

# Independent

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## A police constable died from injuries PTI convoys enter Islamabad amid violent clashes with police

**Monitoring Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: PTI convoys led by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and Opposition Leader, Omar Ayub, entered Islamabad on the call of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan. The convoys, originating from the Hazara Interchange, are heading towards D-Chowk in Islamabad. As the convoys advanced, they encountered heavy resistance from the police at the Ghazi Brotha Bridge, where intense shelling was reported. Despite the police crackdown, Omar Ayub's convoy managed to push back Punjab Police forces at the Hazara Interchange. Ali Amin Gandapur, who is leading the Hazara Division convoy, played a crucial role in helping the con-

voys break through the police barricades. After overcoming the police blockade, the convoys continued their journey, with vehicles stretching over two kilometers as they moved forward. On the Hazara Motorway, PTI supporters successfully forced police to retreat, with reports of violent clashes and heavy stone-pelting. Several police personnel were injured in the scuffles, and two officers were severely wounded and transferred to hospitals.

Among the injured officers were DSPs Chaudhry Zulfiqar and Shahid Gilani, as well as ASI Tabassum. DSP Zulfiqar suffered significant injuries to his back and legs during the confrontation.



ISLAMABAD: A view of Rangers personnel stand on closed road to PTI protest in twin cities.

## Only targeted operation to be carried out on camps of miscreants: Govt making every possible endeavours for recovery of Musawwar Khan: CM

**Independent Reporter**  
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stated that the provincial government is making every possible endeavour for recovery of the child kidnapped from Quetta on November 15.

The Chief Minister was speaking to media soon after the session of provincial assembly here on Monday.

To a query, he said that Musawwar Kakar is like his children, and added that efforts are being made for his recovery, however most of the things can't be told to media.

To another question, Chief Minister said that the

operation in Balochistan would be targeted and added that operation would be carried out where there would be camp of the miscreants.

He said that the political parties which are opposing operations may tell what's the solution of same otherwise. Whether we may witness the bloodshed going on the same way in the province, he questioned.

When asked about the rumours about change in the Chief Minister-ship, Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that he doesn't believe in such rumours. He also said that he would continue to serve as Chief Minister as long as there is trust of House on him.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti expressing his views during Balochistan Assembly session.

## Non-recovery of kidnapped child from Quetta: Wheel jam strike observed on highways & inter-provincial roads across Balochistan

**Independent Reporter**  
QUETTA: The wheel jam strike was observed on the national highways and inter-provincial roads across the Balochistan province on Monday. The strike was observed on call of all political parties and traders community against non-recovery of the 10-year old child, who was kidnapped on November 15 from the Patel Bagh area of Quetta.

As a result of the strike, the Quetta-Karachi, Quetta-Killa Saifullah-Zhob, Quetta-Loralai-DG Khan, Quetta-Sibi, Quetta-Chaman, Quetta-Taftan and other inter-provincial roads remained closed for normal traffic. Following the wheel

jam strike, no public transport could be moved from Quetta to rest of the province and country parts causing great inconvenience and hardships to the commuters.

The political workers of different parties blocked the highways and roads at different points. It may be mentioned here that all parties had given call for wheel jam strike against non-recovery of the kidnapped child couple of days at a joint press conference in dharna being observed at Unity chowk, Quetta.

The all parties had denounced the government for its failure in recovery of the child namely Muhammad Musawwar Kakar.



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receives President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko at PAF Nur Khan Air Base.

## We are responsible for protection of rights of women: Every conscious person ought to play due part for ensuring economic empowerment of women, stresses Jaffar Mandokhail

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has emphasized that every conscious person has to play due role for ensuring rights especially economic empowerment of women.

The Governor said that it is fact that women are dependent on men in all affairs of life just because of lack of economic empowerment.

He was addressing the participants of ceremony held marking 16 days of activism against violence on

women here on Monday. The ceremony was attended by the representatives of different institutions including UN Women, WHO and Women Development Department.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Speaker of Provincial Assembly, Ms. Ghazala Gola, Advisor to Chief Minister for Women Development, Dr. Rubaba Buledi, Advisor to Chief Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Nasimur Rehman, Secretary Women Development, Ms. Saira Ata,

Chairperson of Balochistan Commission on Status of Women, Ms. Fauzia Shaheen, Sana Durrani, Dr. Noor, Sadia Ata, Ayesha Wadood, Asfandyar Shirani and other concerned high ups. Speaking on the occasion, Governor said that if concrete practical measures are being taken for giving legal protection to the animals and birds from violence in the civilized societies, then we can't be dissociated from the human rights especially rights and protection of women anyway.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Shaikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail in a group photo with participants of inaugural ceremony of 16 Days Activism against torture on women.

## Fazal urges PTI to choose dialogue option for resolving political matters

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** Member National Assembly of Pakistan Muslim League-N, Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Monday urged the leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to choose dialogue option for resolving political matters.

Adopting uncivilized way to address political issues would not be helpful for the leadership of PTI, he said while talking to a private television channel. He said that PTI should approach the courts for the release of PTI founder from jail.

In reply to a question about granting permission to PTI workers and supporters to gather at D-Chowk, he said PTI had a long track record of spreading violence through public meeting and protest demonstration.

The diplomatic enclave and security buildings are situated in the federal capital and we cannot allow anyone to create law and order situation near the sensitive places, he added.

It is the responsibility of the government to provide security and safety to every citizen, he said.

## Nation has rejected politics of 'chaos and anarchy': Tarar

**RAWALPINDI (APP):** Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Monday called out the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf for pursuing the politics of "chaos and anarchy", citing its violent conspiracy of May 9 arson.

Talking to the media at the Nur Khan Airbase, the minister said the people of Pakistan wanted the politics of progress and welfare which is manifested by the people-friendly initiatives of the government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

He said the national economy is taking off with the Pakistan Stock Exchange crossing the historical milestone of 100,000 points, and inflation plummeting to 6.9 per cent from 32 per cent, while foreign exchange reserves are swelling with a significant increase in exports, and also remittances that jumped to \$8.8 billion in the first quarter.

He said two major commodities including electricity and petrol are cheaper

than previous years, while interest rate and KIBOR stood at 15 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively. "This shows the economy is progressing and attracting foreign investment," he added.

The minister said a high-level delegation from Belarus has already arrived in Pakistan the other day, while its President Alexander Lukashenko has just arrived in Islamabad. He said this is a historical visit for the bilateral relations of the two countries that enjoyed three decades of diplomatic ties.

Tarar called the two countries' friendship and partnership "exemplary" while lauding the sentiments of the President for the people of Pakistan.

The visit of the President of a friendly country to Pakistan is welcoming development, he said, adding a number of business-to-business Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) would be signed during the visit to enhance the cooperation in multiple areas which would eventually benefit the masses.



QUETTA: MPA Zamrak Khan Achakzai, Asghar Tareen, Nasrullah Zarey, Rasheed Nasir Ahmed Jan, Abdul Rahim Kakar, Haji Bashit, Malik Malang, Mir Yasin Mengal, Akhtar Kakar, Amanullah Mehtarzai, Gul Khil, Munir Kakar, Ghulam Nabi and others attending meeting of Dharna Committee for recovery of Musawwir Kakar.

Organized groups are involved in anti-state mind making in most of varsities:

## GoB to summon conference on prevention of anti-state mind making among students in varsities, says CM Bugti

**Mir Sarfraz Bugti seeks suggestions for improvement in Balochistan Universities Act from HEC; says we want to introduce comprehensive reforms for solution of issues being faced by universities of Balochistan**

**Independent Reporter**  
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has regretfully pointed out that the organized groups are involved in the anti-state mind making in most universities of the country, as such there is a very necessary to stop this trend. He announced that the provincial government would call a national conference to stop this by highlighting it. The chief ministers of all provinces and vice chancellors of all the universities of country would be invited to participate in the conference.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the Chairman Higher Education

Commission (HEC), Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, who called on him here on Monday.

During the course of meeting, Provincial Ministers Ms. Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani and Bakht Muhammad Kakar besides MPA, Asghar Khan Tareen were also present.

During the meeting, the matters related to improvement in governance and quality were discussed. The Chief Minister on the occasion sought suggestions from HEC for bringing improvement in the Balochistan Universities Act.

He said that we want to introduce comprehensive reforms to resolve the issues being faced by the universities in the province.

He said that we have the right of answerability when we would provide resources to the public sector universities of the province.

He noted that the universities are on move to build buildings in the universities, but they haven't funds for paying salaries to their employees.

He stressed that the universities should refrain from unnecessary recruitments and development projects in view of their financial situation.

He asserted that we would not make any compromise on quality and good governance in the universities, adding he made it clear that there would be no political interference in the universities nor we would fall to any blackmailing.

The Chief Minister also said that he hail the positive recommendations of the HEC and vowed to put the universities of province on path of improvement together with it (HEC).



QUETTA: Chairman Higher Education Commission Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

## Belarus President arrives in Islamabad on three-day official visit

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko on Monday arrived in Islamabad on his three-day official visit to Pakistan at the invitation of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

The Belarus President arrived at the Nur Khan Airbase, Rawalpindi where he was received by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif along with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Ishaq Dar, Minister for Interior, Senator Mohsin Naqvi, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar, and other senior officials.

Children dressed in traditional attire presented bouquets of flowers to the President of Belarus.

During his visit, President Lukashenko will hold extensive talks with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and discuss areas of bilateral cooperation and engagement. Moreover, several agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) will also be signed during the visit.

## ECNEC approves dev. projects worth Rs 172.7 bn

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) on Monday approved 10 out of 11 proposed development projects costing Rs 172.7 billion.

A project presented by the Ministry of Health was deferred, requiring further clarification before approval.

The meeting of the ECNEC was held here under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar.

## PM orders to identify, bring to justice those involved in policeman's martyrdom

**Shehbaz Sharif extended his condolences to the family of Constable Mubashir Shaheed, prayed for officer's soul**

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday strongly condemned the killing of a policeman by those elements who came to protest. The prime minister expressed his condolence to the bereaved family of constable Mubashir Shaheed and prayed for his high ranks, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister directed for immediate identification of those involved in the incident and bringing them to justice.

He also directed to provide the best medical facilities to the police personnel injured as a result of stone pelting and violence stoked by the protesters.

The attack on police

personnel in the name of so-called peaceful protest was condemnable, the prime minister said, adding the police personnel and law enforcement personnel were on their duty to maintain law and order.

He said the perpetrators involved in May 09 riots were once again resorting to violent acts and they had destroyed the life of 46-year-old shaheed constable Mubashir and his family.

The entire nation, including him, paid tribute to constable Mubashir Shaheed, he added.

The prime minister said that whenever the country moved on path of progress, these miscreants resorted to acts of burning and laying siege throughout the country.



QUETTA: Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani and Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar in a group photo with students of Khuda Bakhsh College during their visit to Assembly.

## Judicial Commission forms Constitutional Bench in SHC

**ISLAMABAD (APP):** The Judicial Commission of Pakistan has constituted a nine-member Constitutional Bench within the High Court of Sindh for a period of two months. Pakistan's cuisine

The Bench will be headed by Justice Muhammad Karim Khan Agha and will be comprising Justice Salim Jessar, Justice Omar Sial, Justice Yousaf Ali Syeed, Justice Abdul Mobeen Lakhro, Justice Zulfikar Ali Sangi, Justice Ms. Sana Akram Minhas, Justice Khadim

Hussain Soomro and Justice Arbab Ali Hakro. Following extensive and thoughtful exchange of views, the Commission considered the formation of the Constitutional Bench in Sindh High Court and approved the names of the judges with a majority of 11 to 4.

Meeting of the Judicial Commission was held Monday under the 26th Constitutional Amendment in the Supreme Court premises on a one point agenda of formation of the Constitutional Bench in Sindh High Court.



## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Anti-women state

Globally, women are tormented by the worst tools of exploitation: rape, sexual abuse, GBV, IPV, and more are among the most pervasive human rights violations that strip females of bodily autonomy. Unicef estimates show that over 370m women and girls today have endured rape or sexual violence before the age of 18. On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and the launch of the 'UNiTE to End Violence against Women' campaign, which focuses on the upsurge in crimes against women and the revival of obligations as well as demands action from policymakers, Pakistan looks back on a harrowing crime graph. The human rights ministry states that in the last three years, 63,000 cases of violence against women were reported; unfortunately, most cases do not come to light. In August, the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan was alarmed by the escalation in GBV nationwide; its report, Unveiling Shadows: An Overview of Gender-Based Violence Cases, 2023, exposed an 81pc rise in the backlog of unresolved GBV cases.

While it is true that GBV incidents surge in times of conflict and socioeconomic distress, the blame for an odious state of affairs lies at the door of successive governments who did little to build protective systems, or counter patriarchal narratives. This, alongside a corrupt, feeble and prejudiced criminal justice system, has resulted in an environment where a rape occurs every two minutes due to a pathetic 3pc conviction rate. The JPC study shows a conviction rate of 5pc and a high acquittal rate of 64pc. Additionally, a slew of pro-women laws to curtail excesses against females and protect their inheritance, with ensuing amendments in several decrees, such as a mandatory prison term for honour killing, were rendered lifeless by the state's inability to end impunity. The toxic machismo in assemblies ensured that a few were watered down: Sindh raised the marriageable age of females from 16 to 18 years through the Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2014, but KP and Punjab maintained the age of marriage at 16 years. Balochistan continues with the colonial Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929.

Culture wars cannot be fought over women's bodies. Violence — the daily reality of rural and urban women — has placed Pakistan among the most dangerous countries for females. This silent epidemic, a sobering commentary on the hold of misogynistic power structures that prevent equity and diversification, has to be acknowledged. Women parliamentarians need to unite for greater female representation in parliament and agitate for women's education and stringent application of the laws. Orthodox elements, operating in consonance with the state to dilute the national discourse on women empowerment, must be defused. Without justice, the social contract between women and the state will unravel.

## Protecting women

Van Nguyen

As Pakistan embraces the digital age, women face a troubling new reality: technology-facilitated violence.

Digital platforms, intended to open opportunities in education, employment, and civic engagement, have also become instruments for gender-based abuse. This threat — from cyber harassment and stalking to deepfake pornography — is more than a personal affront; it is an assault on women's digital freedom, mental well-being, and societal participation, demanding urgent and targeted reforms to reclaim online spaces for all.

This rise in technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) against women mirrors a troubling global trend that intensified during the Covid-19 pandemic as women increasingly turned to digital platforms for work, education, and social connection. This surge in abuse has exposed critical gaps in legal protections, calling for urgent regulatory reform.

According to the Economist Intelligence Unit, 85 per cent of women worldwide report experiencing some form of online harassment, with rates even higher in the Asia-Pacific region at 88pc. In Pakistan, this issue is acute: nearly 90pc of harassment complaints received by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) are filed by women, according to the Digital Rights Foundation. This abuse impedes women's access to education, employment, and political engagement: 70pc of female students report harassment, with 20pc considering dropping out while 45pc of working women face online abuse, with 15pc leaving their jobs as a result. Women in public office face triple the

online abuse of men, with 67pc contemplating leaving politics altogether. These statistics underscore the critical need for comprehensive protections to ensure women's safety in digital spaces.

The psychological and social toll of these attacks is profound. Victims report depression, anxiety, and isolation, leading many to withdraw from online spaces, which further impacts their social and professional lives. For young women, TFGBV can disrupt their education and discourage them from pursuing careers in fields such as STEM or public service.

Pakistan's Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (Peca), 2016, was introduced to address cybercrimes, yet its provisions fall short of adequately addressing TFGBV. While the Act includes clauses aimed at protecting personal dignity and privacy, it lacks explicit provisions for TFGBV and suffers from limited enforcement capacity. The FIA's Cyber Crime Wing, tasked with enforcing the Act, operates only 15 cybercrime stations with 144 officers nationwide to serve a population exceeding 240 million.

Additionally, the requirement for victims to file complaints in person discourages many women, particularly in rural areas, from reporting incidents of online violence. Peca also lacks a transnational mandate to require social media companies to share data necessary for prosecuting offenders, allowing perpetrators to act with relative impunity.

Addressing TFGBV in Pakistan requires a collaborative approach that engages governments, technology companies, feminist organisations, and digital rights advocates.

First, legal reforms

are essential. A comprehensive legal framework with specific provisions for TFGBV is needed to address current ambiguities, with laws regularly updated to keep pace with technological advances. Equally essential is strengthening enforcement by equipping the FIA's Cybercrime Wing with adequate resources, providing gender sensitivity training, in-creasing cybercrime stations, and eliminating the in-person reporting requirement.

Collaboration with technology companies is also vital to ensure social media platforms adhere to local regulations. Platforms should be required to share data necessary for investigations and implement transparent, gender-sensitive content moderation to curb abusive content. Le-veraging AI to flag harmful content can further enhance these efforts.

Providing victims with accessible support services is crucial. Strengthening referral systems to offer counselling, legal assistance, and digital literacy training can empower women to navigate the legal landscape and protect themselves online. Public awareness campaigns are also key to educating communities about TFGBV, fostering greater understanding of its impacts, and promoting proactive responses.

Addressing TFGBV is not just about safeguarding victims — it's about realising a Pakistan where digital opportunities are equally available to all. By creating a digital space that is inclusive, safe, and empowering, we unlock the full potential of women's contributions to Pakistan's progress, ensuring that no one is left behind in the journey towards a just and equitable society. — Courtesy Dawn

## The greatest asset

Huma Yusuf

It's not easy being a child in Pakistan. Just this past week, children across the country have endured the following: some caught polio; some were targeted in sectarian violence; millions were exposed to toxic levels of air pollution; some were dragged out of their school vans at gunpoint and kidnapped; millions had to stay away from their schools due to environmental degradation and political instability.

And that's aside from the systemic issues. Twenty-six million children are permanently out of school; 70 per cent of all 10-year-olds cannot read or understand basic texts. According to 2018 data, Pakistan has one of the highest rates of child malnutrition in the developing world, with 33pc of children underweight and 44pc stunted. Almost 800,000 are severely wasted, says Unicef. Meanwhile, climate shocks, including droughts, floods and heatwaves, are affecting Pakistani children, undermining their access to food, healthcare and education. And this challenge will be exacerbated as the number of children affected by climate crises will increase fourfold by 2050.

This is the baseline for Pakistani children in a world that is not going to be kind to them over the coming decades, as made clear in The Future of Childhood in a Changing World, a new Unicef report. We cannot ignore this demographic. By the 2050s, Pakistan will be among the four countries that is home to one-third of the world's children, along with India, China and Nigeria. We will have 129m children, comprising 32.9pc of the population (around 5.5pc of the global child population). Indeed, Pakistan is one of the few countries in the world where

the percentage of children in the population remains stable — rather than reduces — over the coming decades.

There will be some differences in the state of childhood over the next quarter century, however. The report captures these in the form of 'megatrends' set to define childhood through the 2050s: demographic transitions, climate and environmental crises, and the growing prevalence of frontier technologies.

Here's what this means for us: more Pakistani children will live in urban settings, which bring different pressures ranging from heatwaves to severe inequality (for example, the report points out that urban children in the poorest quintile are twice as likely to die before they turn five than children in the richest quintile). More children will also migrate (internally or abroad), and so endure the challenges of displacement and dislocation, including issues ranging from food insecurity to family disruption. And more will be the victim of environmental hazards. The severe toll of this over the coming years is best understood by considering a contemporary — and currently horribly relevant — data point: that air pollution is the second leading risk factor for death in children younger than five years.

Much of the report focuses on the potentially transformative role of new technologies: "Connectivity and digital skills, when used correctly in learning environments, could equip millions for future jobs, boosting economies and breaking generational cycles of inequality. AI and neurotechnology could drive transformations in education and healthcare." But the re-

port is quick to recognise that technological advances and resulting advantages will not be evenly spread. Today, over 95pc of people in high-income countries have an internet connection, compared to 26pc in low-income countries. Poor investment in digital infrastructure, lack of funding, and growing obsessions with limiting internet permissions means that this digital gap will not be addressed anytime soon, and may in fact worsen.

Pakistan is not currently on a trajectory to reap the benefits of neurotechnologies or artificial intelligence. Instead, our youth will be subject to their pitfalls — surveillance, exploitation, manipulation and discrimination. The spread of AI will only worsen the digital divide experienced by young Pakistanis, particularly those who are already marginalised on the basis of language, ethnicity or gender.

Some may remember how at the turn of the century Pakistan was in a thrall to fantasies about how the country would reap its demographic dividend. Two decades in, we know that the predicament of our youth will be dire — much as described at the outset of this piece, possibly worse — unless significant additional investment is made in education, healthcare, job creation, climate resilience and adaptation, digital literacy and infrastructure, and maternal and infant health. Instead of prioritising these, our state is squandering its resources on quashing political opposition and stifling free speech. In the name of national security, we are forgetting to secure the nation's greatest asset and treasure — its children. — Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Tanveer for promoting industrial, agricultural trade ties with Belarus

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain here on Monday highlighted the importance of expanding bilateral trade relations with Belarus specially in the industrial and agricultural sectors.

The minister stressed the need to explore ways and means to increase the industrial cooperation between the two countries in diverse fields.

During a meeting with Belarusian delegation, which was led by Minister for Industries Aliaksandr Yafimua, Rana Tanveer said Pakistan has considerable export potential with Belarus for items like inflatable footballs, articles of bedding and similar stuffed items, sports and outdoor games equipment, footwear, rubber, plastic and metal products, said a news release.

During the meeting, both sides reaffirmed their

commitment to advancing the partnership between Pakistan and Belarus in multifaceted areas.

Highlighting the trade potential, Minister Yafimua shared that Belarus imports goods worth \$17.2 billion annually, noting that Pakistan's current share in this trade is not reflective of its true export potential.

He said that Pakistani products will be given space in the Belarusian market. He identified key products that Pakistan could export to Belarus, including inflatable footballs, bedding items, sports and outdoor equipment, footwear, and rubber, plastic, and metal goods. Rana Tanveer discussed cooperation in the field of agricultural machinery and tractor manufacturing plants, following which the delegation showed keen interest in the production

of agricultural machinery and establishing tractor plants besides technology transfer under Joint Ventures (JVs).

The minister extended invitation to the Belarusian counterpart to start a pilot project on agricultural productivity enhancement in Pakistan.

Similarly, he said M/s Millat Group dealing with agricultural machinery wanted a JV for manufacturing agricultural equipments in Pakistan. During the meeting, both sides also deliberated on the prospects of Belarusian investment and JVs in the area of electric vehicles (EVs).

Rana Tanveer said that around thirty-one companies have issued manufacturing licenses by the Engineering Development Board (EDB) enabling them to produce two/three-wheeler EVs in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan and Belarusian Minister Alexey Kushnarenko witness the signing of 8 MoUs/Agreements at the Pakistan-Belarus Business Forum 2024.

### Finance Minister stresses Reforms in DAC to promote transparency, good governance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday visited the office of the Auditor-General of Pakistan (AGP) where he expressed his appreciation for the work being done by the DAGP, the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) of Pakistan, stressing the importance of reforms in ensuring transparency and accountability in government finances.

The Finance Minister took keen interest in the professional work carried out by the Department of the Auditor-General of Pakistan and emphasized upon reforms in the paradigm of Department Accounts Committee, making the Principal Accounting Officers pay heed to the audit recommendations timely for promotion of transparency and good governance.

### PQG, ILMA university sign MoU to enhance talent pool in Islamic finance industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pak-Qatar Group (PQG), Pakistan's premier and pioneer Islamic financial services group, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ILMA University, marking a significant step towards enhancing the talent pool in the Islamic finance industry.

The partnership aims to address Pakistan's capacity constraints in Islamic finance and Takaful by leveraging ILMA

University's pool of professionals with expertise in business and technology said a news release issued here on Monday. This collaboration will enable Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Limited to enhance its service quality by inducting skilled talent from ILMA University across relevant fields. Kamran Ali Khan, Head of Human Resources and Training at Pak-Qatar Group expressed enthusiasm about the collaboration.

### Gold prices dip Rs.4,300 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased further by Rs 4,300 and was sold at Rs 278,400 on Monday against its sale at Rs 182,700, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also went down by Rs.3,657 to Rs.238,683 from Rs. 242,370 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold decreased to Rs 218,793 from Rs 222,172.

The price of per tola gold declined by Rs 50 to Rs 3,400 whereas that of ten gram silver went down by Rs 42.87 to Rs 2,914.95.

### SNGPL disconnects 186 connections

LAHORE (APP): A crackdown against illegal gas usage continues as the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) disconnected 186 connections in various regions, including Punjab. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and Islamabad. In addition to the disconnections, a fine of Rs 7 million was imposed on people.

### CM Punjab, ADB official discuss development projects

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif met with Country Director for Pakistan Resident Mission of Asian Development Bank, Dr. Emma Xiaoqin Fan, to discuss ongoing development projects, strengthening of the economy, providing cooperation for improving basic infrastructure along with enhancing cooperation in agriculture, health, education, environmental cooperation and digital development.

Matters pertaining to the 'Jalapur Irrigation Project' and 'Clean Energy' came under discussion. Country Director Asian

Development Bank Dr. Emma Xiaoqin Fan, appreciated steps being taken by the Punjab government for women empowerment and other public welfare initiatives.

The Chief Minister appreciated financial and technical support of Asian Development Bank in various projects of Punjab. She said, "ADB's is playing a pivotal role in prosperity of the people and restoration of the national economy."

She added, "The Punjab government is moving forward under a comprehensive plan to attain socio-economic development."



KARACHI: A stockbroker monitors share prices during a trading session at Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in Karachi. The Pakistan Stock Exchange's KSE-100 index gained 1,519.24 points, or 1.55pc, to reach 99,317.47 points.

### Total amount deposited in Roshan Digital Accounts reaches near \$9 billion

KARACHI (APP): The number of Roshan Digital Accounts has reached 757,587 with an addition of over 11000 new accounts by the end of October 2024 while the total amount funded in the RDAs so far reached near \$9 billion.

According to the statistics issued by the State Bank of Pakistan, Non-residents Pakistanis seeking to undertake banking, payment and investment activities in the country opened 757,587 Roshan Digital

Accounts till October 2024 and the accumulative amount received in the accounts totaled as \$ 8,953 million.

The total RDA deposits, on the current monthly growth rate, would easily cross the \$9 billion mark in November 2024. As many as, 11,336 new Roshan Digital Accounts were opened and \$ 204 million has been received in the month of October 24 by Non-residents Pakistanis.

### Successful organization of IDEAS Expo termed important milestone for Pakistan's defence

KARACHI (INP): Javed Jilani, Senior Vice Chairman of Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP) has termed the successful organization of Ideas Exhibition 2024 as an important milestone for Pakistan's defence, industrial and technological development.

He paid tribute to Army Chief General Asim Munir and his team and said that their leadership and vision made this big event possible.

He said that this exhibition has highlighted the strong and peaceful identity of Pakistan across the world, but it also showcased the independence and capabilities of the country's defence system at the global level. This exhibition made it clear that Pakistan is in the field of advanced defence technology and cre-

activity.

He said that such events open up new avenues for trade and defence cooperation with Pakistan in the international community. At the exhibition, delegations from all over the world showcased the latest weapons, technologies, and equipment.

Javed Jilani said that such events have a positive impact on the economy of Pakistan and play an important role in promoting the country's industry. This increases the confidence of international buyers and they also prefer to participate in other trade and agricultural exhibitions in Pakistan.

The contacts between traders and international buyers increase which is beneficial in the economic development of the country.

### Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Five ships namely, Apollon D, Han Ren, OM Singapore, Amir Gas and Alba Gas scheduled to load/offload, Containers, Rice, Palm oil and LPG, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Liquid Terminal, and Oil Terminal respectively during last 24 hours.

Meanwhile four more ships, America, Chemroad Wing, Hafnia Precision, and Hafnia Eagle carrying Containers, Chemicals and Gas oil also arrived at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim during the same period. Nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Aqua 1 and Singapore Bulker left the port on Monday morning and three more ships, Amir Gas, OM Singapore and Apollon-D are expected to sail on today afternoon.



## CM Punjab says: Govt committed to safeguarding women's rights

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that the protection of women is a top priority for the Punjab government, which remains fully committed to safeguarding their rights and ensuring their well-being.

In her message on International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women being celebrated on Monday, the CM said the honor of mothers, sisters and daughters is a part of our social traditions and religious values. "Women are my red line, violence or cruelty against them is absolutely not tolerable" she said.

The CM said that Islam gave orders to give women complete respect and rights, adding that the honor and respect of women, including daughters and sisters, is the Sunnah of our beloved Holy Prophet (PBUH). In the Holy Quran and Sunnah, it is not only forbidden to raise hand on women but also to be gentle towards them.

The chief minister said that those who commit violence against women are cowards and criminals and they will be dealt with an iron hand, adding that Punjab has the honor of establishing a virtual women's police station for the first time.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister, Maryam Nawaz Sharif exchanging views with Dr. Emma Fan, Country Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Pakistan during meeting held in Lahore.

## KU issues admission lists for academic session 2025

KARACHI (APP): The University of Karachi on Monday uploaded the admission lists for the academic session 2025 and informed the students to submit admission fees from December 09 to 17, 2024.

According to KU in-charge of the Directorate of Admissions Professor Dr Saima Akhtar, the admission lists for BS (Morning Program), Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm-D Morning and Evening), Doctor of Physical Therapy, BE, and

BEed (Hons) programs have been released.

She mentioned that students whose names appear on these lists can submit their admission fees from December 9 to 17, 2024, between 10 am and 3 pm.

Students should print the enrollment fee voucher and enrollment form from their online portal and get their documents verified at the admission committee counters to be set up in the gymnasium hall at the University of Karachi.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in a group photo with delegation of Ulema Mashaikh led by Pir Nazim Hussain Shah at Governor House.

## Punjab Governor says: Islam teaches us lesson of peace and security

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the visit of the Belarus delegation to Pakistan is welcome for the country's economy. The visit will promote bilateral cooperation between the two countries in various sectors, including trade. He said this while meeting a delegation of Ulema Mashaikh led by Pir Nazim Hussain Shah at the Governor House Lahore today.

Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan

said that the high-level delegation of Belarus has come to Pakistan for economic improvement and unfortunately the capital is once again under attack. He said that the call for protest by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf at this time is tantamount to anti-nationalism. Governor Punjab said that the PTI is demanded to avoid the politics of sit-ins and sit at the negotiating table, which is the country's improvement. He said that whenever there is improvement in the

country's economy and other sectors, PTI sometimes attacks the federation under the guise of sit-ins and sometimes protests. Punjab Governor said that Bushra Bibi made a statement against the country that has supported Pakistan in every difficult time. He said that I ask Bushra Bibi not to attack the country's security for politics. Punjab Governor said that Saudi Arabia has always considered Pakistan its second home and Saudi Arabia's role in

rescheduling a loan of Rs 3 trillion is important.

Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan further said that the Ulema Mashaikh have always played a full role for the security of the country. He said that the religion of Islam teaches us the lesson of peace and security. Punjab Governor said that terrorism in the country is a big obstacle to peace and security.

He said that to eradicate terrorism from the country, we have to create unity and consensus in our ranks.

## Azma Bokhari says: Police officer martyred, 70 others injured by 'Tehreek-e-Fasad'

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Information Minister Azma Bokhari has condemned actions of "Tehreek-e-Fasad", accusing the group of martyring a police officer and severely injuring 70 other officers.

At a press conference at the DGPR, she said, "Bushra Bibi, this is not a jungle where you can act like a 'Sultana Daku' to free your husband." Azma Bokhari said that Bushra Bibi was inciting Pashtuns to attack the state, leading armed mobs, and adding a religious veneer to their aggression with chants of "Allah-ho- Akbar". She criticized her for posing as a guardian of Islamic values

while lacking even basic knowledge, such as properly reciting "Durood Shari". Azma Bokhari asserted that the PTI and its armed factions were seeking casualties to advance their disruptive political agenda. "Life continues as normal across Punjab. Not even a bird has stirred here," she said and emphasized that commercial and social activities remain uninterrupted in the province.

Azma Bokhari condemned continued violence by "Tehreek-e-Fasad" on the second day of unrest, which included torching police vehicles and attacking officers.



KARACHI: Rescue operation is underway after boat overturned into deep waters, near Ibrahim Hyderi in Karachi.

## Nawabshah Pacer won first match in under 20 sports festival

HYDERABAD (APP): The Under-20 Sports Festival continued on the consecutive second day with outstanding competitions in various sports at Bilawal Sports Complex.

A cricket match between Nawab Shah Pacer and Skrand Striker was held at Bilawal Sports Complex, the Nawab Shah Pacer's team set a target of 198 runs for Skrand Striker's team however the Skrand Striker's team was all out for 67 runs and Nawab Shah Pacer won the first match, the winning team

was awarded a trophy on this occasion.

Hockey competitions were held at Askari Hockey Stadium Nawabshah. In the first match, the GBHS Society team won the match by defeating Afzal Shah High School team by 6-0.

In the second match, the Shah Waliullah School team defeated QUEST School by three goals to two. While in the third match, the Municipal High School team defeated DC High School by scoring 6 goals, DC High School team could score 2 goals.

## Five cops among seven injured in Tank

PESHAWAR (APP): An attack on a police picket in Tank district left at least seven people including five policemen injured, police informed on Monday. The miscreants attacked Gul Imam police checkpoint with heavy arms, leaving seven people injured. The injured included five policemen and two drivers of the poultry-carrying vehicles.

The injured were shifted to Tank hospital from where two the injured were referred to Dera Ismail Khan in critical condition. Large police force reached the area soon after the incident and started a search operation to nab the involved.

## All set to launch "Suthra Punjab" Program on 3 Dec

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab government is set to launch a new, standardized and sustainable solid waste management system under the "Maryam Nawaz ka Punjab, Sathra Punjab" programme. The event will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif scheduled to be held on December 3, 2024.

Preparations for the event were finalized in a meeting chaired by the Provincial Minister for Local Government,

## Four killed, two injured in Bahawalpur tanker accident

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Four persons including three children were killed and two others sustained injuries in a tanker accident that hit a house near Pull Sadiqabad area of Bahawalpur district, TV channels quoting police reported on Monday.

According to initial reports, a rashly-driven tanker hit a house located near Pull Sadiqabad area of Bahawalpur district. As a result, three children and a driver of the water tanker died on the spot. The two other persons were also injured in the same incident.

# International News

## Iran's Khamenei calls for death sentence for Israeli leaders

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: The supreme leader of Iran, which backs the Hamas and Hezbollah militants fighting Israel in Gaza and Lebanon, said on Monday that death sentences should be issued for Israeli leaders, not arrest warrants.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was commenting on a decision by the International Criminal Court to issue arrest warrants on Thursday for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, his former defence chief and a Hamas leader, Ibrahim Al-Masri.

"They issued an arrest warrant, that's not enough... Death sentence

must be issued for these criminal leaders", Khamenei said, referring to the Israeli leaders.

In their decision, the ICC judges said there were reasonable grounds to believe Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant were criminally responsible for acts including murder, persecution and starvation as a weapon of war as part of a "widespread and systematic attack against the civilian population of Gaza".

The decision was met with outrage in Israel, which called it shameful and abusive.

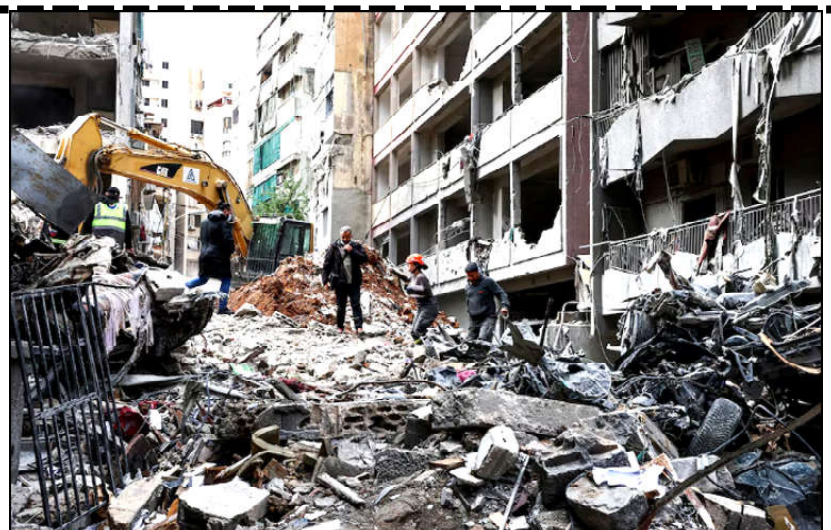
Gaza residents expressed hope it would help end the violence and bring

those responsible for war crimes to justice.

Israel has rejected the jurisdiction of the Hague-based court and denies war crimes in Gaza.

The warrant for a Hamas leader, Ibrahim Al-Masri, lists charges of mass killings during the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks on Israel that triggered the war on the long-blockaded Palestinian enclave, and also charges of rape and the taking of hostages.

Israel has said it killed Masri, also known as Mohammed Deif, in an airstrike in July but Hamas has neither confirmed nor denied this.



Civil defense members and people work at a damaged site in the aftermath of Israeli strikes, amid the ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, in Beirut's Basta neighbourhood, Lebanon.

## Iran to hold nuclear talks with three European powers

**Monitoring Desk**  
TEHRAN: Iran said that it would hold nuclear talks in the coming days with the three European countries that initiated a ceasefire resolution against it adopted by the UN's atomic watchdog.

Foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said the meeting of the deputy foreign ministers of Iran, France, Germany and the United Kingdom would take place on Friday. "A range of regional and international issues and topics, including the issues of Palestine and Lebanon, as well as the nuclear issue, will be discussed," the

spokesman said in a foreign ministry statement.

Baghaei described the upcoming meeting as a continuation of talks held with the countries in September on the sidelines of the annual session of the UN General Assembly in New York. Japan's Kyodo news agency, which first reported that the meeting would take place on Friday in Geneva, said Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's government was seeking a solution to the nuclear impasse ahead of the inauguration in January of US president-elect Donald Trump.

## Taiwan reports Chinese balloon, first time in six months

**Monitoring Desk**  
TAIPEI: Taiwan's defence ministry on Monday reported that a Chinese balloon had been detected over the sea to Taiwan's north, the first time since April it has reported such an incident in what Taipei views as part of a pattern of harassment by Beijing.

Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, complained that in the weeks leading up to its presidential election in January Chinese balloon activity took place at an "unprecedented scale".

It described the incidents as part of a Chinese pressure campaign - so-called grey-zone warfare designed to exhaust a foe using irregular tactics without open combat.

Taiwan strongly objects to China's sovereignty claims and says only the island's people can decide their future.

The ministry, in its regular morning update on Chinese military activities over the previous 24 hours, said the single balloon was detected at 6:21 p.m. (10:21 GMT) on Sunday 60 nautical miles (111 km) to the north of Taiwan's Keelung port. It then vanished some two hours later, having flown at an altitude of 33,000 ft (10,000 metres), but without crossing Taiwan itself.

## Russia will not intimidate us with cyberthreats, UK minister tells NATO

**Monitoring Desk**  
BUCHAREST: A hard-right critic of NATO who has praised Russia is set to face a centre-right opposition leader in a presidential election run-off in Romania that could undermine its pro-Western stance after a shock outcome in the first-round vote. Independent hard-right politician Calin Georgescu, 62, won 22.94% of votes in Sunday's voting, the electoral authority said. Centre-right contender Elena Lasconi, leader of the opposition Save Romania Union, lay second with 19.18%.

The outcome was a huge shock as pre-election opinion polls had made Social Democrat Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu the frontrunner. Ciolacu said he would resign as party leader

following the result but would remain in the role of prime minister until a parliamentary election scheduled on Dec. 1.

The candidate of the centre-right Liberals, Ciolacu's coalition partners, also failed to secure a place in the election run-off, which will be on Dec. 8.

Campaigning focused largely on the soaring cost of living in Romania, which is a member of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance and has the EU's biggest share of people at risk of poverty.

"I have voted for the wronged, the humiliated, those who feel they do not matter in this world," Georgescu said on Sunday. "Today, the vote is a prayer for the nation."

## NATO and Ukraine to hold emergency talks after Russia's attack with new hypersonic missile

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: NATO and Ukraine will hold emergency talks Tuesday after Russia attacked a central city with an experimental, hypersonic ballistic missile that escalated the nearly 33-month-old war. The conflict is "entering a decisive phase," Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk said Friday, and "taking on very dramatic dimensions."

Ukraine's parliament canceled a session as security was tightened following Thursday's Russian strike on a military facility in the city of Dnipro. In a stark warning to the West, President Vladimir Putin said in a nationally televised speech that the attack with the intermediate-range Oreshnik missile was in retaliation for Kyiv's use of U.S. and British longer-range missiles capable of striking deeper into Russian territory. Putin said Western air defense systems would be powerless to stop the new missile.

Ukrainian military officials said the missile that

hit Dnipro had reached a speed of Mach 11 and carried six nonnuclear warheads each releasing six submunitions.

Speaking Friday to military and weapons industries officials, Putin said Russia is launching production of the Oreshnik.

Testing the missile will continue, "including in combat, depending on the situation and the character of security threats created for Russia," Putin said, noting there is "a stockpile of such systems ready for use."

Putin said that while it isn't an intercontinental missile, it's so powerful that the use of several of them fitted with conventional warheads in one attack could be as devastating as a strike with strategic — or nuclear — weapons. Gen. Sergei Karakayev, head of Russia's Strategic Missile Forces, said the Oreshnik could reach targets across Europe and be fitted with nuclear or conventional warheads, echoing Putin's claim that even with conventional warheads.

## Trump's mass deportation plan could end up hurting economic growth

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: President-elect Donald Trump's headline immigration proposals — including a controversial mass deportation plan — could prove economically damaging, analysts say, with US sectors that rely heavily on foreign workers like agriculture and construction especially hard hit.

US authorities estimate that there are around 11 million unauthorised people living in the United States, the vast majority of whom come from Mexico.

Around 8.3 million unauthorised people were in the labour force in 2022, according to a recent estimate from the Pew Research Center. That was equivalent to just under five per cent of the overall

workforce. "Today our cities are flooded with illegal aliens," Trump said on the campaign trail earlier this year, adding: "Americans are being squeezed out of the labour force and their jobs are taken."

The reality, however, is more complex; many of the sectors that could be the hardest-hit have long struggled to attract US workers.

"The construction and agriculture industries would lose at least one in eight workers, while in hospitality, about one in 14 workers would be deported due to their undocumented status," the non-profit American Immigration Council (AIC) said in a recent report on Trump's deportation plans.

## Maximum term demanded in French rape trial for husband who drugged wife

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: French prosecutors said on Monday they were seeking the maximum 20-year jail term for the man charged with enlisting dozens of strangers to rape his heavily-sedated wife, in a trial that has shaken France.

Dominique Pelicot was in the dock in the southern city of Avignon with 49 other men for organising the rapes and sexual abuse of his now ex-wife Gisele Pelicot. One man is being tried in absentia.

The case has shocked a France still working through its version of the #MeToo movement, with a prosecutor telling the court that the trial needed to herald a fundamental change in relations between men and women.



## Pakistan, Belarus agree to cooperate for strengthening of justice system

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Belarus have agreed to share experiences and cooperate for betterment of law and justice system through digitalization, capacity building for prosecutors and attorneys, legal education and awareness and legislative drafting.

A meeting between Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Azam Nazeer Tarar, and Minister of Justice for Belarus, Kovalenko Evgeny took place on Monday. The meeting was marked by a spirit of warmth and mutual respect, as both leaders expressed their ardent desire to further fortify the existing bilateral relations between the nations.

The Belarusian Minister elaborated on the purview and mandate of the Ministry of Justice in Belarus, highlighting the potential for a bilateral ac-

cord. The key discussion points included digitalization of the legal system, capacity building for prosecutors and attorneys, legal education and awareness, legislative drafting and international cooperation, exchange of Bar councils/associates, International Mediation and Arbitration Center (IMAC), and Case Assignment and Management System (CAMS).

The meeting yielded significant outcomes, including an invitation extended by the Minister of Justice for Belarus to the Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Pakistan, and his team to visit Belarus, which was warmly reciprocated. The Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Pakistan, provided a comprehensive briefing on previous treaties and MOUs, laying the groundwork for future cooperation.



QUETTA: Chairman Higher Education Commission Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

## Governor Balochistan says All HEIs determined to decorate new generation with ornament of education

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that all higher educational institutions of the province are determined to decorate our new generation with the ornament of education and Higher Education Commission Islamabad has been a motive behind our achievements during the long period.

The Governor said that although the responsibilities of provinces are increased after 18th amendment, but still it is difficult to move ahead without the financial and technical assistance and guidance. He stressed that we need continuous cooperation and guidance of HEC for ridding of the complex financial and administrative issues.

The Governor was speaking to the Chairman HEC, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed,

who called on him here at the Governor House on Monday.

The Governor said that we would also have to pay attention on learning modern skills to the students besides imparting education to them in view of the modern needs of present era.

For the purpose, there is a need to make the technical and vocational institutions and start IT courses there.

He also stressed the need to make courageous decisions along with creating new resources of income for putting the public sector universities on path of self sufficiency.

He said that if the federal and provincial governments didn't make timely increase in the budget allocated for higher education, then public sector universities can face hardships.

## Chaman District Education group holds vital meeting

**Independent Report**  
CHAMAN: An important meeting of the District Education Group was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Chaman, Habib Ahmed Bangulzai, at the DC Office.

The meeting was attended by ADC General Fida Baloch, AC City Muhammad Afzal, and other relevant officers, including DEO Abdul Qudoos, Deputy DEO Abdullah, EMIEMS Focal Person Jaffar Khan, and

RTSEM Coordinator Jahanzeb.

During the meeting, the DEO Male and Female presented a detailed briefing to the DC Chaman on the current situation of educational institutions in Chaman, attendance of teachers, performance, and other necessary matters.

DC Chaman, while addressing the meeting, said that all possible measures are being taken to improve the morale of the Education Department.



QUETTA: A sit-in has been held at the Provincial Assembly Chowk against the abduction of 8 years old Muhammad Masoor, in Quetta.

## Samina terms PTI's protest as conspiracy to push country towards chaos

QUETTA (APP): Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Human Rights, Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri termed PTI's protest as a conspiracy to push the country towards chaos once again.

In her statement issued here on Monday, she completely rejected the call of dharna and protest by PTI in Islamabad and said that PTI has once again done the crime of creating chaos in the country and inciting innocent people against the country.

She said that the nation has rejected the call of riots in the name of protest, instead of maintaining peace, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is busy attacking the federal government, which is worsening the law and order situation.

The Senator said that PTI led KP government value their leadership more than human lives. Every protest of Tehreek-e-Insaf takes place under a well-thought-out plan precisely when it happens on the arrival of a friendly head of state, she said.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan presents a souvenir to Belarusian Minister Alexey Kushnarenko during the Pakistan-Belarus Business Forum 2024, where both witnessed the signing of 8 MoUs/Agreements.

## MARSEW-7 brings together insightful minds to deepen of maritime security: Naval Chief

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf has said that Maritime Security Workshop (MARSEW-7) brings together some of the most insightful minds from the government, military, academia, media and industry, with a common goal: to deepen our understanding of maritime security in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

In his message on the occasion of MARSEW-7, the Naval Chief said it is a matter of great satisfaction for me to observe the evolution of Maritime Security Workshop from its humble beginning in 2017 to an event of national significance with the organization of 7th edition of MARSEW at Pakistan Navy War College.

He said the Workshop has provided a shared platform to maritime stakeholders for raising awareness about maritime potential of Pakistan and dilate upon



logical advancements have created both opportunities and risks in the IOR. In this background, securing our maritime domain is not merely a national priority but a necessity, requiring cooperation, innovation, and vigilance, he added.

Besides security challenges in the maritime domain, our rich maritime resources offer great potential for economic prosperity. The country's economic future is inextricably linked to the sea which serves as mankind's last reservoir for sustenance, he said.

The Naval Chief said that despite the fact that oceans and seas are regarded as the common heritage of mankind, claims and counter claims overseas resources are spawning friction as never witnessed before. The ongoing developments within the IOR have a direct bearing on Pakistan's maritime security.

He said the growth of international trade, the rise of transnational threats and the rapid pace of technology

means to harness this untapped domain, said a news release issued by Directorate General Public Relations (Pakistan Navy) on Monday.

The Naval Chief said as the global maritime landscape evolves, our immediate neighborhood, the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is facing unprecedented challenges including geo-political contestation and nuclearization.

He said the growth of international trade, the rise of transnational threats and the rapid pace of technology

## Belarusian minister explores handcrafted rickshaw

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan brought a touch of Pakistani culture to the Pakistan-Belarus Business Forum 2024 by showcasing a beautifully handcrafted rickshaw.

The two-person taxi, featuring intricate designs and highlighting local craftsmanship, drew the admiration of Belarusian Energy Minister Alexey Kushnarenko.

In a lighthearted moment after the forum, Minister Kushnarenko explored the rickshaw, sitting inside to appreciate its design and comfort.

Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan, while sharing the details, highlighted the hard work and artistry behind the vehicle.

He also extended an offer to export these iconic rickshaws to Belarus, emphasizing their cultural and economic value.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Zahoar Ahmed Buledi talking with Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti during Balochistan Assembly session

## Awareness drive against HIV & AIDS launched in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan AIDS Control Program launched human immunodeficiency virus infection (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) awareness campaign in Quetta on Monday.

Balochistan AIDS Control Program, in collaboration with Rickshaw Union and SSP Traffic Ms Shabana started an HIV/AIDS awareness campaign by putting up banners on rickshaws.

The event was inaugurated by Provincial Coordinator Dr Zulfikar Ali Baloch and President of the Rickshaw Union Haji Tariq.

The Awareness drive was attended by Logistics Coordinator Muhammad Khan Zehri, Finance Officer Abdul Rauf Kiyazai, CEO Quetta Foundation Rozina Khilji and the Balochistan AIDS Control Program team.

In the campaign, important messages for HIV/AIDS prevention were displayed on rickshaws, which were driven around the city to spread awareness among the public. The Coordinator Muhammad Khan Zehri said that the event was a success thanks to the dedication of the team members and the cooperation of the traffic police.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Sadiq Umrani, Parliamentary Secretary Haji Barkat Ali Rind, Opposition leader Mir Younis Aziz Zehri and MPAs Zafar Agha and Khair Jan Baloch holding meeting

## Naqvi pays tribute to martyred Constable, vows justice against violent protesters

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi expressed profound grief and paid tribute to Constable Mubashir, who was martyred while performing his duty during violent protests near Hakla.

In a heartfelt statement, the minister extended condolences and solidarity to the family of the martyred officer, acknowledging his ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. "Constable Mubashir achieved the honorable rank of martyrdom while fulfilling his responsibilities," Naqvi stated, emphasizing the bravery and dedication of the late officer.

Minister Naqvi condemned the violence, pledging swift action against those responsible. "The perpetrators of this violence will be brought to justice," he assured.

## Pak believes in Intl cooperation to address common challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Danesh Kumar noted that governments, parliaments, and civil society have distinct yet complementary responsibilities in fostering peaceful societies. Senator Danesh Kumar and Misbah Khar, Advisor to the Chairman of the Senate, are representing Pakistan at the conference, according to a news release received here on Monday.

Speaking at the 1st Plenary Session titled "Advancing Global Architecture of Peace, Peacebuilding, Reconciliation, and Tolerance: Synergy of Governments, Parliaments, and Civil Society" in Cambodia, he said, "Our collective efforts to promote peace and harmony hold great importance in a world divided by conflict and inequality."

Highlighting the roles of various stakeholders,

Senator Danesh Kumar noted that governments, parliaments, and civil society have distinct yet complementary responsibilities in fostering peaceful societies.

Senator Danesh Kumar and Misbah Khar, Advisor to the Chairman of the Senate, are representing Pakistan at the conference, according to a news release received here on Monday.

Our journey toward peace and reconciliation is ongoing. Despite enormous human and economic losses due to terrorism, Pakistan remains committed to unity and understanding.

## Pak-Belarus bilateral trade potential needs to be enhanced through trade diversification: Commerce Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Monday said the current trade volume between Pakistan and Belarus does not reflect the potential of the two countries' economic capability, and both countries need to diversify their trade with each other capitalizing on the potential of their strong sectors.

All economic sectors are open to foreign investment and priority sectors for foreign investment include energy, infrastructure, telecommunications, manufacturing, minerals, ICT, agriculture, and many more, the minister said.

Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan said this while addressing the 'Pakistan Belarus Business Forum' along with the Minister for Energy of the Republic of Belarus Mr. Aleksei Kushnarenko here and a large number of business leaders participated in the forum.

The minister said that eight B2B MoUs/Con-

tracts will be signed during the Forum that reflects the complementarity of bilateral trade and these will pave the way forward for more to happen.

He said that it is a great honour for me to co-chair the Pakistan-Belarus Business Forum with Mr. Aleksei Kushnarenko, Minister of Energy, the Republic of Belarus. We also co-chaired the 7th Session of the Pakistan-Belarus Joint Ministerial Commission held on 25-26 September 2024 in Islamabad. And I feel happy to share that the majority of the decisions we took in the JMC are materializing. This would not have been possible without the support and collaboration of Mr. Aleksei Kushnarenko.

Many decisions were taken and now we are seeing its practical way forward, he added. "I see huge potential to increase trade between Pakistan and Belarus in all sectors, particularly food, Pharma, textile, leather, logistics and energy. To actualize this potential both sides need to work diligently to minimize tariff and non-tariff barriers along with rationalizing import requirements to offer each other meaningful market access, however, I feel that the forums and steps would help us in achieving the key milestone of growth," he said.

He said "I am quite hopeful that these engagements will help us increase our trade with each other and diversify our trade baskets as well. I also hope that during the discussions and B2B meetings, both sides will dilate upon the areas of cooperation comprehensively and will come up with practical solutions to the challenges we are facing and a way forward to enhance bilateral trade, investment, and connectivity."

The minister said that the two countries' exports and trade have a major focus on surgical instruments comprising about 62% of the total exports to Belarus and imports of Belarus tractors and machinery.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan meeting with Minister of Transport and Communications Belarus H.E. Alexey Lyakhnovich.

## Direct flights to Moscow, trade corridor with Belarus, Central Asia on the agenda: Aleem

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan on Monday emphasized Pakistan's commitment to enhancing connectivity through the launch of direct flights to Moscow and Belarus, alongside the development of trade corridors linking China, Afghanistan, Central Asia, and Belarus.

These priorities were shared during a joint meet-

ing with Belarusian Minister for Transport Alexei Lyakhnovich, attended by senior officials from the communication sectors of both countries, said a press release.

Speaking on the occasion, Alexei Lyakhnovich, accompanied by the President of Belarus, extended an invitation to the Federal Minister to visit Belarus, emphasizing the importance of enhancing connectivity through railways and roads.

"Cross-border trade is pivotal for strengthening the economy and promoting bilateral relations," Lyakhnovich stated, terming the visit a significant step toward fostering collaboration.

Abdul Aleem Khan welcomed the delegation comprising 68 members, including the President of Belarus and other dignitaries, noting its potential to leave a lasting positive impact on Pakistan-Belarus relations.

## Gilani reaches Saudi Arabia on five-day visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousof Raza Gilani, leading a delegation on Monday reached Saudi Arabia on a five-day official visit.

According to a news release, upon arrival, the delegation was warmly received by the Speaker of the Shura Council Sheikh Dr. Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Ibrahim Al Al-Sheikh.

"Pakistan and Saudi Arabia share historic and brotherly relations," said the Chairman of the Senate.

He expressed pride in the enduring friendship between the two nations, adding, "The bond between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia will continue to grow stronger with time."



CAMBODIA: Senator Danesh Kumar signing Universal Peace Charter: For People and the Planet at the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace (IPTP).

## CM for running BA's affairs in accordance with rules

**Independent Reporter**  
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has insisted that the provincial assembly may be run as per its rules.

He said that the members should pose question at the time of question, and deliver speech at the time of speeches.

The Chief Minister was speaking in the session of provincial assembly here on Monday. The Deputy Speaker, Ms. Ghazala Gola was in the chair.

The Chief Minister said that there happens to be question only about the rules of assembly, not speech. He also said that other assemblies are functioning, and anyone should not make mockery of us.

On this, the member provincial assembly, Maulana Hidayatur Rehman said that neither we are allowed to deliver speech nor raise question. He said that we are being

compelled to say that everything is fine in the province.

Later, he also pointed out that the family members of Musawwar Khan Kakar, child kidnapped from Quetta, are sitting in cold for last nine days.

He alleged that interference is being made in his and other members of the opposition in the province.

Meanwhile, the draft act of the Balochistan Employees Social Security Institution was handed over to the concerned standing committee of the assembly.

The draft act was tabled by the Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar. The leader of Opposition, Younas Aziz Zehri suggested the House to hand over the draft act to the standing committee.

Later, the session of assembly was adjourned till 03:00 PM on November 28, 2024.



QUETTA: MPA Zamrak Khan Achakzai, Asghar Tareen, Nasrullah Zarey, Rasheed Nasir Ahmed Jan, Abdul Rahim Kakar, Haji Bashit, Malik Malang, Mir Yasin Mengal, Akhtar Kakar, Amanullah Mehtarzai, Gul Khil, Munir Kakar, Ghulam Nabi and others attending meeting of Dharna Committee for recovery of Musawir Kakar