400 per tola**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased by Rs.5,400 and was sold at Rs.276,800 on Thursday compared to its sale at Rs.282,200 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.4,630 to Rs.237,311 from Rs.241,941 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.217,535 from Rs.221,780, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola decreased by Rs.130 to Rs.3,300 whereas that of ten gram silver went down by Rs.111.46 to Rs.2,829.21.

**SAB meets to review overall sugar stock across the country**

ISLAMABAD (APP): A meeting of the Sugar Advisory Board was held on Thursday to review the overall situation of sugar stocks across the country.

The meeting was chaired by Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, and was also attended by Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, said a news release. The board reviewed the estimates for the sugarcane crop and the overall stock position of sugar for the upcoming crushing season.

The board expressed satisfaction with the current sugar prices in the

**PSX turns around to bullish trend, gains 499 points**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 499.05 points, a positive change of 0.54 percent, closing at 92,520.49 points as compared to 92,021.44 points on the last trading day.

A total of 678,788,064 shares were traded during the day as compared to 889,166,479 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.24.827 billion against Rs.30.474 billion on the

local market. Rana Tanveer highlighted the declining trend of sugar prices in the local market.

It was decided that all sugar mills will begin crushing from November 21, and action will be taken against mills that fail to start crushing by the 21<sup>st</sup>.

The minister said that all payments to farmers will be made before the start of the crushing season. He added that if mills do not pay the dues to farmers, their export licenses will be revoked.

The Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) has requested permission to export additional sugar.

**FM Aurangzeb calls for strengthening Pak-Japan ties thru trade, culture**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said here on Thursday that Pakistan and Japan have significant potential to strengthen their ties through increased exchanges in trade, culture, education and

people-to-people interaction. The minister was talking to the outgoing Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan, Mitsuhiro Wada who called on him here, according to a press release issued by the finance

ministry. During the meeting, views on issues of mutual interest, particularly longstanding bilateral cooperation and shared values and perspectives on regional and global matters between Pakistan and Japan, were exchanged.

Aurangzeb acknowledged and appreciated the longstanding bilateral cooperation and highlighted the significance of Japan's developmental and economic assistance and its vital role in helping Pakistan overcome

economic challenges and strengthen its economy.

The Minister also shared with the Ambassador an update on the state of the economy and the significant improvement in various macroeconomic indicators.

He said the government was determined to pursue its reform agenda as staying the course without any complacency was key to ensuring permanence to the macroeconomic stability achieved during the last 14 months.

**Rupee sheds 05 paise against dollar**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Thursday depreciated by 05 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.94 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.89.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.50 and Rs 279 respectively.

The price of Euro decreased by 18 paise to close at Rs 298.91 against the last day's closing of Rs 299.09, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

**Ejaz advises students to develop future ready skills**

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Digital Platforms of Jazz Aamer Ejaz has urged students to stay adaptable, technologically fluent, and resilient to succeed in an evolving job market.

Speaking at the Institute of Space Technology (IST) on the theme Campus to Corporate - Steps to be Ready, he outlined how AI and emerging technologies are reshaping industries, advising students to leverage these advancements to maintain

a competitive edge. The audience included final-year computer science students, IST faculty, and management.

Describing AI as a collaborative tool he said, "AI isn't artificial intelligence; it's augmented intelligence. It complements your abilities while keeping you in the driver's seat." Citing Jazz's AI-driven products, like the SIMOSA chatbot, he emphasized how such technologies are enhancing user experiences.



LAHORE: A delegation of the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan led by Chairman Faisal Jahangir Malik and Chief Patron Punjab Pir Syed Nazim Hussain Shah in a group photo with Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at the Governor House.





ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses a ceremony of laying a foundation stone of Ramday University, Thagos, Ghanche.

## Graduation ceremony of 150th GD (P), 96th Engineer, 106th Air Defence held

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Graduation Ceremony of 150th GD(P), 96th Engineering, 106th Air Defence, 26th A&SD, 9th Logistics and 132nd Combat Support Courses was held at Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force was also in presence. A total of 139 aviation cadets, 08 gentleman cadets and 02 naval cadets graduated during the ceremony.



PAF Academy Asghar Khan, Risalpur. General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, was the chief guest at the occasion, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release here Thursday. Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Trophy for the overall best performance in General Service Training was awarded to Aviation Cadet Sports Sergeant Imran Raza, whereas, Trophy for the overall best performance in Combat Support Course was won by Aviation Cadet Usman Rasheed. Sergeant Hafiz Ali Asad, was awarded the coveted Sword of Honour for the overall best performance at the College of Aeronautical Engineering. Sword of Honour for overall best performance in College of Flying Training was received by Aviation Cadet, Academy Under Officer Abdullah Saad Ali.

## Khetran emphasizes need for realistic dev. strategy in light of current financial situation

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Member Provincial Assembly, Mir Zaid Reki called on the Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering, Sardar Abdul Rahman Khetran here on Thursday. During the meeting, they discussed various matters of mutual interests. The Provincial Minister emphasized the need for a realistic development strategy in light of the province's current financial situation. He directed the relevant authorities to focus on completing the ongoing priority projects, which are crucial for the public's welfare and development. The meeting also dis-



QUETTA: MPA Mir Zaid Ali Reki meeting with Provincial Minister for Education Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani.

## Japan, KP Police, UNDP jointly inaugurate newly model police stations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, the Government of Japan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pakistan jointly inaugurated newly constructed model police stations in the merged districts of Bajaur, Kurram, Mohmand, North Waziristan, and Orakzai. This marked the successful completion of a project funded by the Government of Japan and implemented by UNDP in partnership with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, for improved policing services in the merged districts, said a press release issued on Thursday. Established by UNDP Pakistan's flagship Rule of Law Programme, these Model Police Stations provide a range of new facilities to better serve the people of merged districts, including well-equipped and furnished working spaces and reception areas to accommodate women and men police officers and visitors, a gender-responsive desk to address cases of gender-based violence, a hall to convene joint com-



KARACHI: Participants of Balochistan Civil Services Academy in a group during their visit to State Bank of Pakistan.

## Lays foundation stone of Ramday University PM terms development of Gilgit-Baltistan as top priority

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday laid the foundation stone of Ramday University to be constructed in Thagos, district Ghanche of Gilgit Baltistan. The ground breaking ceremony was held in Islamabad. Ramday University is being built under a Trust, with construction set to be completed through the donations of the overseas Pakistanis. Addressing the ceremony, the prime minister extended his heartfelt felicitations to Justice (ret'd) Khalil ur Rehman Ramday and his all friends on the establishment of Ramday University. "The efforts of all individuals and the institutions who contributed to the establishment of Ramday University are appreciable," he added. The prime minister said today the foundation had been laid down collectively for a bright future for the children here. He said, "The establishment of an institution of higher learning in a remote area like Ghanche in Gilgit-Baltistan is highly encouraging."

He expressed his confidence that this university, located at an altitude of 11,000 feet in Thagos, will reach the peak of modern knowledge and research standards. "The role of the private sector in the promotion of education in Pakistan is extremely important", he said adding that graduates from private educational institutions had made Pakistan proud in every field. PM Shehbaz Sharif emphasized that the development of Gilgit-Baltistan and the welfare of its people were among the government's top priorities adding that yesterday, during his visit to Gilgit-Baltistan, 62 affected families from the floods were handed over homes. Furthermore, he said that a 100-megawatt solar energy project had been launched in Gilgit-Baltistan, which would help meet the region's electricity needs.

During his recent visit to Gilgit Baltistan, the prime minister said he also announced the Gilgit-Baltistan Education and Endowment Fund, which would benefit deserving and talented students from the region, enabling them to play a role in the development of Pakistan as constructive members of society. On the occasion Justice (ret'd) Khalil-ur-Rehman Ramday said that Ramday University was being established in the Thagos area of Ghanche district, Gilgit-Baltistan, on a 200-kanal area of land. "Ramday University will be one of the highest universities to be built at one of the world's highest altitudes," he said adding that the university would offer education in subjects such as environmental studies, climate change, hydrology, minerals, and others. Meanwhile the students of Asfandiyar Wali School in Ghanche performed the national anthem who participated in the event via video link.



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Jiang Zaidong, called on the Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal.

## CM announces to provide buses, scientific equipment for Girls College Turbat

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has announced to provide buses for the Girls College and scientific equipment for the science laboratories in Turbat. The very announcement was made by Chief Minister on demand of the girl students during Grand Tribal Jirgah held in Turbat on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister assured the students that the interior country full funded Ph.D programme would be reviewed along with the universities abroad in the Ph.D programme. The Chief Minister Balochistan assured immediate release of the grant announced for Press Club Turbat.

## Political & social activist demands action against clerk of P&D Department

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The political and social leader, Ghulam Hussain has appealed to the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan to take stern action against the clerk of Planning and Development Department, who is allegedly involved in issuance of fake orders of jobs to people taking bribe of hundreds of thousands rupees. In a statement issued here on Thursday, Ghulam Hussain pointed out a large number of educated youngsters are unemployed. He alleged that a clerk of P&D Department demanded the bribe of Rs. 2 to 3 millions from jobless youngsters for giving jobs to them. On that, youngsters arranged the amount after selling the ornaments of their mothers and sisters and their other valuables. The amount was paid to the clerk belonging to Bhag Nari area, who gave away fake orders of appointments to the concerned for jobs in Directorate of Manpower Training, Irrigation Department and other departments. However, they found out that the appointment orders were fake when they went for joining in the concerned offices, Ghulam Hussain mentioned. He appealed to the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary to take notice of the fraudulent act of the P&D Department clerk.



ZIARAT: A delegation of elites of Ziarat meeting with Provincial Minister Noor Muhammad Durrani regarding development works and solution of issues.

## World Bank Mission visits NADRA Hqs to discuss digital Pak Dev. Initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level delegation from the World Bank, led by Ms. Vyjayanti T. Desai, Practice Manager for Digital Development in the South Asia Region, visited the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) Headquarters on Thursday. The visit was aimed to hold discussion about Pakistan's progress on critical digital initiatives, particularly in the areas of digital identity and economic development, as part of the nation's push toward a more digitally inclusive society. Chairman NADRA provided a detailed update on the Digital Economy Enhancement Project (DEEP), a significant initiative funded by the World Bank. The DEEP focuses on strengthening Pakistan's economy through digitization and includes efforts to establish comprehensive digital identity systems and promote their adoption nationwide. The project supports Pakistan's broader Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) strategy, which aims to enhance sustainable development and provide citizens with better access to essential services.

## Four school teachers killed, six injured in accident

DG KHAN (APP): Four private school teachers, including a principal, were killed while six others sustained injuries in an accident near here on Thursday. According to the Rescue 1122, a van of the private school carrying teachers was going to Sakhi Sarwar from DG Khan when it collided with a truck coming from the opposite side near Quetta Road Tommi Morr Toll plaza. As a result, four people, including the principal of the school and three teachers, died on the spot while six others received

## PHC grants protective bail to Umar for one month

PESHAWAR (Online): Peshawar High Court (PHC) while granting protective bail to PTI leader and opposition leader in National Assembly (NA) Umar Ayoub for one month has ordered not to arrest him in any case. The petition filed by Umar Ayub seeking details of cases registered against him came up for hearing before a division bench of PHC comprising Chief Justice Ishaq Ibrahim and Justice Waqar Ahmad Thursday. The court directed the petitioner to resort to respective court in connection with the details of cases.



QUETTA: German Honorary Consul General Murad Baloch presents Cheque to Quetta Press Club Abdul Khaliq Rind and Banaras Khan during ceremony held at Quetta press club.

## Planning Minister, Chinese envoy discuss bilateral ties, CPEC progress

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong Thursday called on Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal and discussed matters related to bilateral interests and progress of CPEC projects. The meeting was attended by senior officials, including the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Tariq Fatemi; the Secretaries of Communications, Railways, and Interior; as well as senior officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Planning, a news release said. Ahsan Iqbal, in his opening remarks, condemned the recent attack on Chinese nationals in Karachi, emphasizing that Pakistan would take all necessary measures to bring the perpetrators to justice. He stated "This heinous act, clearly aimed at damaging Pakistan-China relations, will not be tolerated." The government and people of Pakistan, the minister, stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Chinese friends during this challenging time and extended sincere condolences to the families of the victims. He assured the ambassador that the safety of Chinese nationals in Pakistan remained a top priority, and Pakistan would continue working closely with China to ensure the security of Chinese citizens, projects and institutions. Highlighting the robust bilateral ties, Ahsan Iqbal appreciated the recent visit of the Chinese Premier to Pakistan, emphasizing the need for concrete mechanisms to ensure smooth and effective implementation of bilateral projects. "Concerned ministries are developing their roadmaps/action plan for effective implementation of consensus reached by the leadership of both countries during the recent visit to make CPEC Phase-II successful and to implement recommendations by the Chinese experts," the minister remarked. Both sides deliberated on advancing key projects, including the Karachi-Hyderabad section of Main Line-1 (ML-1) and Karakoram Highway (Thakot-Raikot Section) project, and agreed to accelerate the projects' timely execution.

## CJP initiates diagnostic study to deal backlog, transparency

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chief Justice of Pakistan has initiated diagnostic study for design and execution of short and medium-term strategic interventions following his commitment to improve deliver and access to justice. A dedicated team of professionals from various fields, with passion to work pro bono, has undertaken functional assessment of the available resources, effectiveness of existing court processes and systems and the challenges and opportunities. This exercise will be followed by finalization of a workable reform plan with time-lines and impact assessment mechanism, said a press release. The proposed reform interventions focus on reduction of cases backlog, improved accessibility and transparency through simplification of processes, technological integration and public centric approach, by exploiting the available resources and the existing legal framework. Prioritization of cases involving marginalized segments of the society and high impact cases would be the key feature of the reform interventions. Stakeholders' engagement, throughout the design and implementation process is being taken care of. Initially, professionals from diverse backgrounds, court staff and other key players of justice sector, including Bar, are being involved for meaningful input. The draft strategic plan would be put to public debate and feedback before its finalization.



QUETTA: Commander Chiltan Rifles, Brig. Muhammad Kokab visiting Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University.

## Efforts afoot for development of agric sector: DG Rauf

QUETTA (APP): Director General Balochistan Agriculture Research Abdul Rauf Kakar on Thursday said that effort afoot for the development of agriculture sector to enhance the agro production and the revenue for the farmers of the province. Talking to APP, he said that agriculture is the backbone of the country's economy, development and prosperity, adding that the issues related to agriculture sector would be resolved on priority basis. Abdul Rauf Kakar said that any kind of negligence and omission will not be tolerated to facilitate the farmers. He said that the livelihood of most people in Balochistan is related to the agriculture sector, so that the development of agriculture is important and the officials of agriculture sector should perform their duties honestly and help the people related to the agriculture sector. He urged the officers to play a positive role in providing technical skills to the farmers to boost the production of the province. DG Research Abdul Rauf Kakar said that emphasized the officers and staff to always be ready to serve the farmers. He said that the availability of chemical fertilizers in marketing will be ensured, he said that the agricultural information system will be strengthened to provide timely and effective information to the farmers. Abdul Rauf Kakar said that comprehensive measures will be taken to resolve the problems of the employees of the directorate. The DG said that the development of the country is possible only with the development of agriculture. He added that in order to increase the production of crops, modern technology would be introduced among the farmers so that by using this new technology they would prosper but also contribute to the development of the country.