

# Independent

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Saudi Arabia is our closest ally:

## Venom against Saudi Arabia unforgivable crime; nation to break such hand: PM

Premier warns propaganda against Saudi Arabia harms national interest, urging strong opposition to such actions; Says personal and political agendas behind PTI's statements; Kachhi Canal to open doors of prosperity to Balochistan people

TAUNSA (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday, recounting Saudi Arabia's unconditional financial and diplomatic support to Pakistan, warned that any venom-spitting against such a brotherly country was an unforgivable crime and called for the national unity to counter such anti-state elements.

The prime minister, addressing the inauguration of the Restoration of Kachhi Canal damaged by 2022

floods, said whether it was the Kashmir issue, the United Nations or the UN Security Council, Saudi Arabia always acted as Pakistan's advocate and benefactor, as the Kingdom also bailed out Pakistan recently to seek IMF program.

"Despite this, such venom-spitting is an unforgivable crime. I as the prime minister of Pakistan want to announce that the nation will break any hand trying

to undermine the Pakistan-Saudi friendship. This is not a joke. The allegation is beyond understanding. The largest national interest is being "slaughtered" to serve the short-term political interest," he remarked after inaugurating the project that will irrigate over 715,000 acres of land in Balochistan and revive life in the area turned barren after the floods.

The prime minister told the ceremony also at-

tended by federal ministers Attallah Tarar, Ahsan Iqbal, Awaiz Leghari and Dr Musaddik Malik, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, and Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti, that during the last 77 years, Saudi Arabia attached no strings or preconditions to its support to Pakistan and the current leadership had also asked its administration to invest in Pakistan as MoUs worth billions of dollars had already been signed.

Commenting on a statement by the spouse of PTI founder regarding Saudi Arabia, he said: "There can be no animosity to Pakistan bigger than this" and explained that such people were naive to the magnitude of the damage through their "venomous" words.

Prime Minister Shehbaz recalled the Kingdom's support to Pa-

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TAUNSA BARRAGE/KOTADDU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz having a glimpse of flow of water from Indus River to Kachhi Canal.



TAUNSA BARRAGE: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti addressing inaugural ceremony of restoration project of Kachhi Canal.

### CJP extends jail reforms initiative to KP

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr Justice Yahya Afridi has underscored the need for a just and equitable criminal justice framework, emphasizing that a humane and efficient prison system forms its backbone.

The Chief Justice stated this while chairing a consultative meeting convened today at Peshawar. The CJP appreciated the prison management in KP, noting that 1,289 prisoners charged with minor offenses had been released through camp courts conducted by judicial officers over the past three months and urged other provinces to replicate these efforts to alleviate overcrowding.

The meeting was in continuation to the series of nationwide discussions initiated earlier this month by the Chief Justice of Pakistan in Lahore and Islamabad, aimed at formulating a comprehensive National Jail Reform Policy. The agenda focused on prison reforms and inmate

welfare as key components of a broader strategy to modernize Pakistan's criminal justice system.

The Chief Justice PHC Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim highlighted the lack of rehabilitation facilities for the convicts in the province, stressing the need to develop a strong rehabilitation system for absorption of the convicts in the society. He proposed sentence remissions to inmates who achieve educational excellence during their confinement, aligning with broader rehabilitation goals.

The meeting also focused on the LJCP's proposed National Jail Reform Policy, which aligns with international standards, including the Nelson Mandela Rules, Bangkok Rules, and Beijing Rules.

This policy aims to ensure the humane and rehabilitative management of correctional facilities across Pakistan. Participants expressed strong support for the proposal, emphasizing the importance of alterna-



QUETTA: MPA Mir Zabid Ali Reki presenting condolence resolution in Balochistan Assembly.

### Grand dharna staged by family, traders, all parties, civil society for recovery of kidnapped child

Independent Report QUETTA: The grand dharna was staged by the family members of kidnapped child, Muhammad Musawar Kakar, traders community, all political parties and civil society at the Unity Chowk on Friday afternoon. The dharna was staged for recovery of the kidnapped child for the call was given a couple of days back at a joint press conference.

The leaders and representatives of different political, religious and nationalist parties as well as the traders and civil society including lawyers participated in the dharna.

They condemned the government for its failure in recovering the 10-year Musawar kidnaped on November 15 from the

Patel Bagh area. They said that the government has miserably failed to protect life and property of the general public in the province. They said that the incidents of kidnapping are occurring in the broad day light, but the government seems helpless over the situation.

They demanded of the government to act immediately and ensure safe recovery of the kidnapped child, otherwise, their protest would remain continued.

The leader of dharna committee and provincial President of Pashtoonkhaw National Awami Party, Nasrullah Zairay on the occasion announced that wheel jam strike would be observed on highways of the province on November 25.

### Bajwa denies Saudi role in Imran's ouster

LAHORE: Refuting Bushra Bibi's statement about Saudi government's role in the ouster of former premier Imran Khan, ex-army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia held friendly ties during the PTI regime.

Talking to a private tv channel, the former army chief termed Bushra Bibi's statement a pack of lies. He asked how a friendly country could interfere in Pakistan's internal affairs.

He pointed out that the OIC summit was held in Islamabad on March 21, 2022, questioning whether there had been any tension in the ties between both countries, would Saudi Arabia have allowed the summit to take place in Pakistan.

Detailing Imran's visit to KSA, Bajwa said Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman himself came to receive the former in Jeddah. "Shah Mehmood Qureshi and I were present at the dinner during the visit," said Bajwa.

The ex-army chief said he had no inkling as to what is wrong with Bushra Bibi. He expressed concern over her statement, saying Imran can endorse it to make it a narrative.

### PM constitutes committee to resolve PPP's concerns

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday constituted a committee to ensure cooperation in political and other matters, and to resolve the issues between Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). The members of the committee include Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, and Minister for Economic Affairs Ahmad Khan Cheema.

Other members include Minister of State for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Engineer Amir Muqam, Prime Minister's Advisor Rana Sanaulah, Speaker of the Punjab Assembly Malik Ahmad Khan, Senior Minister of Punjab Marriyum Aurangzeb, Khawaja Saad Rafique, Jaffer Khan Mandokhel, and Bashir Ahmed Memon.

### COAS resolves to hunt down enemies of peace to ensure lasting stability and security

RAWALPINDI (APP): General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) on Friday visited Peshawar, as a follow up of the National Apex Committee meeting held on November 19 and prelude to Provincial Apex Committee meeting to be held soon.

The COAS provided a comprehensive briefing on the prevailing security situation and the progress of ongoing counter-terrorism operations in the region, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news. Chief Minister KPK and field commanders were also present at the occasion.

Paying profound tribute to the Shuhada and

Visits Peshawar: Ghazis, the COAS emphasized the unparalleled sacrifices being rendered for the defense of the motherland.

He remarked that these sacrifices served as a cornerstone of national resilience, inspiring and unwavering dedication of the armed forces and of law enforcement agencies.

The COAS commended the high morale, operational readiness, and unyielding commitment of the troops in effectively countering all forms of threats.

He reiterated the Army's firm resolve to dismantle hostile terrorist networks and eradicate the illegal spectrum undermining national security.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffer Khan Mandokhail presiding over meeting of Board of Governor of Cadet Colleges.

### Governor announces increase in quota of admissions in cadet colleges of Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffer Khan Mandokhail has announced to increase the quota of new yearly admissions in all cadet colleges of the province.

The Governor announced that the quota of admissions in every cadet college of the province would be increased from 70 to 100.

Besides, 10 seats would also be allocated for students of the district where the cadet college is situated.

He stressed that he would mobilize all the available resources to meet the target for the cadet colleges have been established.

He said that he would keep on the progress so as to continue the sustainable development of all cadet colleges.

The Governor was chairing the 18th meeting of Board of Directors of Cadet Colleges of Balochistan here on Friday. The meeting was attended by the

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### Imran defends Bushra Bibi's remarks, dismisses claims of Saudi involvement in his ouster

RAWALPINDI (INP): Former prime minister Imran Khan has come to the defence of his wife, Bushra Bibi, after her comments allegedly implicating Saudi Arabia in his government's ouster sparked backlash.

Khan claimed that Bushra's words were "taken out of context" to create unnecessary controversy around Pakistan's "brotherly" relationship with Saudi Arabia.

Khan further highlighted Saudi Arabia's support during a 2022 OIC foreign ministers' summit in Islamabad, which he said demonstrated the Kingdom's loyalty to Pakistan.

He reiterated that his wife is not involved in politics, and her message to the nation merely echoed his words in anticipation of the November 24 protest.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Asim Kurd Gailo meeting with Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai.

### Next phase of Kachhi canal be completed with "Shahbaz Speed": Attempts being made to weaken Pakistan on linguistic basis, says Chief Minister

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has stated that the attempts are being made to weaken the country on the linguistic basis.

He asserted that the terrorists have no nation or tribe, they are just terrorists. He said that Balochistan has left behind than other provinces. However, the incumbent government is endeavouring to bring before.

He stressed that the next phase of Kachhi canal should be completed with "Shahbaz speed" so as irrigate 700,000 to 800,000 acres of land of the province.

The Chief Minister stated so while addressing

the inauguration ceremony of the Kachhi canal project in Taunsa, on Friday.

It may be mentioned here that the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif was the chief guest at the ceremony.

The Chief Minister said that Punjab is the land which has given space to all people living in Pakistan including Balochs. He said that the people from all over the country do business, farming and get education in Punjab. He said that he is thankful to the people and government of Punjab.

He said that Pakistan is like a bouquet, the people, who are hatching conspiracy against it and are killing Punjab brothers, are anti state and enemies. He said that any

Baloch has not killed any Punjabi rather the terrorists martyred the innocent Pakistanis.

He also said that there is no nationality or tribe of terrorists. He said that we are moving towards a stronger Pakistan.

The Chief Minister said that although, Balochistan has left behind than other provinces, but it would move ahead because of the efforts of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. He pointed out that Kachhi canal project has been continued for 2002, however, it couldn't be completed yet.

He said that the province has no need of the line canal. But the provincial government can't afford its repair time and again.

### Seven terrorists killed in Balochistan, KP operations

Security forces kill 4 terrorists in 3 separate engagements in Balochistan; 3 khwarij in IBO in Bannu

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Security Forces on Friday killed four terrorists in three separate engagements in Balochistan.

"An intelligence based operation was conducted in Awaran District on reported presence of terrorists. During the conduct of operation, after intense fire exchange, two terrorists were successfully neutralized; both high value targets identified as Niaz @ Ghuman and Zareef @ Shah Jahan," said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

In another operation in

Dera Bugti District, own troops effectively neutralised one terrorist, it further said.

In yet another engagement in Kech District, own troops, while conducting an intelligence based operation, killed another terrorist.

"The killed terrorists were involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces as well as the innocent civilians and were highly wanted by the law enforcement agencies," it said.

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ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu exchanging views with General Tan Sri Dato Sri Mohd Asghar Khan Bin Goriman Khan, Chief of the Royal Malaysian Air Force during meeting held at Air Headquarters in Islamabad.

### Malaysian Air Force Chief calls on CAS Zaheer Ahmed

ISLAMABAD (APP): During his first-ever visit to Pakistan, General Tan Sri Dato Sri Mohd Asghar Khan bin Goriman Khan, Chief of the Royal Malaysian Air Force called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force on Friday at Air Headquarters.

The meeting focused on matters of mutual interest, military cooperation, joint training and collaboration in the industrial domain, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

On his arrival, a smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Air Force presented Guard of Honour to General Tan Sri Dato Sri Mohd Asghar Khan bin Goriman Khan.

During the meeting, Chief of the Air Staff highlighted the robust bilateral defence ties that exist between Pakistan and Malaysia.

He conveyed his warm wishes to Chief of the Royal Malaysian Air Force on his maiden visit to Pakistan and highlighted the importance of collaboration in training, joint exercises and technology sharing.

The Air Chief also reaffirmed his commitment to enhancing military partnership between the two Air Forces through joint training initiatives, particularly within the realm of air power. These initiatives will encompass provisioning of both basic and tactical level training for personnel of the Malaysian Air Force.

### One policeman injured in police van attack

QUETTA (INP): In a tragic turn of events, one police officer was injured in an explosion near a police mobile in Quetta.

A police van was attacked with a grenade in west by-pass brewery chowk in Quetta, according to Police. Rescue and Police teams reached the explosion site after getting information of the incident.

As per Rescue sources, the injured police officer was shifted to hospital for medical aid.

Security forces and bomb disposal squad are present at the incident spot and collecting evidences from the explosion site.

## Bushra's allegations against Saudi Arabia nothing but failed attempt to save PTI's diminishing politics: Asif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Friday said Bushra Bibi's allegations leveled against Saudi Arabia were nothing but a failed attempt to save the PTI's diminishing politics, terming them 'regrettable' and 'dirty acts.'

Addressing a press conference here, the minister said Pakistan has a historical, religious and economic relations with Saudi Arabia adding that she always helped Pakistan in difficult times.

Over 2.8 million Pakistanis are working in Saudi Arabia who send billions of dollars remittances to Pakistan every year, he added.

The minister said, "Our cordial and friendly relationship with Saudi Arabia should not affect due to someone's personal political gains. Such a controversial statement is an effort to save PTI's sinking ship," he added.

He said, "There is a conflict between the sisters-in-law; the family [PTI founder's] is embroiled in a dispute over inheritance". Bushra Bibi has claimed the political inheritance of founder of PTI. Our politics has never witnessed such a low, he said, adding Bibi has started her projection and the people would realize the reality shortly, he added.

The minister said that the founder of PTI was accused of taking a gift, selling it, depositing a small amount with Toshakhana and keeping the rest for himself.

Regarding law and order in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), he said that there was a poor security situation in the province. "Even yesterday, there was bloodshed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, yet the chief minister attacks the federal government or Punjab every other day," he remarked.

He said that the CM KPK did not make any efforts to curb terrorism in the province. Regarding the current political situation in the Centre, he said that the November 24 protest call would be a "third attack".

Khawaja Asif said that the PTI founder had been talking about negotiations with the establishment until a few days ago, but changed his statement to the claims of having contact with politicians. He denied any such contact and said "We are not engaged in any negotiations".

About the PTI's protest on November 24, the minister said that the court has a clear order and the government would enforce it.

To another question, he said anti-China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) forces were targeting Chinese people who were working for the development and prosperity of Pakistan.



TAUNSA BARRAGE/KOT ADDU: Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif unveils the plaque of restoration of Kachhi Canal.

## Commodore Ateeq ur Rehman promoted to rank of Rear Admiral

KARACHI (APP): Commodore Ateeq ur Rehman Abid has been promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral with immediate effect.

Rear Admiral Ateeq ur Rehman Abid got commission in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1995.

The Flag Officer is a graduate of Pakistan Naval Academy, Karachi, Naval War College, USA, and Royal College of Defence Studies, UK, said a press release issued by Directorate General Public Relations (Pakistan Navy).

The Flag Officer has completed various professional courses from national and international institutes. He has done International Security and



Course from PN War College Lahore and National Security and War Course from National Defence University, Islamabad.

The Admiral has an illustrious career covering vast experience of various Command and Staff appointments. His major command appointments include Commanding Officer PNS MUJAHID, Commanding Officer PNS TARIQ, Commander 18th Destroyer Squadron, Captain Training at Headquarters FOST, Director Operations at HQ PMSA, Chief Staff Officer to Commander Pakistan Fleet and Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Development Plans) at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad.

In recognition of his meritorious service, the Admiral was awarded Sitara-e-Imtiaz (Military).

## AJK President acknowledges government's efforts to promote quality education

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, while reiterating the incumbent government's commitment to promote education, has said that the government was working painstakingly to improve the quality of education in the region. He said this while addressing the fifth convocation of the University of Kotli on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, he said that it was a matter of great honour for him to preside the convocation.

He congratulated the graduating students for achieving an important milestone in their academic career. Extending his heartfelt congratulations to the students who won the gold medals on securing prominent positions, he said, it was right time for all the



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi presenting plot allotment letter to the widow of the police martyr.

## Regional passport officer says Govt leaves no stone unturned in ensuring timely provision of passports to citizens

By Rafiullah Mandokhel

ZHOB: Assistant Director Regional Passport Office (RPO) Zhub Yousuf Rasheed has said that a passport is an important travel document, which is provided to Pakistani citizens by the Directorate General of Immigration - the Ministry of Interior. The Zhub regional passport office in Zhub is delivering its services in a very efficient manner. Efforts are underway to ensure timely provision of passports to citizens.

He expressed these views while talking to the press on Friday.

The Regional Passport Officer Yousuf Rasheed, who worked on the key positions at the passport office in different parts of the country, including the federal capital Islamabad, further said that as per the instructions and policy of the Directorate General of Immigration and Passports (DGI&P), special arrangements have been made for

the citizens, especially senior citizens and women, and obtaining a passport has been made easiest, providing a smooth and hassle-free environment to the applicants.

"In order to address concerns and resolve issues promptly, the government has introduced another category, 'Fast Track', in addition to 'Urgent', for the citizens traveling abroad in emergencies. The decision has made smooth obtaining a passport," he added.

Meanwhile, social and public circles of Zhub have lauded the outstanding services and best performance of the Assistant Director Regional Passport Office, Yousuf Rasheed, saying that since he took charge of his office, the grievances of the applicants have significantly been addressed. A statement said that the passport officer is honest and capable and performing his duty in an efficient manner with professionalism and courtesy.

## Governor announces increase...

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Provincial Minister for Education, Ms. Raheela Hameed Durani, Advisor to Chief Minister for Women Development, Dr. Rubaba Buledi, Principal Secretary to Governor, Hashim Khan Ghilzai, Secretary Education, Hafeez Tahir, Secretary Services and General Administration Department, Habibur Rehman, Secretary Law, Kaleemullah Kakar, Additional Secretary, Nasser Shah, Principals of all cadet colleges of the province besides other concerned high ups.

The meeting was briefed about all 11 cadet colleges of the province including Mastung, Killa Saifullah, Pishin, Jaffarabad, Kohlu, Panjgur, Noshki.

Awaran, Kharan, besides two female cadet colleges of Quetta and Turbat.

The Governor also given authority of "hire and fire" of the employees to the principals of cadet colleges besides approval of the laws, in order to empower them. It may be mentioned that the cadet colleges would run as per their rules and regulations after empowerment of their principals and approval of the board of Governors.

The Governor also assured to provide wholehearted assistance for establishing classrooms in view of increasing number of students.

He said that these measures would surely bring improvement in the overall standard and facilities in the cadet colleges.



QUETTA: Federal Secretary Law Raja Naem Akbar meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

## Venom against Saudi Arabia...

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kistan after it carried out the nuclear tests in 1998 in the form of a free-of-charge oil facility as well as financial support.

He told the gathering that the feasibility study of the Kachhi Canal Project was started in 1998 during Nawaz Sharif's tenure and was completed in his second tenure after suffering a lot during Pervez Musharraf time.

He appreciated the WAPDA and Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal and their respective team for accomplishing the repair project and assured the federal government's all-out support for the second phase.

Prime Minister Shehbaz also appreciated the Balochistan chief minister for reviving the merit-based order and launching the solarisation of tubewells.

Similarly, he also spoke highly for the Punjab Chief Minister for launching the project of a cancer hospital, free tractor scheme for farmers to bring about the agricultural revolution and other initiatives in the education and health sectors.

Earlier, in her address, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said the canal project would bring about prosperity in Balochistan besides enhancing coordination and closeness among the provinces.

She said the credit for all mega public welfare projects like motorways, youth scholarships, modern transport facilities including Orange Line, Metro or Speedo buses and student bikes went to the PML-N governments.

She said that having removed the risks of defaults, the PML-N government successfully revived the economy as the stock exchange was breaking records, inflation was down to 7% and remittances were on the rise.

Coming to the PTI's call for the march, the Punjab chief minister said the people were not paying heed to their calls

which had been flopping one after the other.

Criticising the statement by PTI founder's spouse regarding Saudi Arabia, she said it wasn't mere terrorism disrupting the progress rather the acts of attacking the other province by KP chief minister were also "very dangerous and beyond understanding."

Balochistan CM Balochistan Sarfaraz Bugti said Punjab always welcomed not only the people from Balochistan but all ethnicities for employment or education and those carrying out the targeted killings in his province were the terrorists killing Pakistanis.

He told the prime minister that the next 100-kilometer second phase of the canal needed no lined canal as it would require huge funds for construction as well as repair. He said the project could be completed within three to four months if the federal government extended support.

Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal said that the federal government was prioritising Balochistan's uplift through an enhanced allocation of funds and share in the development portfolio. However, those who were disrupting peace in the province were not friends but foes of Balochistan and agents of foreign forces, desiring to fight a proxy war like Afghanistan.

He said the government was pursuing the agenda to employ youth and provide connectivity with Balochistan.

He told the gathering that during the previous government, all projects in Gwadar were put to a halt and were revived by the PML-N government including the completion of port dredging to convert it back to the deep sea port costing Rs4 billion.

Ahsan Iqbal said the government had formulated a five-year development program to be unveiled by the prime minister on November 28.

## GB CM demands constitutional reforms and provincial autonomy

Independent Report

KARACHI: Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan has urged for constitutional reforms and provincial autonomy for Gilgit-Baltistan, stressing that the region's people should not be overlooked in the National Financial Commission.

During a joint press conference with Senior MQM leader Dr. Farooq Sattar, the Chief Minister expressed gratitude to MQM Pakistan for advocating for the rights of the Gilgit-Baltistan people.

Dr. Farooq Sattar emphasized the need for a draft to amend the Gilgit-Baltistan Constitution and grant the region autonomous province status, similar to Azad Kashmir's representation in the National Financial Commission.

The Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister's delegation, including provincial ministers Hussain Shah and Rahmat Khaliq, met with MQM Chairman Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and other leaders at the party's Bahadurabad office.

## Two new polio cases reported in D.I Khan

PESHAWAR (APP): The Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health has confirmed detection of two more wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases, bringing the number of total cases in the country this year to 52.

According to a press release issued here by Emergency Operation Center (EOC) on Friday, the lab confirmed the cases from DI Khan where a boy and girl child are affected.

Genetic sequencing of the samples collected from the children is underway.

DI Khan, one of the seven polio endemic districts of southern KP, has now reported five polio cases this year.

## VC, UoT pays tribute to Balochi poet & writer Shahdad Chahsari

QUETTA (APP): The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Turbat, Prof. Dr. Gul Hasan expressed deep grief and heartfelt condolences on the passing of Shahdad Chahsari. He was a renowned poet and writer of Balochi language and literature, and a prominent social & political figure.

In his condolence message, he stated that Balochi literature has lost a distinguished figure with the demise of Shahdad Chahsari, whose literary contributions have left an enduring mark on the Balochi language and literature.

He further said that his poetry and other scholarly works would keep his soul alive for generations to come. In this hour of profound grief and loss, Dr. Gul Hasan extended his deepest sympathy and solidarity with Shaihaq Shahdad, Special Secretary, Government of Balochistan & former DC Quetta, and the bereaved family. He prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss with fortitude.



LAHORE: Teams' photo with the Champion Trophy World Cup Blind T20, on the occasion of inauguration ceremony of the World Cup Blind T20 tournament at Al-Ahmar Hall.

## US, Canada's stance on India's transnational terrorism validates Pakistan's long-standing position

By M.Ilyas

ISLAMABAD: Speaking at a well-attended seminar organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), and Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR), Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed said that the recent exposé of India's international criminal activities by the US and Canada bolsters Pakistan's long-standing stance which India's state terrorism. He cautioned that New Delhi's increasing involvement in transnational terrorism activities not only undermines the stability of the region, but also poses a serious challenge to global peace and security. He noted that only two countries globally—India and Israel—employ targeted assassinations and killings as state-sponsored policies beyond their borders. He suggested that Pakistan should leverage its membership in the Security Council to garner support for its long-standing position against India's state-sponsored terrorism.

Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President IRS, highlighted that Indian involvement in terrorism has been evident since 1947, arguing that New Delhi has systematically used its intelligence apparatus to infiltrate and coordinate with various non-state actors, primarily terrorist groups, that has led to widespread acts of terrorism in Pakistan, result-

ing in great loss of lives and damage to economy. Ambassador Saleem also pointed out the irony that, despite being victims of India's state-sponsored, Pakistan faces blame from the international community and allegations of supporting terrorism by India. He expressed concern that under the Modi government, India's network of terrorism had expanded to countries such as Canada, the U.S., and the U.K., threatening global peace and security, which calls for urgent and action from the international community.

Ambassador Zamir Akram, Advisor to Strategic Plans Division, highlighted the reasons for rather lukewarm international response to Pakistan's concerns about terrorism originating from India. He noted that New Delhi has dominated the narrative on terrorism since 9/11, making its position more palatable to Western nations. Also, amid the growing US-China rivalry, India has emerged as a crucial US ally, enhancing its global standing. Ambassador Akram pointed out that this support was evident in the UN's terrorism committee proceedings, where despite China and Pakistan's efforts to list the Majeed Brigade as a terrorist group, the US, UK, France, and Switzerland have stalled the initiative by placing a technical hold.

## SBP issues Rs55 coin to commemorate 555th birthday of Baba Guru Nanak

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), on Friday, issued a Rs55 commemorative coin, to mark the auspicious occasion of 555th Jayanti (birth anniversary celebrations) of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, a spiritual teacher, mystic and poet who is regarded as the founder of Sikh faith.



ISLAMABAD: Group photo of International Squash Tournament 2024 title winners Noor Zaman and runner-up Nasir Iqbal, special guest Air Marshal Shakeel Ghazanfar and others.

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

The procurement of works listed below for which Notice Inviting Tender on sealed percentage rates based on CSR 2023 Govt. of Balochistan are invited from interested Contractors / Firms with detail terms & conditions given below. The tender fee Rs.2000/- will be deposited through green challan in National Bank of Pakistan Ziarat Branch under the head of account C-02716 (Building CWPP&H Receipt) at the rate shown against each work as mentioned below. - EARNEST MONEY 4% of Bid cost in shape of call deposit. RELEVANT CATEGORY C-4 & Above, DATE OF COMPLETION 30TH JUNE 2026

S.#	NAME OF WORK	E/COST
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING FOR UP-GRADATION TO DEGREE LEVEL AT GOVERNMENT BOYS DEGREE COLLEGE ZIARAT DISTRICT ZIARAT TSE-242511592703	114,285,954.00/-

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 110,000,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-4 and above (Upto 200 million) In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE10(I) (General Civil Engineering Works), CE10(III) (Concrete Repairs), CE10(V) (Landscape & Horticulture), Rs. 2000 Green Chalan Call deposit Receipt (CDR) #2 Number Of Similar Assignments Of similar worth Rs.11.420 Million and above, Nature And Complexity Completed in last five years Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee/ Deposit at Call of 4% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 till 12:00 PM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: Tenders will be opened on same day at 1:00 PM on EPPS System Address: Executive Engineer Building PP&H District Ziarat.

PRQ No.2055/22-11-2024

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-BUILDING  
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## PM directs implementation as IT ministry presents action plan on \$25bln IT exports

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication on Friday presented a detailed action plan to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif aimed at boosting the country's IT exports to \$25 billion in five years.

The prime minister, who had tasked the IT ministry with the said target, chaired a review meeting here and appreciated the action plan, and instructed to ensure its implementation, according to a PM Office press release.

The action plan featured measures to bring reforms in different IT-related sectors and address the is-

sues. In his remarks, the prime minister said that there was no dearth of capable manpower and resources. The effective use of resources and skill training of the manpower could take the IT exports even beyond the targeted \$25 billion.

He asked all the relevant departments for collaborative efforts to address the challenges in the IT sector reforms and informed the participants that he would personally oversee the implementation process.

The prime minister instructed the Higher Education Commission to de-

velop an action plan for youth's education and skill training of international standards.

Calling for implementing the proposals to meet the Gulf countries' demand for IT experts, he asked the IT ministry to define the targets and their timelines to enhance exports. In this regard, he also directed to constitute a committee to ensure the implementation of the reforms and carry out necessary collaboration with different departments.

In the briefing, the prime minister was told that his decision to prioritise the IT sector led to a 34% increase in IT exports dur-

ing the last four months. It was informed that Pakistan's IT ranking improved from 79 to 40, e-governance ranking by 14 points, and 2500 new IT companies were registered.

The participants were informed that for the next five years, a \$15 billion target has been set for IT sector exports, \$10 billion for digitization, and \$1 billion for telecom exports.

The meeting was briefed on the Labor Management System aimed at capacity building of the workforce in collaboration with the educational institutions, using the demand data of the industries.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding reforms in Information Technology sector.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi reviewing parade during the passing out ceremony of ASPs of 50th STP at National Police Academy

## NA body on Parl. affairs lauds Ministry's performance

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs on Friday commended the performance of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs during its meeting chaired by Rana Iradat Sharif Khan.

The Committee recommended further improvements in the mechanism to ensure faster resolution of public grievances.

The Prime Minister's Public Affairs and Grievances Wing briefed the Committee on its operations. The Wing focuses on

addressing concerns of non-digitially enabled citizens and Pakistan's diaspora, aiming to provide relief and resolve their issues efficiently. The Committee urged the Ministry to enhance the Wing's visibility through advertising campaigns, ensuring that more people can access and benefit from its services.

Extending condolences to the victims of the recent tragic gun attack on a passenger van in Parachinar, which claimed 42 lives, the committee offered prayers for the departed souls.

## Search and combing operation conducted at PS Tarnol jurisdiction

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police conducted a grand search and combing operation at the Tarnol police station jurisdiction on Friday.

A public relation officer told APP that, under the supervision of SP Sadar Zone Khan Zaib, a grand search and combing operation was conducted in different areas of Tarnol police station by Islamabad Police, CTD, FC, and lady police teams.

He said during the search operation 5000 suspicious persons, 700 houses, shops, hotels and 104 motorbikes and vehicles were thoroughly checked while 100 suspects were shifted to the police station for further verification.

## 10 outlaws arrested; weapons, drugs recovered

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police apprehended 10 outlaws involved in different criminal activities including drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons recovered drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession.

A public relation officer told APP that, the Islamabad Police Shalimar, Sumbal, Koral, Bhara Kahu, Nilore, Sumbal and Sihala police teams took legal action against accused involved in possessing illegal weapons and drug peddling activities.

He said the police team also arrested 7 accused namely Zakariya, Sarfraz, Ayaz, Bilal Tariq, Zubair Qayyum, Adnan Aziz and Aqsa Norin and recovered three 30 bore pistols, two rifles, one dagger, 1,060-grams hashish and 300-grams ice from their possession.

## Court issues written order on declaring Gandapur proclaimed offender

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad while declaring Chief Minister (CM) KP Ali Amin Gandapur proclaimed offender in the case registered against him in police station I-9 has issued written order on this count.

Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra of ATC Islamabad issued written order.

The order said case has been separated from other accused after declar-

ing Ali Amin Gandapur absconder.

The order said the non-bail-able arrest warrants of accused Raja Arshid, Wasiq Qayyum, Raja Khurram Nawaz, Faisal Javed and Umar Tanvir were issued during the hearing while Sardar Masroof, Murtaza Toori and Zahid Bashir who are counsels for all absenting accused filed exemption plea for absenting accused.



ISLAMABAD: Workers of Capital Development Authority (CDA) busy in planting new plants on a green belt along Srinagar Highway for beautification of the Federal Capital.

## PCP stresses fact-checking, responsible reporting to combat fake news

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Press Council of Pakistan (PCP), as part of its commitment to combating fake news, underscored the importance of responsible reporting and the need for meticulous fact-checking before sharing information.

The session, exclusively organized for journalists on Friday and chaired by PCP Chairman Arshad Khan Jadoon here Friday, brought together members of the journalist community from Islamabad and Rawalpindi to discuss strategies for countering fake news and misinformation. During the session, the participants were provided with a detailed briefing on the PCP's structure and its pivotal role in safeguarding against misinformation, slander, and unethical reporting.

The PCP's commitment to protecting both

media and public interests was underscored, along with its function as a shield for journalists, ensuring their rights and shielding them from undue external interference. Chairman Arshad Khan Jadoon shared insights into the complaints received over the past nine months of his tenure and their resolution as per legal standards. He elaborated on the operations of the inquiry commission and the mechanisms for addressing complaints, highlighting the council's renewed efficiency following the appointment of its chairman after a five-year hiatus. The post of Chairman PCP had remained vacant for the past five years. The incumbent government made a formal appointment to the position, enabling the Council to function efficiently in ensuring the proper dissemination of information.

## IHC moved for revocation of bail of Bushra Bibi

ISLAMABAD (Online): FIA has filed petition in Islamabad High Court (IHC) for cancellation of bail of Bushra Bibi.

FIA has requested the court to revoke the bail of Bushra Bibi for not appearing in the court persistently.

Bushra Bibi and others have been made respondents in the petition.

The petition said the court wrote in the order Bushra Bibi will not misuse bail. Bushra Bibi is not appearing in most of the hearings after seeking bail. Therefore, court should cancel bail of Bushra Bibi.

## Senator Siddiqui slams twist in PTI's slogan involving, Muslim brother country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Irfan Siddiqui, PML-N's Parliamentary Party leader, while strongly criticizing the slogan of "Pakistan cannot survive without Khan" in the Senate on Friday, said that PTI's stance of Ciper has now changed, involving a Muslim brother country.

In a statement on the social media platform X, Siddiqui, who also serves as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs pointed out that the PTI slogan, which put the blame on the Ciper from a

foreign country, had now a new twist, focusing on a Muslim country with two sacred cities of Muslim Ummah. Siddiqui, criticized Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for its history of chaos and corruption. He condemned the recent remarks by Bushra Bibi, wife of PTI chairman, describing them as unprecedented in the party's history of turmoil. Criticizing the politics of PTI's founder, Siddiqui stated that his (PTI founder) approach has consistently alienated friendly nations.

## Petition against ban on VPN: IHC issues notice to interior secretary, PTA

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) while issuing notice to interior secretary and PTA in connection with petition against closure of VPN has sought reply from them. The petition filed against the Interior ministry orders regarding ban on VPN came up for hearing in IHC Friday.

The petition against closure of VPN came up for hearing before Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamer Farooq.

The counsel for the petitioner argued that he is

a citizen who has been affected directly due to order of closure of VPN. Complete ban has been imposed on social media website X.

The petitioner has requested the court to declare null and void interior ministry notification dated November 15. The notification he declared violation of basic human rights.

The court while issuing notice to interior secretary and PTA has sought reply from them besides adjourning the hearing of the case for indefinite period.

## Passing-out parade of 50th Common ASPs held at National Police Academy

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Police Academy hosted the prestigious passing-out parade for the 50th Common Assistant Superintendents of Police (ASPs) on Wednesday.

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi graced the event as the chief guest, lauding the newly trained officers and sharing a vision for a more modern and efficient police force.

The event commenced with Minister Naqvi inspecting the parade and addressing the contingents. A salute was presented by smartly dressed ASPs, showcasing the discipline and rigor instilled during their training.

The minister congratulated the graduating officers, emphasizing their vital role in fostering trust and respect within communities.

"I extend heartfelt congratulations to all the passing-out ASPs. Your conduct and behavior will determine the respect you earn from the public," said Naqvi.

He stressed the importance of empathy and service in the police force, urging officers to prioritize the needs of the underprivileged.

Minister Naqvi distributed awards among

ASP's who excelled during their training. These awards, he noted, were a testament to their dedication, skill, and potential to bring positive change to the policing system in Pakistan.

In his speech, Naqvi announced major initiatives to enhance the National Police Academy's infrastructure and training programs.

"The academy will be developed on modern lines and modeled after the Pakistan Military Academy. We are immediately allocating 500 million rupees for this transformation," he remarked.

He also urged the senior police officials to prioritize improving the quality and standards of the academy, introducing high-caliber training courses to ensure future officers are equipped to meet the challenges of contemporary policing.

Minister Naqvi paid tribute to the sacrifices of police personnel in maintaining peace across the country.

"The sacrifices made by the police for the establishment of peace are unforgettable. Their dedication is the cornerstone of our nation's security," he remarked.



ISLAMABAD: Laborers are busy in laying the foundation of pillars during the construction work of interchange at Sarena chowk as this is the project of CDA following the mission of Make the Capital beautiful.

## CDA selects 60 employees for Hajj thru computerised draw

ISLAMABAD (APP): Capital Development Authority (CDA) will send some 60 lucky male and female employees to perform the Hajj next year. A ceremonial draw, conducted on Friday through a computerised system, ensured transparency in selecting the non-gazetted employees from Grade I to Grade 16.

Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa and Islamabad's Inspector General of Police presided over the event.

Addressing the audience, Chairman Randhawa extended heartfelt congratulations to the selected employees, calling them "the fortunate ones" chosen by Allah for this noble act of worship.

He urged them to remember their families, the country's prosperity, and CDA's progress in their prayers during this spiritual journey.

Attended by CDA Board Members, Labour Union General Secretary Chaudhry Muhammad Yaseen, and a large gathering of staff, the ceremony marked an increase in the Hajj quota from 50 to 60 employees this year.

"Participating in Hajj is a great honour and a supreme act of devotion. I pray that Allah grants you the sincerity and strength to fulfil this religious duty," Randhawa remarked.

He also lauded the hard work and dedication of CDA employees, describing them as a source of pride for the organisation.

## ISSI hosts roundtable on Pak, US ties with CSIS delegation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Centre for Strategic Perspectives at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a roundtable discussion on "Pakistan-U.S. Relations," with delegation from Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), comprising Senior Vice President Daniel Runde and Senior Associate Ambassador Robin Raphael.

The event was attended by practitioners, academics, think-tank experts and researchers, said a press release issued here on Friday.

In his welcome re-

marks, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood emphasized the significance of CSIS as a renowned U.S. think-tank, particularly in shaping the discourse and influencing U.S. policy. He noted that the timing of the visit was crucial, as it coincided with the conclusion of the U.S. Presidential and Congressional elections and the time of Cabinet formation before the new Administration takes office in January 2025. With global attention focused on what Trump would mean for America and the rest of the world, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood dilated on the

historically cyclical pattern of Pakistan-U.S. relations—alternating between engagement and estrangement. He emphasized the need for long-term sustainability and stability, including through efforts to broaden the relationship's scope that would benefit both nations. He also highlighted the vital importance of economic relations with the U.S. for Pakistan, suggesting that besides the traditional areas of bilateral trade and investment attention should be focused on new areas of cooperation such as energy, IT, and climate change. These were vital for evolving a more rounded relationship beyond the historical focus on security and strategic events.

## IWMB says: Margalla Viewpoint master plan approved

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) said on Friday that the master plan for the eco-restoration of the Margalla Viewpoint project has been unanimously approved by the 5th Implementation Committee.

This significant development marks a milestone in the efforts to transform the Margalla Hills into a thriving ecosystem and a popular tourist destination.

According to IWMB spokesperson, the master plan, prepared by architect Imrana Tiwana collaborating with Architect DB Stu-

dio based in Islamabad, is the result of meticulous planning and collaboration amongst all stakeholders.

The plan envisions a green space that not only restores the natural beauty of the Margalla Hills but also provides a unique recreational space for residents and tourists.

Key Features of the Master Plan includes promenades and walking Trails, reflecting pool and Eco-display area, open air amphitheatre, play area for children, sitting areas for elders, prayer area, visitor information centre, office spaces and parking areas.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the National flags of the Pakistan and Belarus hanging on the poles along the constitution Avenue ahead of 3 days visit of President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko to Pakistan from 25-27 November.



## PPP alliance with PML-N is of compulsion, not of love: Governor

LAHORE (Online): Governor Punjab Sardar Salim Haider Khan has said PPP alliance with PML-N is of compulsion rather than of love.

"If PPP becomes minus then the premiership can sustain no more. Governor is a constitutional post and in principle chief minister has to come to governor but despite it I myself went to meet Chief Minister (CM). We want things are done on merit and PPP be consulted being ally. 6 months have passed

but CM neither telephoned nor she made any consultation, he said this while addressing participants of National Security Workshop under National Defence University Islamabad Friday.

I tried to make contact with CM by telephone several time but zero response came every time. Deadlock took place. I don't deem it proper to go to her now, he added.

He said that PPP didn't forge alliance with PML-N out of love, but out

of compulsion. Punjab Governor said that he has informed his leadership President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari about the situation in Punjab. He said that as per tradition Chief Minister should have visited the Governor, adding that he broke that barrier and went to the Chief Minister himself. He said that he assured Chief Minister that being coalition partners they should work together as a team. He said that Peoples' Party only wants

the supremacy of merit. Punjab Governor said that Bilawal Bhutto Zardari played a key role in getting the 26th Constitutional Amendment passed. Punjab Governor said that the experience of alliance with the PML-N in the past was a bitter experience. He further stated that we expected that the PML-N would have learnt lessons from the past. He said that despite written agreements and consultative meetings, no implementation has taken place so far.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Salim Haider Khan in a group photo with participants of the 26th National Security Workshop organized by the National Defense University Islamabad at Governor House.



BAHAWALPUR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits the residence of Federal Minister for Housing & Works, Riaz Hussain Pirzada to offer condolences on the sad demise of his brother Sajjad Hussain Pirzada.

## CM reviews 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' programme

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has expressed her unwavering commitment to fulfilling the promise of providing affordable housing to the underprivileged and urged the relevant authorities to expedite completion of the 'Apni Chhat Apna Ghar Programme'.

Speaking at a special review meeting here on Friday, she said the programme was not just a slogan but a tangible effort to improve the lives of the common man. "Apni Chhat Apna Ghar is a dream for every citizen, and we are determined to make it a reality," she affirmed.

The CM was updated

on the progress of the scheme, with 927 applicants having received their first installment of loans. She informed that more than 800 houses under the initiative are nearing completion. "Ensure that the second installment payments are made promptly to help these families move forward," she directed.

CM Maryam Nawaz was further briefed that over 50,000 applicants' data had been transferred to Akhuwat Foundation for verification. Of these, 38,000 applicants have been verified, with more than 20,900 submitting the necessary documentation. As of now, 8,424 applica-

tions have been fully processed. She highlighted the success of the digital portal, which has seen over 600,000 registered users and more than 325,000 applications for house construction.

With ambitious targets in place, the programme aims to build 47,000 homes by June 2025 and 100,000 by December 2025. As a gesture of appreciation, the CM approved the presentation of furniture and household items as gifts for the first five homeowners who complete their houses. Additionally, she granted in-principle approval to a new initiative for 3-Marla plots, starting with 666 plots in Chishtian.

## KP Health Advisor urges parents to vaccinate children against diphtheria

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Health Advisor, Ihtesham Ali on Friday said that adequate supplies of anti-diphtheria serum were available across the province and urged parents to take their children to the nearest healthcare centres for vaccination.

Responding to media reports on the worsening diphtheria outbreak in the province, he emphasised the critical need for vaccination to control the situation.

In a statement, Ihtesham shared that a comprehensive report on the outbreak had been presented to raise awareness

among the public and media about the severity of the disease.

He stressed that the situation could be brought under control unless parents ensure their children were vaccinated against diphtheria and 11 other preventable diseases.

The health advisor also disclosed that 26 deaths had been reported across the province due to diphtheria this year, adding that the disease's rapid transmission from one child to another could aggravate the situation.

He urged parents to immediately vaccinate their children and maintain social distancing as key measures to curb the spread.



HYDERABAD: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) Leader, Sabir Hussain Qaimkhani addresses to media persons during press conference, at Hyderabad press club.

## Punjab PG takes notice of alleged custodial torture by Faisal Town police

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Prosecutor General Syed Farhad Ali Shah on Friday took notice of a serious incident involving alleged illegal detention and custodial torture of a lawyer and his brother by Faisal Town police in Lahore.

The prosecutor general summoned the investigating officer and Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) for a detailed review of the case records and investigation progress, under Section 10C(3) of the Punjab Criminal Prosecution Service Act 2006.

During a briefing on the investigation, the prosecutor general questioned

whether the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act 2022, which mandates that cases involving custodial torture fall under the investigative jurisdiction of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), applied to the case. The DSP, however, was unable to provide a clear explanation, prompting the prosecutor general to reprimand him for what he described as an irresponsible attitude and lack of legal knowledge. Expressing concerns over the integrity of the investigation, the prosecutor general questioned the impartiality of a sub-inspector.

## Two friends shot dead in Swabi

PESHAWAR (APP): Two close friends were killed and another injured when their alleged rivals fired at them inside a general store in Swabi district on Friday morning.

Police said two friends named Jawad and Fawad and owner of the shop, Umair were fired at by the assailants inside the shop, which police said was a likely result of an old rivalry between the deceased and attackers.

## 13 dead in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least 13 people were killed and 1,518 others injured in 1,453 road traffic accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

As many as 622 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 896 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.

The data analysis showed that 869 drivers, 62 underage drivers, 166 pedestrians, and 496 passengers were among the victims of road crashes. The statistics showed that 286 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 303 people, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by Faisalabad with 121 accidents.

## Global moot urges for collective action to mitigate climate change

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): A global conference of experts titled 'Empowering Communities: The Case for Locally Led Adaptation in Climate Resilience', hosted in Azerbaijan's Baku city, emphasized the urgent need for collective action against climate change to mitigate the impacts of disasters.

Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, addressed a distinguished forum at a special event hosted in the Pakistan Pavilion during the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, says a message reaching and released to the media here on Friday.

## Bushra Bibi's remarks about brotherly Muslim nation disgraceful: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that Bushra Bibi made a disgraceful statement about brotherly Islamic country on the directions of the PTI founder.

She said that mentioning of this lie while making planning for May-24 chaos was undoubtedly a conspiracy against the country. The agenda of founder PTI and Bushra Bibi was the same as that of Israel. She said that the PTI

founder and Bushra Bibi had gone to extreme limits in their animosity towards Pakistan. As a prime minister, the PTI founder took Pakistan's relations with Saudi Arabia, China, and the United States to a delicate point.

The PTI founder used every tactic to isolate Pakistan internationally. Now, Bushra Bibi, following in her husband's footsteps, is putting the country's foreign policy at risk, she alleged.

## Minister promises transparency in hospitals revamping project

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique reaffirmed the government's commitment to transparency in the ongoing hospitals revamping project, stressing that there would be no compromise on quality and timelines.

He made these remarks while presiding over a meeting at the Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department, here on Friday.

The minister stressed the importance of completing the revamping projects in various government teaching hospitals of Lahore on time. He stated that contractors had been

instructed to expedite work to ensure the convenience of patients visiting government hospitals. "Revamping projects are being prioritised, and their continuous monitoring is being conducted to maintain high standards," he said.

During the meeting, Khawaja Salman Rafique reviewed the latest progress on the projects underway in nine teaching hospitals, including Services Hospital, Nawaz Sharif Hospital Yaki Gate, Mian Munshi Hospital, Lady Aitchison Hospital, Mayo Hospital, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Kot Khawaja Saeed Hospital, Jinnah Hospital, and General Hospital.

## CM Sindh intensifies efforts to address polio virus resurgence

KARACHI (APP): The Polio Oversight Board (POB), the highest decision-making body of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), met with Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah at the Chief Minister's House to review and discuss the province's progress in eradicating polio. Led by Chair Dr Chris Elias, the POB commended the Sindh government's unwavering commitment to combating polio despite significant challenges.

The meeting included high-profile representatives from international and provincial organisations, such as Dr Hanan Balkhy (WHO Regional Director), Mr Sanjay Wijesekera (UNICEF Regional Director), Mr Aziz Memon (Trustee of the Rotary Foundation), and officials

from the US CDC and the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief). (From Sindh govt): Health Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Mayor of Karachi Murtaza Wahab, provincial secretaries and Coordinator EOC Irshad Sodhar and other senior officials attended the meeting. The Chief Minister highlighted Sindh's intensified efforts to address the resurgence of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1), with 13 cases reported this year following 34 months without any cases. "We have mobilised 4,500 additional staff, engaged parliamentarians in areas with high refusal rates, and achieved a 50pc reduction in persistent refusals," he stated. He also noted that frontline workers, supported by 20,000

police personnel, successfully vaccinated over 10.6 million children in recent campaigns. The Sindh government's recent immunisation drives reported Local Quality Assessment Survey (LQAS) pass rates of 89 per cent in September and 84 per cent in October. The Chief Minister emphasised the importance of combating vaccine hesitancy through targeted communication strategies and expressed gratitude to global partners, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Rotary International, for their ongoing support. POB Chair Dr Chris Elias praised Sindh's efforts, saying, "Sindh has made substantial progress, and we are confident that the teams will successfully clear the environment of the virus."

## Two killed, four others injured as roof collapsed

RENALA KHURD (APP): A mother and daughter on Friday died, and three brothers and father received injuries as the roof of their old house collapsed in Village 19/1 RA. According to rescue sources, the roof suddenly caved in, due to which a woman, namely Abida Bibi, and his daughter Ifrat were killed on the spot. While three brothers, including 6-year-old Anas, Ibrahim, 5-year-old Ali,



LAHORE: British High Commissioner Jane Marriott meeting with Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora.

## Minister Arora tells British HC Punjab govt protecting religious minorities fully

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Minorities Ramesh Singh Arora met British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott here on Friday and informed her that the provincial government was protecting all rights of the religious minorities in the province.

The meeting also discussed various initiatives aimed at addressing the religious minorities' issues. The minister provided an overview of the steps taken by the Punjab government to uplift religious minorities and promote their economic development. He highlighted the five-year strategic plan implemented by the Department of Human

Rights and Minorities Affairs, aimed at improving the socio-economic status of religious minorities, with a special focus on education, vocational training, and digital literacy. The minister informed Ms. Marriott that the Punjab government was set to issue Minority Cards, a significant step towards empowering and supporting the minority community in the province. Additionally, he shared the news of the Punjab Chief Minister's announcement of a laptop distribution scheme through the HEC, which is set to benefit religious minorities by providing them with modern educational tools.

## UAE CG calls on Sindh Governor

KARACHI (APP): Governor of Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori met with the Consul General of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bakheet Ateeq Al-Rumaithi on Friday.

During the meeting at Governor House, the Consul General extended an invitation to the Governor Sindh to attend a ceremony commemorating the UAE's 53rd National Day.

Governor Kamran Khan Tessori acknowledged the UAE's unwavering support to Pakistan during challenging times and emphasized the opportunities available for UAE investors in Sindh's promising sectors.

## LHC orders schools to provide student transport after winter break

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday ordered all schools to provide pick-and-drop transport services for students after the winter holidays.

Justice Shahid Karim issued the orders while hearing petitions filed by Haroon Farooq and others against ineffective measures to control smog. The proceedings were attended by Deputy Attorney General Asad Ali Bajwa, the Director General of the Ministry of Climate Change, and a member of the Environment Commission, who also presented a report on the implementation of court orders.

During the proceedings, the court emphasized that students should use transportation arranged by the schools. "Schools that do not adhere to this directive will face closure, and no school should inform parents that it does not hold responsibility for students," the court further stated.

The court ordered the transport authorities to develop a vehicle fitness policy within 15 days, mandating vehicle inspections every three months. "The transport department should issue fitness certificates and maintain a comprehensive database of all public and private buses.



HYDERABAD: Torchbearers NGO's activists hold a Torch rally in connection with the Tolerance March held on 23rd November.

## Ahsan vows to increase ports' efficiency, boost trade

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday reaffirmed the government's strong commitment to strengthening seaports' efficiency, boosting trade and ensuring sustainable economic development in the country.

He expressed this resolve while chairing a consultative meeting on enhancing the efficiency of Karachi ports by improving hinterland connectivity.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Secretary Planning Ahsan Manzoor Sumra, Member Infrastructure Waqas Anwar, CEO of the Public Private Partnership Authority, besides senior representatives from the Ministries of Maritime Affairs, Communications, Railways, Aviation Division and Commerce Division, a news release

said.

During the meeting, Member Infrastructure Waqas Anwar presented a detailed briefing on improving port efficiency, providing a progress update from the Ministry of Maritime Affairs regarding a committee constituted by the Prime Minister's Office to address cross-cutting issues at Karachi Port.

He highlighted that Pakistan's merchandise trade as a percentage of GDP stood at 26 percent, significantly lower than the global average of 44 percent. "From 2015 to 2020, Pakistan's ports handled over 3 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of container traffic annually, with approximately two-thirds managed at Karachi's three terminals and the remainder at Port Qasim."

He pointed out that rail access to Karachi Port was underutilized, with nearly all cargo transported

via road, leading to congestion and environmental challenges. "Existing rail facilities are insufficient for efficient goods transfer due to their limited capacity for loading and unloading operations."

Karachi Port faces significant road congestion due to ban on trucks movement from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., affecting traffic flow into and out of port areas. Port Qasim, on the other hand, benefits from better road connectivity (N-5 and M-9 via Eastern Bypass) but may face road access congestion by 2030 if rail connectivity is not improved. To address these challenges, the Member Infrastructure proposed short and long-term measures. The short-term measures include implementing 24/7 port operations while scheduling freight truck movements to reduce congestion.



Mr. John Tucknott CMG MBE meets with Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on 22 November 2024 in Islamabad.

## Jam reviews quarterly trade figures, future trade strategy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Friday reviewed quarterly trade figures and stressed to execution of the 'Export-Led Growth Strategy.'

Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan (JK) chaired a high-level meeting to review Pakistan's quarterly trade figures, where he was briefed on the latest trends in international trade and strategies being devised to bolster exports, said a press release issued here.

During the meeting, Commerce officials

provided a comprehensive overview of trade performance with key trading partners, highlighting emerging export destinations and newly introduced export items. The briefing also covered practical suggestions to enhance market access and address technical trade barriers, ensuring Pakistani products reach a broader global audience.

The impact of external factors, such as global economic fluctuations and geopolitical uncertainties, was also discussed. Strategies to mitigate these

challenges and sustain export growth were presented for consideration.

Lauding the efforts of Commerce officers, Jam Kamal emphasized the central role of the Ministry of Commerce in advancing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's vision of an export-led growth strategy.

He stated, "The success of our economy depends on a strong export base. This demands serious commitment and collaborative efforts from all stakeholders, including provinces and relevant departments."

## PBBC chairman, Rana discuss to increase coop. in industrial, agri sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of Pakistan-Britain Business Council (PBBC) John Tucknott CMG MBE on Friday met with Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain and discussed ways and means to increase cooperation in diverse fields including industry and agriculture.

During the meeting, the two sides also agreed to work together to further enhance the trade relations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom (UK), said a news release.

The PBBC delegation includes the Council's CEO Rashid Iqbal, Head of Trade and Investment UK Adeel Khan, Senior

Advisor for Trade and Government Relations Saima Amjad, Director of Trade and Investment Waqar Ullah and Chief Coordinator for UK and Pakistan Umamah Riaz.

Rana Tanveer emphasized that both countries should increase trade volume and highlighted the potential for British companies to invest in the electric vehicle manufacturing sector.

John Tucknott agreed to enhance bilateral relations in the agricultural and industrial sectors.

The meeting was also attended by Secretary of the Ministry of Industries Saif Anjum and Director General Mukhtar Ahmed.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning; Development & Special Initiatives; Ahsan Iqbal; chairing a high-level consultative meeting on enhancing the efficiency of Karachi ports by improving hinterland connectivity.

## Punjab Governor says: Business community is the backbone of the country's economy

LAHORE (Online): Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan attended the ceremony organized by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry at the Governor House Lahore as the chief guest. The ceremony was attended by the newly elected presidents and group leaders of all the chambers of commerce and industry, small chambers, women's chambers and joint chambers.

Addressing the ceremony, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the business community is the backbone of the country's economy. He said industrial growth fosters social and economic development in the country. Governor Punjab said that the economic indicators of the country are improving. He said that country's interest rate has come down to 15 percent and inflation has also come

down to single digits. He said that continuity of policies is very important for the development of the country's economy. Governor Punjab said that it is a sorry state of affairs that despite being an agricultural country, we are importing food items. Governor Punjab said that at present about 25 million (2.5 crore) sacks are lying outside in warehouses which are likely to spoil. Governor Punjab said that our industries are currently suffering due to IPPs.

He said that due to the efforts of FPCCI and Gohar Ijaz, situation of five IPPs has improved. Governor Punjab said that like Russia, we also have to build strength to deal with IPPs. He said that things are getting better and will improve further and we will not be needing the support of IMF. Governor Punjab further said that the tax system should be simplified.

## Rupee gains 20 paise against USD

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Friday appreciated by 20 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.75 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.95.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.30 and Rs 278.80 respectively.

The price of Euro decreased by Rs 1.54 to close at Rs 291.35 against the last day's closing of Rs 292.89, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.79, whereas a decrease of Rs 2.04 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 349.36 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 351.40.

The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal decreased by 05 and 07 paise to close at Rs 75.62 and Rs 73.94 respectively.

## Gold prices up by Rs.2,500 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs.2,500 and was sold at Rs.280,500 on Friday against its sale at Rs.278,000, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also went up by Rs.2,143 to Rs.240,483 from Rs.238,340 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold increased to Rs.220,443 from Rs.218,479.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.3,450 and Rs.2,957 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$25 to \$2,693 from \$2,668, the Association reported.

## Sindh Governor invites Oman investors to explore opportunities in Sindh

KARACHI (APP): The Governor of Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori hosted a meeting at Governor House with the Consul General of Oman, Eng Sami Abdullah Al Khanjari, accompanied by a six-member delegation of investors. The discussion revolved around enhancing Pakistan-Oman bilateral relations, boosting investment and trade including the IDEAS 2024 exhibition.

The Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori extended an invitation to Omani investors to explore

investment opportunities in Sindh, emphasizing the province's attractive sectors. He highlighted Sindh's well-educated, experienced, and hardworking youth workforce as a significant asset for prospective investments. He further expressed Pakistan's keen interest in strengthening trade ties with Oman.

Omani Consul General Eng Sami Abdullah Al Khanjari conveyed the delegation's interest in investing across various sectors in Sindh.

## Increase in fish production imperative to meet food needs: FCCI

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) President Rehan Naseem Bharara said on Friday fish production must be enhanced to meet domestic food needs by encouraging establishment of new fish farms in Punjab.

In a message issued here on Friday, he said that fish is a rich source of protein but it has to be imported from other riverine areas to meet domestic requirements.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan addressing the ceremony organized by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry at the Governor House.

## Weekly inflation up by 0.67 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), went up by 0.67 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on November 21, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 324.11 points as compared to 321.94 points during the past week.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 4.92 per cent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

SPI for the lowest

consumption group of up to Rs 17,732 witnessed increase of 0.91 per cent and went up to 318.40 points from last week's 315.52 points.

The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,732 to 22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175, increased by 0.85 percent, 0.72 percent, 0.70 percent and 0.61 percent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 17 (33.33%) items increased, 11 (21.57%) items decreased and 23 (45.10%) items remained stable.

The items, which recorded major decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week basis included chicken (2.97%), pulse gram (1.70%), LPG (0.80%), pulse masoor (0.62%), rice basmati broken (0.40%), sugar (0.27%), wheat flour (0.25%), pulse mash (0.23%) and rice irri-6/9

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where five ships, Jaru Bhum, X-Press Salween, Navios Tempo, Kualalumpur Express and Al-Debal carrying Container and LNG, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal and Engro Elengy Terminal respectively on Thursday.

Meanwhile six more ships, Aqua-1, Corona, OM Singapore, Angelina, Hafnia Phoenix and Iloaas scheduled to load/offload Fuel oil, Palm oil, Yellow Beans, Gasoline and Coal are also arrived at outer anchorage during last 24 hours.

A total of thirteen ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them five ships, X-Press Salween, Jaru Bhum, Navios Tempo, Kualalumpur and Izumo Hermes are left the port on today morning, while five more ships, Milaha Ras

## SBP injects Rs2.37 trillion in the market

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) injected Rs2,369.5 billion in the market through reverse repo purchase and Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operation (OMO) on Friday. According to OMO results issued here, the central bank accepted the entire amount offered through all the 3 bids for 28-day tenor -Rs.120.5 billion- at the 15.06% rate of return while an amount of 2,100 billion offered through 18 bids for 7-day tenor was accepted by the central bank at 15.04% rate.

tenor cumulatively offering an amount of Rs2,239.7 billion at the rate of return ranging between 15.04 to 15.08 percent while 3 bids were received for the 28-day tenor offering total amount of Rs120.5 billion at the rate of return ranging between 15.06 to 15.07 %. The central bank accepted the entire amount offered through all the 3 bids for 28-day tenor -Rs.120.5 billion- at the 15.06% rate of return while an amount of 2,100 billion offered through 18 bids for 7-day tenor was accepted by the central bank at 15.04% rate.



KARACHI: Vice Chairman Balochistan Board of Investment Bilal Khan Kakar presenting shield to former Minister of Punjab SM Tanveer. Former caretaker Chief Minister Alauddin Marri, Mian Zahid Hussain and others are also present.

## Punjab's economic stability means national growth: LCCI president

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Mian Abuzar Shad has said that Punjab's economic stability is crucial for national growth. As the largest province of Pakistan, Punjab holds a unique and central role in driving the nation's economic progress, given its vast resources, industrial capacity and dynamic business community.

He expressed these views while talking to MPA Saadia Taimoor, according to LCCI spokesman here Friday.

Mian Abuzar Shad said that the province's agricultural and industrial

contributions make it a cornerstone of the national economy and ensuring its economic stability directly translates into sustainable growth and development at the national level.

He said that Punjab's economic performance is not just a provincial matter, it sets the tone for the overall economic trajectory of Pakistan. Strengthening Punjab's economy is equivalent to securing the future of the entire country.

The discussion also focused on leveraging Punjab's potential by fostering collaboration between the government and the private sector.



LAHORE: Sikh pilgrims from abroad shop for decorative historical handicrafts near Delhi Gate.

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

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

"The department has already awarded the contract which will schedule to complete by October 2025," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. He said, "The aim for bolstering the nation's bulk transportation capabilities, aligns with broader economic growth objectives and facilitate coal transportation across the country." The official said, "The project is a joint venture which is financed by both the Sindh and federal governments."

"The new rail link from Islamkot to Chhor will facilitate in coal transportation across the country, supporting key

industries like cement and textiles by providing a more cost-effective fuel alternative," he added.

He said, "The construction will include a 24.58-kilometre loop-line and an 18-kilometre double line track extending from Bin Qasim railway station to Port Qasim, with additional 4.20 kilometers of loop-lines designed to handle significant freight volumes." After the completion of the project, he said, "The rail network is expected to have the capacity to transport 10 million tons of coal annually, shifting the country's power generation reliance from imported to domestic coal sources." He said, "The project will see the establishment of seven new railway stations along the route, with two major stations at Thar coal mines and new Chhor station.



Federal Minister for Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan in the signing event of successful privatization of Services International Hotel Lahore.



