

# Independent

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## Big blow to PTI

### IHC bars protests, urges interior minister to engage PTI for peaceful dialogue

**Monitoring Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: In light of recent legislative developments surrounding public protests, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued a directive prohibiting demonstrations, rallies, and sit-ins that violate the new law on public gatherings. However, the court has instructed Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi to initiate peaceful negotiations with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to ensure that future protests are conducted within constitutional limits. Chief Justice Aamer Farooq issued a five-page written order in response to PTI's petition challenging the restrictions on public protests on Thursday. The IHC directed the Interior Secretary to form a committee, either under the leadership of the Interior Minister or a suitable official, to facilitate dialogue with PTI's leadership. The committee will also brief PTI leaders on the security sensitivities linked to the Belarussian President's upcoming visit, stressing the need for peaceful proceedings. The Chief Commissioner of Islamabad was also directed to join the committee, as the court expressed confidence that this outreach would likely foster some progress.

### CJCS visits IDEAS-24, holds wide-ranging talks with officials of different countries

RAWALPINDI (APP): General Sahir Shamsad Mirza, NI (M), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJSC) on Thursday visited the 12th International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS-24) and held wide-



-ranging talks on the sidelines. The CJSC held separate meetings with numerous officials including Defence Ministers, Commanders of Armed Forces and other important officials from different countries, including Türkiye, Azerbaijan, South Africa, Argentina, Malaysia, UAE, Cambodia, Kingdom of Eswatini, Gambia, Brunei, Maldives and Malawi, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

During the aforementioned meetings, key aspects of the defense and security relationship were discussed. All parties reflected on various areas of bilateral security and cooperation, especially in defense production.

The dignitaries expressed a strong interest in deepening their engagement with Pakistan's defense sector.

The CJSC also gave a keynote speech at a seminar, titled "Pakistan's Defence Production and Potential: Challenges and Way Forward".

The Chairman JCSC emphasized that Pakistan's defence industry is the force behind equipping the battle-hardened Armed Forces of Pakistan.

He further said that through superior R&D and using innovative and cost-effective solutions, Pakistan's defence industries are not only fulfilling country's essential defence requirements but also exploring avenues of collaboration in the international defence market. He noted that the platform of IDEAS is an ideal opportunity for publicizing Pakistan's well-developed Defence Industrial Complex to the international community.

The Chairman JCSC also visited Pakistan Pavilion and lauded the efforts of Tri-Services in showcasing Pakistan's indigenous defence related equipment manufactured at par with global standards.

### No release, no reprieve; Imran Khan unyielding on Nov. 24 protest plans

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan has reiterated that his party's planned protest in Islamabad on November 24 will proceed, asserting that no assurances have been given for his release.

In a statement from Adiala Jail, Khan said that an offer was made through party leaders Ali Amin Gandapur and Barrister Gohar to suspend the protest, but his demands for the release of detained party members were not met.

Imran emphasised that the government's decision not to free him,

despite Islamabad High Court (IHC) approving his bail, demonstrates a lack of sincerity in negotiations.

He accused authorities of attempting to extend his incarceration and thwart the protest.

"We are left with no choice but to protest like a living nation," Imran remarked, adding that the November 24 rally will see participation from Pakistanis abroad who enjoy freedom in other countries.

He asserted that negotiations would continue, though he expressed doubts about the government's seriousness.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over meeting of Board of Directors of Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade. CEO Major Kabeer Khan Zarkoon and Vice Chairman Bilal Khan Kakar are also present.

### Balochistan Board of Investment & Trade to be made more effective: GoB decides to hold "Balochistan Business Summit" for promotion of investment in Balochistan

CM Sarfraz Bugti assures foolproof security and all other facilities to investors in province; facilitation centers to be set up to facilitate local and foreign investors

#### Independent Report

QUETTA: In a significant development for the cause of attracting investors in Balochistan, the provincial government has decided to hold "Balochistan Business Summit" for promotion of investment in the province.

The government has also decided to make the Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade (BoI&T) effective. In addition to this, the government decided to set up facilitation centers to facilitate the local and foreign investors in the province.

These decisions were made during a meeting of the Board of Directors of BoI&T held with Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz

Bugti in the chair here on Thursday. Certain suggestions were considered for promotion of investment during the course of meeting.

He urged the investors to come to Balochistan fearlessly, we would provide full security to them.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti mentioned that private investors have deep interest for establishing more industrial estates in the province.

He also said that we would provide conducive environment to the investors by ensuring provision of sui gas, water, infrastructure and other basic facilities. He directed to the BoI&T to formulate such projects, which may increase the resources of province in future.

He assured that foolproof security would be provided to the investors

in the province. In addition to this, all necessary facilities would also be provided to the investors for establishing factories, he added.

The meeting approved appointment of head of the BoI&T. The Chief Minister formed a committee headed by the Chief Secretary for implementation on the decisions and other initiatives of the government.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister said that Balochistan has a long coastal belt along with the mineral resources. He added that this is the most suitable region for investment.

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### At least 40 killed in gun attack on passenger vans in Kurram district

SHO says 25 people injured; Kurram DC says two separate convoys were of members of the Shia community; President Zardari, KP CM condemn attack.

KURRAM (Agencies): At least 40 people were killed and several others injured when unidentified gunmen opened fire on passenger vehicles in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's (K-P) Kurram district on Thursday.

The convoy, which was en route from Parachinar to Peshawar, came under heavy fire in the Ochut area, a remote part of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province.

According to police, the gunmen targeted the convoy from surrounding hills, hitting several vehicles with automatic gunfire.

Authorities reported that the attack left 40 dead, including a woman, while several of the wounded are in critical condition, raising

concerns that the death toll may increase.

Soon after the incident, medical teams quickly responded, transferring injured passengers to nearby hospitals.

The provincial government has deployed additional security forces to the region, while officials confirmed a perimeter has been established around Ochut as search operations continue for the attackers.

The motivations behind the ambush remain unclear, and no group has yet claimed responsibility.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, while condemning the incident at a press conference in Islamabad, confirmed that

38 people were martyred in the gun attack.

Following the incident, Naqvi contacted Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to discuss the growing terrorist attacks in the province. Both agreed to enhance cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

Meanwhile President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday strongly condemned the incident of firing took place in Kurram district targeting the passengers vehicles.

The president, in a statement, expressed grief over the loss of precious lives in the incident and called it a coward and inhumane act.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif chairing a review meeting of the Public Procurement and Good Governance.

### President of Belarus to undertake official visit to Pakistan from Nov 25-27

ISLAMABAD (APP): At the invitation of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko will undertake an official visit to Pakistan from November 25-27.

President Lukashenko will hold extensive talks with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and discuss areas of bilateral cooperation and engagement. Several agreements and Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) will also be signed during the visit, according to a curtain raiser issued by the Foreign Office.

### ECP strips Adil Bazai of NA membership over floor-crossing

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday officially stripped PML-N MNA Adil Bazai of his National Assembly membership for representing NA-262 Quetta-I due to floor-crossing.

The ECP issued its verdict on the disqualification references filed against Bazai and subsequently released a notification declaring the constituency vacant under Article 63A(4) of the Constitution.

In a notification, the ECP de-notified Adil Khan Bazai as the MNA from NA-262 Quetta-I, in accordance with its orders issued on November 21, 2024, under Article 63A(1)(b)(iii) of the Constitution.

This decision followed the Speaker of the National Assembly referring Bazai's name to the ECP for disqualification, requesting the electoral body to remove him from his National Assembly membership.

### BA session to resume today

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The session of Balochistan Assembly is scheduled to resume at 03:00 PM today (Friday) in Quetta. The Speaker, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai will preside over the session. The debate on law and order situation is likely to be held in the session.

### PM for ensuring third party validation in all government procurements

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday directed the relevant authorities to ensure third party validation including quality insurance in all the government procurements.

Chairing a meeting held here to review good governance and public procurements, the prime minister also directed to bring reforms in Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) and purge the authority of any type of influence.

"Procurement of services and purchasing in all government institutions in a transparent way is the top priority of the government," the prime minister said adding that ensuring transparency in the government institutions' procurement would help building the foreign investors' confidence on Pakistan.

The prime minister directed to establish a committee, separate from the procurement agency, to address complaints related to the procurement process.

He also stressed to appoint qualified, professional, and experienced experts at PPRA on merit.

The prime minister instructed all government departments to use e-Procurement (e-PADS) besides establishing special procurement cells in government departments for purchasing and acquiring services.

Transparency in government affairs is essential for national development, he said.

During the meeting, the prime minister was informed that the review of the PPRA Ordinance and related rules and regulations had been completed, and the amendments would soon be presented to the federal cabinet for approval.

### SCP summons IGPs, Home Secretaries in missing children case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan has expressed serious displeasure over the reports on the state of missing children and directed all provinces to submit a detailed report that how many children have been abducted and how many are being recovered.

The Court summoned Inspectors General of Police and Home Secretaries of all the four provinces

for next hearing to be held on 28 this month.

The six member Constitutional Bench of the SCP, headed by Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan and comprising Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Musarrat Hilali and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan was hearing a petition regarding missing children in Pakistan.



KARACHI: A view of Counter-terrorism exercise during ongoing International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) 2024.

### Murad urges federal govt to convene CCI meeting

KARACHI (APP): Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday called on the federal government to convene a meeting of the Council of Common Interests (CCI).

According to statement issued by CM House spokesman, CM Sindh called on the federal government to convene CCI meeting under Article 154 (3) of the Constitution.

### Mohsin Naqvi rules out talks with PTI founder

Govt to secure Red Zone during visit of Belarus' President; Interior ministry orders KP bureaucracy to ensure state resources not used; Section 144 in Rawalpindi till Nov 26

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has ruled out negotiations with the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), stating that dialogue cannot take place under threats.

Talking to the media after appearing in the Islamabad High Court on Thursday, Naqvi emphasized the government's focus on ensuring the safety of the city and upcoming state events, as a high-level Belarussian delegation, including their president, is set to visit Pakistan next week.

Naqvi revealed that stringent security measures, such as placing containers and potentially suspending mobile services, would be implemented to protect the visiting delegation and maintain order.

"The safety of state guests is our top priority, followed by the security of Islamabad's residents. Protests during such crucial

times cannot be allowed," he asserted.

Addressing the PTI's recent protests, Naqvi criticized their timing, which he claimed often coincides with significant national events. He urged the public to evaluate the motives behind these actions.

"Protests are not prohibited, but they must be confined to their own districts and provinces. Marching on Islamabad will not be permitted."

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Military option**

Considering that Balochistan has been experiencing a steady wave of terrorist violence over the past few months, particularly involving Baloch separatist groups, it is no surprise that the state has decided to use armed force to quell the insurgency.

Using the platform of the Apex Committee, the civil and military leadership said on Tuesday that an operation would be launched to counter terrorism and separatist violence in the province, while Nacta would be revitalised under the vision of Azm-i-Istehkam. The meeting also announced that a National and Provincial Intelligence Fusion and Threat Assessment Centre would be created and a "whole-of-system approach" adopted.

It is clear why the state has to take firm action to restore peace in Balochistan. In August, terrorists launched a coordinated series of attacks in different parts of the province, such incidents have been occurring since then with disturbing regularity. They include the massacre of miners in Dukki in October, as well as the bombings in Mastung and at the Quetta railway station earlier this month. In fact, the railway station atrocity, in which a large number of civilians were martyred along with security personnel, may have played a decisive role in the state's decision to launch a military operation.

Apart from these incidents, there have been numerous grisly murders of non-Baloch workers, as well as the suicide bombing in October outside Karachi airport in which two Chinese nationals were killed. The latter incident threatened to imperil Pakistan's relationship with Beijing. All these violent acts have been linked to Baloch separatists.

Yet it should be remembered that although Balochistan has witnessed numerous military operations over the decades, they have largely failed to bring long-lasting peace to the province. This time, with Nacta on board, things could be different. While the state goes after terrorists, innocent people should not be hauled away and there must be transparency regarding the operations. If relatives of the insurgents, especially women and children, are targeted in the name of tackling terrorism, it will be counterproductive and breed more disaffection.

As this paper has said before, while restoring peace is essential, addressing Balochistan's socioeconomic deprivation is equally important as terrorists exploit poverty and underdevelopment in the resource-rich province to turn people against the state. Moreover, the state will need to keep channels open with the Afghan Taliban to ensure that Baloch insurgents are not able to find sanctuary in their country.

Better ties with Kabul can help thwart the malignant designs of the "hostile foreign powers" that the Apex Committee identified. Some regional states, such as India, are deepening relations with the Afghan Taliban. For peace in Balochistan and elsewhere in the country, Pakistan cannot afford to ignore these developments and must keep the lines open with Kabul.

**Romancing the word**

F.S. Aijazuddin

Could this space be better used than to pen a requiem to a fellow writer and columnist? Khaled Ahmed passed away last Sunday, in Lahore, just as the suffocating smog lifted, making life for those who have survived him livable.

Inevitably, any memoir of a friend must begin with one's first encounter. I met Khaled in the winter of 1966. I had returned from London after qualifying as a chartered accountant. Khaled was still studying at Government College, Lahore. We were both invited by Farrukhnigar Aziz to perform in Anton Chekhov's heavy drama *The Seagull*.

Nawab Kalabagh (then governor West Pakistan) had banned plays being performed by men with women. Mixed students in Government College could not act together but the GC stage was available to host amateur actors. Farrukhnigar cobbled together a small group which christened itself the Alpha Players (the first of hopefully many).

Shamim Ahmed (later Mrs Zafar Hilaly) played the lead role of Nina. Agha Ghazanfar (later Khaled's colleague in the Civil Service) played her love sick swain Konstantin. Khaled had a lesser role as the village doctor Dom. With more ambition than talent, I played the lead role of the amorous novelist Trigorin. I also volunteered to design the Russian costumes and the sets.

The challenge came in finding a dead seagull in upcountry Lahore. I fabricated a facsimile in cloth. It should have worked, except that when Konstantin tossed the bird at Nina's feet, it bounced, and bounced, and bounced.

After graduating but before joining our

Foreign Service, Khaled worked with Sohail Iftikhar (son of the Congress politician Mian Iftikharuddin). Sohail had established Nigarishat, with the aim of publishing Urdu translations of historical classics. Khaled's bilingual talents were evident in his first publication — a translation into Urdu of Niccolao Manucci's *Storia Do Mogor*, Vol. 1: Or Mogul India; 1653-1708, an account of Mughal history under Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb.

Khaled often recalled Nigarishat's teething problems, of Sohail's oversize desk that got wedged on the staircase, forcing every visitor to clamber up or slide down.

Khaled's facility with languages enabled him to master Russian. He served in Moscow under ambassador Jamsheed Marker. Khaled recalled Marker and himself being summoned to the Kremlin in the early hours one wintry morning. The Russians wanted to express their displeasure over the Indo-Pak conflict in December 1971. Ambassador Marker and Khaled were made to wait for some time. Then they heard feet stride purposefully along a very long corridor. The sound reached the door of the waiting room. A senior Russian diplomat entered, looked at them, and said: "You will regret this." He then left as abruptly and slammed the door behind him. His footsteps resounded as he retraced his heavy tread along the cavernous corridor.

In time, Khaled left diplomacy to its own devices. He rejoined an earlier love — philology. He consorted with a harem of words. He chose to live in his own world, one in which suits and ties and personal ambition had no place. He preferred a motorcycle to a motor car. He wore shalwar-kameez long be-

fore and after Mr Z.A. Bhutto and Gen Ziaul Haq had made it mandatory.

He helped an upwardly mobile Pathan entrepreneur Rehmat Shah Afridi establish an English newspaper *The Frontier Post*, here in Lahore. Despite Khaled's editorial skills, the newspaper lost money by the bagful. Once, Rehmat Shah admitted that when he asked his co-Pathan sponsors in Peshawar whether they should not cut their losses, he was told: "Your job is to run the paper. Our job is to find the money for it." He added candidly: "We see it as an admission fee. How else can we penetrate the Punjabi upper class?"

During his long career, Khaled jumped from one journalistic ice-floe to another — writing for whichever paper or journal could sustain his intellectual weight. He wrote imitable articles and editorials, ending his career as consulting editor with the Pakistani edition of *Newsweek*.

On a personal level, Khaled mentored my wife Shahnaz during her early days as a writer. He became a kind and perceptive reviewer of my books as and when they came out. We exchanged our publications as politicians trade un-pointed barbs, more out of professional respect rather than a vengeful rivalry.

Khaled's only son lives abroad. Khaled's lineal descendants though are his writings. His genealogy is traceable in his kinship with words. Khaled Ahmed has gone. He has left behind 20 books and a plethora of informed, often provocative, always thoughtful opinions. His enduring legacy though is that special aura, what the French philosopher Gaston Bachelard described as "a special kind of beauty ... born in language, of language, and for language". -- Courtesy Dawn

**Resource dilemma**

Umer Farooq

Pakistan has turned to two US law firms to fend off Tehran's penalty claim over the delayed gas pipeline project with Iran. Does this sound familiar? It should if we recall Reko Diq. Just recently, Pakistan settled a lawsuit with Barrick Gold over the Reko Diq mining project. And here we are again, staring down the barrel of another costly legal showdown — estimated around \$18 billion.

Pakistan's most profound lesson from history may be this: it seldom truly learns from it. The same mistakes are replayed like a broken record. The past seems to hold wisdom, but for some reason, we don't heed it, and then arrive at a point when the world's courts have to chase us down. Action only begins when a summons arrives — until then, we're content to sit back and watch.

Pipelines have become synonymous with anti-climate pursuits, often cutting through indigenous lands and infringing on land rights.

But the Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline isn't just about energy; it's a display of global power dynamics. Here, geopolitics takes centre stage, overshadowing environmental concerns and indigenous rights.

In 2009, Islamabad inked a deal with Tehran to import up to a billion cubic feet of gas daily via a cross-border pipeline. Fast forward to 2024, and Pakistan has yet to lay a single pipe on its side. The reason? Ostensibly the fear of American sanctions. Iran, having completed the pipeline at its end, is demanding that Pakistan fulfil its commitment or face a hefty \$18bn penalty. In response, Pakistan has enlisted two US-based law firms to defend its

inaction. This legal manoeuvring underscores a decade of missed opportunities and geopolitical hesitations. As energy shortages persist, one wonders when Pakistan will move beyond excuses and pipelines on paper.

The US threat of sanctions over this pipeline project with Iran is a reminder of Western influence dictating local energy choices. Pakistan faces a massive gas supply-demand gap that is only growing wider. This cross-border pipeline could deliver up to a billion cubic feet of gas per day to an energy-starved nation, which is desperate for relief.

The winds of change are blowing, and America is set to have a different administration; however, its Iran policy may remain unchanged or even take a harsher turn compared to the one under the Biden administration. Hence, expecting a different stance from the US on the Iran-Pakistan pipeline is not realistic.

As the global balance shifts from West to East — despite the election of Donald Trump as the next US president — the rules of the power game are bound to change. Western hegemony is on the decline. Pakistan — and many other countries — may no longer have to navigate their energy needs under the shadow of Western power. This transfer of power will not only alter the way international challenges are addressed but will also redefine the very nature of those challenges.

Pakistan has come to realise its potential in abundant natural resources and the pressing need to meet its own energy demands independently. Yet, we still lack effective policies related to the resources management, be it exploration or import of re-

sources. For a country of our size, meeting energy demands requires solid, well-thought-out plans. Major decisions must account for global consequences. Poor management will leave us vulnerable to court battles. In a dollar-starved economy, we cannot afford to waste taxpayer money on lawsuits.

With Trump's reelection, Pakistan faces even greater urgency in addressing the pipeline issue. We must anticipate a hard-line stance from the new Trump administration, which is likely to increase the pressure on Pakistan to abandon projects that involve Iran, thus raising the stakes for our economy. Avoiding costly fines and tensions with Iran requires immediate action.

Pakistan should explore alternative financing and partnerships for its energy projects, ones that align with global dynamics yet meet our critical energy needs. By resolving this quickly, we can protect our economy from punitive measures and redirect funds to essential sectors rather than legal battles.

Looking forward, Pakistan needs a strategic, long-term approach to energy and resource management. This means establishing policies that leverage our natural resources sustainably while remaining adaptable to geopolitical shifts. Developing our domestic infrastructure for energy independence, coupled with smart international alliances, will better position Pakistan to navigate external pressures without compromising on economic stability.

It is time to prioritise a resilient energy strategy that safeguards the country's future. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**Ethiopian embassy, TDAP agree to join hands for Single Country Exhibition**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Embassy of Ethiopia and the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) on Thursday agreed to forge collaboration for holding the Single Country Exhibition in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia during the next year in a successful manner.

The crucial collaboration came under discussion during a meeting between Dr. Jemal Bekir Abdula, Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary of Ethiopia to Pakistan, and Zubair Motiwala, Chief Executive of the TDAP.

The meeting was also attended by Sheryar Taj, Secretary TDAP, Abdul Karim Memon DG TDAP, and Ibrahim Tawab, Honorary Consul to Ethiopia in Karachi.

During the meeting, both sides discussed

strategies to sensitize the traders of both the countries about the business and trade opportunities in each other countries' major economic sectors including agriculture and agro processing, pharmaceutical, surgical items, automotive, Information Technology, leather and leather products, construction material, steel and aluminum.

They agreed to launch a joint awareness campaign in all the major cities of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to mobilize the business community for their maximum participation in the Single Country Exhibition.

Ambassador Dr. Jemal said the Government of Ethiopia has undertaken the Home Grown Economic Reforms which

had shown promising results, addressing macro-economic imbalances, increasing productivity, creating ease of doing business and providing a conducive environment for attracting the foreign direct investment.

He said the capital city of Ethiopia—Addis Ababa—is a third diplomatic hub hosting a number of international conferences every year including the African Union Summit. "This shows the strategic importance of Ethiopia and safe and secure environment for the global citizens."

He said Ethiopia offered a comparative advantage to the Pakistani investors in terms of strategic location, cheap, clean and green energy, skilled labour, and on top of that full-fledged support from the Government.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a meeting with FBR officials to appreciate their performance for Sales Tax fraud detection.

**TAPI project crucial for meeting country's energy needs: Dr. Musadik**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr Musadik Malik, emphasized Pakistan's determination to complete the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project, calling it crucial for meeting the country's energy needs. In a meeting on Thursday with Turkmenistan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Atadjan Movlamov, the Minister expressed gratitude for Turkmenistan's unwavering commitment to

the TAPI initiative. The ambassador invited Dr. Musadik Malik to visit Turkmenistan, which the Minister warmly appreciated.

During the meeting, Ambassador Movlamov commended Pakistan's recent economic progress and highlighted an improvement in the country's financial situation.

He noted growing international investor interest in Pakistan, attributing the credit to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his team's efforts.

**PCJCCI stresses establishing 'Digital Silk Road'**

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan-China Joint Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) has urged the government to take a lead in developing "Digital Silk Road" for having maximum benefits out of the economic corridor to be constructed by China in the Asia-Pacific region.

PCJCCI President Nazir Hussain stated this during a think tank session held here at PCJCCI Secretariat Thursday.

He said the roads and railways are easy enough to build, but it is hard to cultivate mental harmony among people that holds more importance in regional

connectivity. Information has become a core resource and is crucial to international cooperation.

"The next leap for regional connectivity is to create Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway," he said.

Infrastructure development is progressing steadily for the China proposed Belt and Road Initiative, but parallel with a communication and infrastructure network connecting Asia, Europe, and Africa, there is dire need of breaking the barriers of information among the connecting nations, he added.

**Pakistan wins "Best Pavilion" award at Global Sourcing Expo**

ISLAMABAD (APP): In the visionary leadership of the Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Pakistan won the "Best Pavilion" Award at Global Sourcing Expo.

In a moment for Pakistan, the country's pavilion was awarded the prestigious "Best Pavilion" award at the Global Sourcing Expo held at the Melbourne Convention Center from November 19 to 21, 2024, said a press release issued here on Thursday.

This achievement highlights leadership of Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, whose strategic directives ensured

Pakistan's outstanding representation on the international stage.

The Global Sourcing Expo, the largest exhibition for textiles, leather, and home textile products in the Oceania region, featured exhibitors from major exporting nations, including China, India, Vietnam, Cambodia, and South Africa. Amid fierce competition, Pakistan's pavilion stood out for its superior design, engaging displays, and the exceptional quality of its showcased products.

This success is the result of Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan's forward-thinking approach.



ISLAMABAD: The Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan, Alibek Bakayev, meets with Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain.

**Sharjah-Pakistan Business Roundtable highlights shared vision for economic growth**

SHARJAH (APP): The Sharjah FDI Office (Invest in Sharjah) and the Pakistan Business Council in Sharjah hosted the Sharjah-Pakistan Business Roundtable here on Thursday.

The event brought together over 200 investors and entrepreneurs to explore opportunities for strengthening economic ties and fostering bilateral investments between Sharjah and Pakistan.

Speaking at the event, Consul General Hussain Muhammad highlighted the historic and deep-rooted relationship

between Pakistan and the UAE.

He emphasized that the bond between the two countries is built on shared values, traditions, and a collective commitment to progress. He further noted that the leadership of Pakistan and the UAE share mutual trust and confidence and have a strong desire to expand political, trade, and economic relations.

"Pakistan, with its resilient economy, workforce, and abundant natural resources, offers immense potential for collaboration.

**Canadian-Pakistanis briefed about Roshan Digital Account's benefits**

OTTAWA (APP): The Pakistan High Commission, Ottawa, on Wednesday hosted a webinar at which the Canadian-Pakistanis community was apprised of the benefits and opportunities offered by the Roshan Digital Account (RDA), a flagship programme of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) in collaboration with Pakistani commercial banks. RDA allows overseas Pakistanis to have access to banking services within Pakistan without having to visit a consulate, embassy, or a bank branch.

The webinar was organized in cooperation with the Bank of Punjab and State Bank of Pakistan to engage with the Pakistani diaspora across Canada. The panelists included Shah Faisal Kakar, Acting High

Commissioner; Syed Ali Raza, Head of Pakistan Remittance Initiative (PRI) at the State Bank of Pakistan; Nofel Daud, Chief Digital Officer, Bank of Punjab; Salman Saeed, Head of Home Remittances Division; Ishtiaq Ahmed Akil, Consul General, Montreal; Khalil Ahmed Bajwa, Consul General, Toronto; Ghulam Hussain, Acting Consul General, Vancouver; and Altamash Janjua, Trade and Investment Counsellor, Canada. A press release of the High Commission said the webinar highlighted the integral role of the Canadian-Pakistanis community comprising over half a million individuals contributing significantly to diverse sectors such as finance, technology, healthcare, and economic development.

**Pak total liquid foreign reserves near \$16 billion**

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan stood at US\$ 15,967.7 million as of November 15, 2024 while the forex reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan increased to \$ 11,288 million.

"During the week ended on 15-Nov-2024, SBP reserves increased by US\$ 29 million to US\$ 11,288.0 million," the State Bank of Pakistan, informed in a statement issued here on Thursday. Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were recorded as \$ 4,679.7 million.

Total liquid foreign reserves held by the country, in the previous week ended on November 08, 2024, were \$ 15,965.5 million.

## Maryam meets NDU delegation, briefs participants on Punjab development initiatives

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif Thursday met the participants in the 26<sup>th</sup> National Security Workshop of the National Defence University (NDU), who gave her the title of 'Super CM'.

She gave the participants a two-hour briefing on the government performance. The head of the National Security Workshop delegation said that it was a blessing to come to Punjab, where sincerity and effort for the people is clearly visible. "By coming to Punjab, we have come from darkness to light," he added.

The CM said, "The overall situation in Punjab

is better than other provinces. No recommendation in any sort of appointment has been made in Punjab. I do not pay heed to anyone on the issue of merit. Every sector is in a state of decline due to lack of accountability. The journey of development and prosperity gets affected due to political instability. Unfortunately the governments are not allowed to function properly."

She added, "Every work that has a positive impact on the lives of 15 crore people is my priority. We want to control smog as soon as possible. Positive effects

of government's measures are coming to light. People lose their lives due to lack of health and treatment facilities. "We are all Pakistanis irrespective of our political affiliations. Our aim is to promote patriotism. Inflation is low and foreign exchange reserves are increasing in Pakistan. The stock market has broken all records; IT exports are increasing. With increasing exports, dependence on foreign aid decreases, we will be able to live our lives with pride and dignity." Maryam Nawaz said, "Controlling inflation is an uphill task, bringing it down from 38 per cent to 7 per cent is a mega achievement."



LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in a group photo with a delegation of Parliamentary Leader of PPP Punjab Assembly, Syed Ali Haider Gillani, and MNA, Syed Ali Qasim Gillani in Governor House.

## PPP is not in favor of bill to impose agricultural tax on farmers: Governor

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Parliamentary Leader of Pakistan People's Party in Punjab Assembly, Syed Ali Haider Gillani, and Member of National Assembly, Syed Ali Qasim Gillani met with Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, various issues faced by the farmers were discussed.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the country's economy depends on agriculture. Farmers play an important role in the country's economy. He said that Pakistan People's Party has always raised its

voice in favor of farmers. Governor Punjab said that People's Party is not in favor of the bill to impose agricultural tax on farmers. He said that Pakistan People's Party walked out during the presentation of the recent bill of imposing agricultural tax on farmers in the Punjab Assembly. Governor Punjab said that the support price of wheat was announced at Rs 3900 by the government, but it was sold in the market at a much lower price. Governor Punjab said that fertilizers and seeds are very expensive. He said that the farmer is already perturbed over inflation, adding that 45% agricultural tax is injustice to the farmers.

## FBR officer shot dead a citizen over 'monetary issue'

PESHAWAR (APP): A man was killed by an officer of FBR in front of Customs House here Thursday, said SP Cantt Aitzaz Arif.

He said the Additional Commissioner In-land Revenue FBR identified as Irfan Ullah, resident of Swat, presently residing in Shaheen Muslim Town here shot dead a citizen, Abdur Rehman which the police said was probably a result of some monetary dispute. However, in a prompt action by Town Police, the accused was arrested and a double barrel gun was recovered from him. Police said the accused seemed to be mentally disturbed.

## Governor Kundi to convene APC to address security, governance issues in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday expressed grave concern over the deteriorating security situation in the province and announced to convene All-Parties Conference (APC) in early December to address security and governance issues in the province.

In a video message released here by the Governor Secretariat, he criticized the provincial government over its negligence in addressing the issues.

The Governor recalled that he repeatedly took up the KP's issues with the Prime Minister and the President but

unfortunately the provincial government had failed to take meaningful steps to ensure the safety of its citizens.

"They are busy in organizing protests in Islamabad or seeking the release of their party's founder, while the province is left at the mercy of terrorists. The government has completely failed to protect the lives and property of the people," he said.

He said the APC would bring together all political parties in the province to discuss solutions for security challenges, resource allocation, and KP's issues with the federal government.



PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry and President City University Sabur Sethi awarding degree to a graduate student at the 13th Convocation of City University of Science and Information Technology.

## UNODC delegation calls on Minister Arora

LAHORE (APP): A delegation from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Pakistan, comprising Syed Arslan Malik and Fatima Raza, along with Executive Director of the Youth Development Foundation, Shahid Rehmat held an important meeting with Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora and Secretary of Human Rights and Minority Affairs Punjab Ali Bahadur Qazi.

The meeting was held to discuss UNODC's ongoing projects in Punjab

and explore opportunities for collaboration with the provincial Minority department to further strengthen initiatives for the welfare and development of minority communities. The meeting primarily focused on UNODC's efforts in the region, especially those aimed at promoting minority rights, social inclusion, and sustainable development. The delegation emphasised the need for aligning the ongoing projects with the Punjab government's long-term strategies for supporting marginalized and minority communities.

## Kundi condemns attack on passenger vehicles in Kurram

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, strongly condemned the attack on the passenger vehicles in Lower Kurram district on Thursday and expressed his deep sorrow over the loss of more than 30 precious lives.

He prayed for the elevation of the deceased's ranks and offered his heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the grieving families, wishing them patience and strength.

Governor Kundi described the firing as an extremely heinous act and expressed grave concern over the incident, especially considering it occurred despite the presence of a convoy. He emphasized that the ruthless perpetrators, responsible for shedding the blood of innocent passengers, should receive no leniency.

## Azma Bokhari says: PTI's 90pc members against Nov-24 protest

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that 90 per cent of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) members are opposed to the protest scheduled for November 24.

In a statement, issued on Thursday, she said that by chanting the slogans of "Al-jihad Al-jihad", the PTI had proven itself the political wing of TTP (Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan). She said that

activists of the jihadist party had armed themselves with weapons, shells, slingshots, glass and rubber bullets, etc. She said Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa chief minister was being used as a pawn against the federation. The minister said Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi's authoritarian and demeaning attitude had caused a rift among her members in the assembly, adding that Aliya Khan and Sher Afzal Marwat.

## Man killed, son injured in road accident

FAISALABAD (APP): A man was killed and his son suffered injuries in a road accident near Gatwala on Wednesday night.

According to police, Tahir Nadeem (51), along with his son Zeeshan (20), was going on motorcycle near Gatwala on Sheikhpura road when they collided with another motorbike coming from the opposite side. Meanwhile, a speeding car ran over Tahir from the rear side.

As a result, Tahir Nadeem died on the spot.



HYDERABAD: Members of All Pakistan Car Dealers Association are holding protest demonstration for demanding protection, in Hyderabad.

## KP CM condemns armed attack on passenger vehicles in Kurram

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, has strongly condemned the armed attack on passenger vehicles in the Uchaat area of Kurram district on Thursday.

Expressing deep sorrow over the tragic loss of lives in this heinous incident, the chief minister has tasked a delegation comprising the provincial law minister, the local MNA, MPA, and the Chief Secretary to visit Kurram, assess the ground realities and submit a detailed report.

Furthermore, the chief minister has instructed the reactivation of a previously held tribal jirga to help stabilize the situation in the area. Ali Amin Gandapur emphasized that the provincial government, police and all relevant institutions are making concerted efforts to improve law and order in the region. As part of these measures, he directed the concerned authorities to expedite the establishment of a Provincial Highways Police to ensure the safety of all major routes across the province.

# International News

## ICC issues arrest warrants for Israel's PM Netanyahu, Gallant

**Monitoring Desk**  
THE HAGUE: The International Criminal Court (ICC) on Thursday issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former defence Minister Yoav Gallant, as well as Hamas's military chief Mohammed Deif.

"The Chamber issued warrants of arrest for two individuals, Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant, for crimes against humanity and war crimes committed from at least October 8, 2023, until at least May 20, 2024, the day the prosecution filed the applications for warrants of arrest," the Hague-based ICC said in a statement. A warrant had also

been issued for Deif, it added in a separate statement.

The arrest warrants had been classified as "secret", to protect witnesses and to safeguard the conduct of the investigations, the court said.

"However, the Chamber decided to release the information below since conduct similar to that addressed in the warrant of arrest appears to be ongoing," the tribunal said.

"Moreover, the Chamber considers it to be in the interest of victims and their families that they are made aware of the warrants' existence."

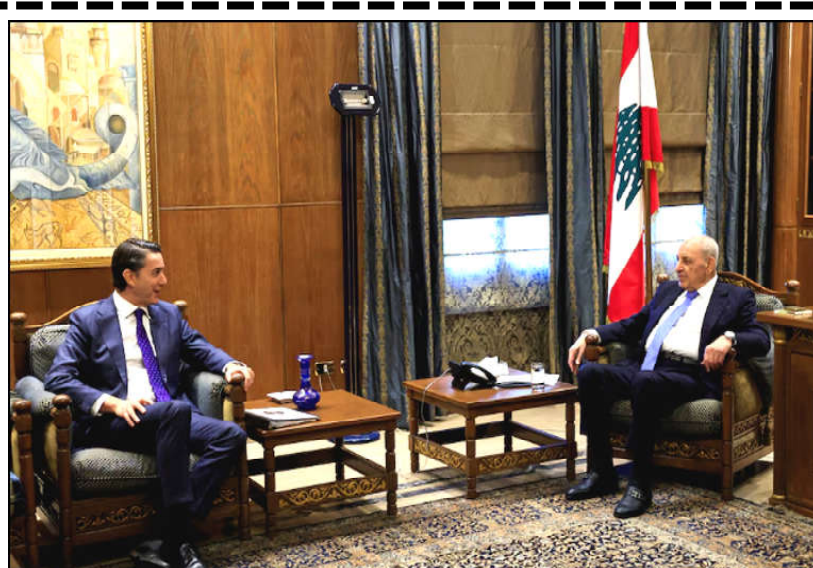
ICC chief prosecutor Karim Khan in May requested the court issue ar-

rest warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant over alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.

Netanyahu sacked Gallant as defence minister on November 5.

Khan also sought warrants against top Hamas leaders, including Deif, on suspicion of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The prosecutor dropped the application for former Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh on August 2 "because of the changed circumstances caused by Mr Haniyeh's death" in Tehran on July 31, the ICC earlier said in a statement. According to Israel, Deif was killed by a strike on July 13 in southern Gaza, though Hamas denies he is dead.



Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri meets with U.S. special envoy Amos Hochstein in Beirut, Lebanon.

## Hezbollah says Israel 'cannot impose conditions' for truce

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: Hezbollah's leader delivered a defiant speech on Wednesday (Nov 20) saying Israel cannot impose its conditions for a truce, as US envoy Amos Hochstein headed from Lebanon to Israel to try to end the war.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar, in a near-simultaneous statement, said any ceasefire deal must ensure Israel has the "freedom to act" against Hezbollah.

Hochstein announced in Lebanon that he would head to Israel on

Wednesday to try to seal a ceasefire agreement in the war in Lebanon, which escalated in late September after nearly a year of deadly exchanges of fire across Israel's northern border.

Israel expanded the focus of its operations from Gaza to Lebanon, vowing to secure the north and allow tens of thousands of people displaced by the cross-border fire to return home.

It has also intensified strikes on neighbouring Syria, a key conduit of weapons for Hezbollah from its backer Iran.

## Russia, North Korea agree to boost charter flights after trade meeting

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: North Korea and Russia have signed a protocol on cooperation after meetings covering trade, the economy, science and technology in Pyongyang, North Korean state media KCNA said on Thursday.

There were few details in the KCNA report, but Russia's TASS news agency said on Tuesday that the countries agreed to increase charter flights following the meeting, citing Russia's ministry of natural resources. Between January and September, the number of tourists travelling between Russia and North Korea amounted to over 5,000 people, with more than 70% travelling by air, it said. The increased charter flights are expected to take off not only from Russia's eastern region close to North Korea, but also from major Russian cities in other areas, TASS said, citing the ministry. KCNA said on Thursday that the Russian delegation led by natural resources minister Alexander Kozlov, which met North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Monday, had now departed from Pyongyang. During the delegation's visit, zoo animals were transferred to North Korea as gifts from Russian President Vladimir Putin.

## No hostages-for-prisoners swap deal with Israel unless Gaza war ends: Hamas

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: Hamas' acting Gaza chief Khalil al-Hayya said in remarks broadcast on Wednesday that there would be no hostages-for-prisoners swap deal with Israel unless the war in the Palestinian enclave ended.

"Without an end to the war, there can be no prisoner swap," Hayya said in a televised interview with the group's Al-Aqsa television channel, reiterating the group's position on how to bring the war to an end.

"If the aggression is not ended, why would the resistance and in particular Hamas, return the prisoners (hostages)?" he said. "How would a sane or an insane person lose a strong card he owns while

the war is continuing?"

Efforts to negotiate a truce for Gaza have stalled, and the US on Wednesday vetoed a UN Security Council resolution calling for an unconditional permanent ceasefire. Washington's UN ambassador said the US would only support a resolution that explicitly calls for the immediate release of the Israeli hostages as part of a ceasefire.

Hayya, who led the group's negotiating team in talks with Qatari and Egyptian mediators, blamed the lack of progress on Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who in turn holds the Islamist group responsible for the stalled talks.

## US again vetoes UNSC attempt for Gaza truce

**Monitoring Desk**  
UNITED NATIONS: The United States on Wednesday vetoed a UN Security Council resolution for a ceasefire in Gaza, drawing criticism of the Biden administration for once again blocking international action aimed at halting the 13-month conflict.

The 15-member council voted on a resolution put forward by 10 non-permanent members that called for an "immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire" and separately demanded the release of Israeli prisoners.

Only the US voted against, using its veto as a permanent member to block the resolution.

Robert Wood, deputy US ambassador to the UN, said Washington had made clear it would only support a resolution that explicitly calls for the immediate release of prisoners as part of a ceasefire.

Robert Wood said the US had sought compromise, but the text of

the proposed resolution would have sent a "dangerous message" to Hamas that "there's no need to come back to the negotiating table".

Israel has killed nearly 44,000 people in Gaza.

Members roundly criticised Washington for blocking the resolution put forward by the Security Council's 10 elected members: Algeria, Ecuador, Guyana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, South Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia and Switzerland.

"It is deeply regretted that due to the use of the veto, this council has once again failed to uphold its responsibility to maintain international peace and security," Malta's UN Ambassador Vanessa Frazier said after the vote failed, adding that the text of the resolution "was by no means a maximalist one".

"It represented the bare minimum of what is needed to begin to address the desperate situation on the ground," she said.



Chief adviser of Bangladesh's interim government Muhammad Yunus with former premier and Bangladesh Nationalist Party chairperson Khaleda Zia at a reception in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

## UN nuclear chief welcomes Iran's 'concrete step' on uranium stockpile

**Monitoring Desk**  
VIENNA: UN atomic watchdog chief Rafael Grossi on Wednesday welcomed Iran's "concrete step" on agreeing to cap its stockpile of highly enriched uranium after Tehran implemented preparatory steps to stop adding to its inventory. "I think this is ... a concrete step in the right direction—we have a fact which has been verified by us," Grossi told reporters in Vienna. "I attach im-

portance to the fact that for the first time... since the distancing of Iran from its past obligations, they are taking a different direction," he said. But he said he could "not exclude" that Iran's commitment might falter "as a result of further developments". The comments by Grossi came after Western powers submitted a resolution censuring Iran for its poor cooperation with the International Atomic Energy

Multilateral gatherings of national security officials in Asia have been used in the past for meetings between US and Chinese defense leaders, but China declined a meeting request by Austin during this week's Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-Plus defense ministers meeting.

"It's unfortunate. It affects the region because the region really wants to see us, you know, two significant players in the region, two significant powers, talk to each other," Austin told reporters.

"I don't think that it has any sort of implications for the future."

## Bangladesh ex-PM Khaleda Zia makes first public appearance in 6 years

**Monitoring Desk**  
DHAKA: Bangladesh's ill-ness-stricken opposition leader Khaleda Zia made her first public appearance in six years on Thursday, months after her release from house arrest following the ouster of longtime foe Sheikh Hasina.

The ferocious rivalry between the two former premiers — born in blood and cemented in prison — has defined politics in the

nation for decades.

Zia was jailed in 2018 for graft but was released in August, hours after Hasina fled to neighbouring India when a student-led national uprising brought an end to her 15 years of iron-fisted rule.

Her presence on Thursday at a reception to mark the country's Armed Forces Day marked her first public appearance since her conviction.

## Afghan administration should stop its land from being used for terrorism: FO spokesperson

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan while expressing concern over support being provided to terror groups in Afghanistan has said Afghan administration should stop its land from being used for terrorism. "Terrorism is grave threat for both of the countries. There should be immediate ceasefire in Gaza, this was said by Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch in her weekly news briefing here Thursday.

She said Pakistan on several occasions have shared with Afghan authorities concrete evidence regarding the terror groups. We have grave concerns over safe havens of terror groups in Afghanistan, she added.

She hoped the Afghan authorities will consider terrorism as a serious threat not just to the region but to their own security and fulfill their obligations under various international agreements including Doha agreement.

The spokesperson regretted the result of last night's vote at the UN Security Council and its inability to reach consensus on the resolution calling for ceasefire in Gaza. She reiterated Pakistan's call for an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire, unhindered access to humanitarian assistance and full support to UN Relief and Works Agency and its mandated humanitarian activities.

Alluding to the plight

of children in Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the spokesperson urged the international community to stand up for their rights and demand an end to their sufferings. She said Pakistan will continue to extend political, moral and diplomatic support to their Kashmiri brothers and sisters for the just and peaceful settlement of Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolutions. She held special envoy of China for Afghanistan and special envoy of Russian federation for Afghanistan recently visited Pakistan and they held meetings with additional secretary Afghanistan and West Asia Ahmad Naseem Warraich.



QUETTA: MNAs Sardar Yaqoob Khan Nassar and Jamal Shah Kakar meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti.

## CAS Zaheer visits 12th edition of IDEAS-2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force on Thursday made a comprehensive visit to the 12th edition of the International Defence Exhibition IDEAS-2024 at Karachi Expo Centre.

This event showcases latest advancements in defence and aerospace technology, attracting both diverse array National and International audience, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news re-

lease. The visit of Air Chief underscores the importance of technological collaboration and innovation in enhancing national defence capabilities. During the visit, the Air Chief visited various stalls within the National Aerospace Science & Technology Park pavilion, which is prominently showcasing cutting-edge technologies in Space, Cyber, Artificial Intelligence, Electronic Warfare, Aerospace Designing, Sensors and Simulators domains, engaging in detailed discussions with national partners.

## ATC indicts Qureshi, others in May-9 case

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Thursday indicted several Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders, including Shah Mehmood Qureshi, along with party workers, in a case related to the torching of police vehicles in Mughalpur during the May 9 riots.

Dr. Yasmin Rashid, Omar Sarfaraz Cheema, Ejaz Chaudhry, and Mian Mehmoodur Rasheed were among others who were indicted.

ATC Judge Manzar Ali Gill conducted the proceedings at Kot Lakhpat Jail, where the accused PTI leaders were produced.

The court formally charged the accused, who pleaded not guilty and expressed their intention to contest the charges.

Following this, the court adjourned the proceedings until December 2 and summoned the prosecution witnesses to record their statements.



QUETTA: Additional IGPC Commandant Balochistan Constabulary Agha Muhammad Yousaf presiding over a meeting regarding security of Chinese.

## Educational Festival comes to an end in Chaman: Speaker BA exhorts students to take wholehearted part in curricula & extra curricula activities in modern era of S&T

Government taking steps to bring Chaman at par of other areas in education and other sectors: Add. Secretary Home

By Sardar Khondai CHAMAN: The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai has exhorted the students to take wholehearted part in the curricula and extra curricula activities in the present era of modern science and technology.

He said that the nations which paid special attention on acquiring modern education and got the modern education in science and technology, are reigning the world.

He said that no nation can progress without getting skills in science and technology in the today's modern era.

The Speaker said that the students have both time and opportunities, therefore, they should pay attention on their studies without wasting time and opportunities so their future is bright and prosperous.

He said that the future of Balochistan and Chaman is in the hands of students and they have to shoulder future responsibilities.

The Speaker was addressing the closing ceremony of Educational Festival at the College, Chaman on Thursday.

He highly appreciated the interest and fondness of the students in the Educational Festival held at the Boys and Girls Degree College on Thursday.

Prominent among those participated in the closing ceremony were: Additional Chief Secretary Home, Shahab Ali Shah, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat, CO, 79 Wing, Wing Commander Lt. Colonel Irfan, Deputy Commissioner Chaman, Habib Ahmed Bangulzai, SSP Shehryar Afridi, besides other senior officers, tribal elders, teachers, students and people from different walks of life.

The Speaker said that we have lot of expectations with the future builders. He said that there's no two opinion that our future is in the safe hand of the talented and hard working youth. He said that the students of Balochistan and

## Naqvi, UK's Hamish discuss strengthening Pak-UK ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday met with Hamish Falconer, the UK's Deputy Foreign Minister for Pakistan and Afghanistan, to discuss enhancing bilateral ties and areas of mutual interest.

The meeting, held in Islamabad, was attended by British High Commissioner Jane Marriott and Pakistan's High Commissioner to the UK, Dr. Muhammad Faisal.

Discussions centered on fostering closer collaboration and implementing joint measures to bolster Pak-UK relations.

Minister Naqvi expressed warm wishes to Falconer and reaffirmed his commitment to further solidifying the historic friendship between the two nations.

## Aleem highlights Pakistan's investment potential at COP29

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment, Abdul Aleem Khan highlighted Pakistan's investment potential in key meetings with Turkish Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Abdulkadir Uraloglu and Azerbaijani Minister of Digital Development and Transport Rashad Nabiyev at COP29.

Aleem Khan said meetings with Turkish and Azerbaijani ministers, focusing on strengthening ties in transport, infrastructure, and digital development.

On the sidelines of the global forum, Aleem Khan met with Turkish Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Abdulkadir Uraloglu. Both ministers discussed enhancing the existing brotherly and trade relations between the two countries. Aleem Khan highlighted the decades-long friendship between Turkey and Pakistan and invited Turkish investment in various sectors.

## PM announces Rs5 mln award for FBR officer to identify massive sales tax fraud

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday announced a Rs5 million award and gave away a commendatory shield to an FBR officer Ijaz Hussain who identified a sales tax fraud worth trillions of rupees.

The prime minister, talking to the officer, who called on him at the PM House, appreciated his dutifulness and honesty.

The act of the FBR officer is the outcome of the prime minister's ongoing drive for FBR reforms and

the tax-evaders and their facilitators and strictly punishing them.

He instructed the FBR to thoroughly investigate the identified tax fraud and take the perpetrators to the task by engaging an highly capable legal team.

In the briefing, it was told that the credentials of an 80 years old lady was used for the sales tax fraud which was pointed out by Ijaz Hussain on March 4, this year.

It was told that under the sales tax fraud, Rs370 million were also transferred



curbing the tax evasion, according to a PM Office press release.

In the meeting, the prime minister said that there was no dearth of dutiful and competent officers but they needed to be acknowledged.

Expressing satisfaction over the positive outcomes of FBR reforms, the prime minister called for tightening the noose around

initially which was being recovered as a main culprit has already been arrested.

Prime Minister Shehbaz directed to identify and punish the FBR officers who facilitated this tax fraud.

He said the government was striving to widen the tax base and the measures like the FBR reforms and digitisation would also help prevent such offences.

## PTI founder's jail statement reflects growing anxiety, frustration: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Thursday said that the PTI founder's statement from jail, seeking release to delay protests, reflected his growing anxiety and frustration.

In a striking comment on the PTI founder's statement, Attaullah Tarar said that the statement, "If you release me from jail, I will postpone the protest," was

an admission of the prisoner's frustration and panic.

Tarar stated that it has been proven that the call for chaos on November 24 was aimed at securing a 'deal'.

He remarked that the person who once vowed never to engage in a deal was now incessantly shouting 'deal, deal' and was set on waging war against the federation. Tarar stated, "The only deal you'll get is with the law, which you have violated."



CHAMAN: Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, Secretary Home Shahab Ali Shah, Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat and other high officials a stall during Chaman Educational Festival.

## Govt. determined for prosperity & sustainable development of Balochistan: Khetran

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering (PHE) Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran has stated that the government is determined for prosperity and sustainable development of the province under visionary leadership of Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti.

He said that establishment of law and order, provision of relief to masses and livelihood opportunities and sustainable development and economic stability are included in the

priorities of government. For the purpose, planning has been made for completion of the ongoing reforms and development initiatives in the province.

While the public agenda has been successfully launched, which is based on the multidimensional initiatives of the government. The people are benefiting from the positive impacts of the practical steps in different sectors, he added. These initiatives are aimed at ensuring social protection, promotion of industrial and trade activities.

## Naseem representing Balochistan in 29th Climate Change Conference

Independent Report QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister for Climate Change and Environment, Naseemur Rehman Mullakhail is representing Balochistan in the 29th Conference on Climate Change continued in Baku city of Azerbaijan.

Naseemur Rehman went to Baku on special directives of the Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti. It may be mentioned

here that the heads and representatives from 80 countries including Pakistan are participating in the vital conference to be continued for two weeks.

Addressing the conference, Advisor to Chief Minister for Climate Change stressed the need to formulate world climate financial framework for meeting the requirements of weak countries as we are standing at an important



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf being briefed at a stall during IDEAS 2024.

## Ahsan Iqbal for urgent action on commercialization of New Gwadar International Airport

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday expressed concerns over delays in developing a comprehensive plan to commercialize the recently inaugurated New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA).

Chairing a high-level meeting, the minister highlighted the critical importance of positioning Gwadar as a hub for international airlines, said a news release.

He stressed that if airlines are not attracted within six months of inauguration, the likelihood of success diminishes over the years.

To incentivize long-haul flights from regions such as South Africa and

Australia, the minister proposed providing attractive rates for at least five years, emphasizing technical landings as a key strategy.

Created through a grant of \$230 million by the Chinese government, the New Gwadar International Airport has a 3648m long runway. Its passenger terminal building, having an area of 14,000 square meter (m<sup>2</sup>), is equipped with necessary production and auxiliary buildings (police station, safe checking, security, garage, warehouse, etc.).

Public utility facilities (water supply and drainage, power supply, HVAC etc.), air traffic control facilities (including meteorology, communication, navigation, etc.), community hospital, school, family area and other facilities.

Additional DG Pakistan Airport Authority (PAA), Air Vice Marshall Zeeshan Saeed briefed the minister on safety evaluations and airfield regularization, assuring operational clearance by December.

Project Director NGIA Faiz Ullah Khattak, and DG Commercial of the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) Abdul Basit, provided updates on ongoing initiatives, including allotments for government departments, warehouses, and tenders. However, the minister expressed disappointment at the two-year delay in commercialization planning and directed the PCAA to expedite efforts to attract airlines, develop air cargo facilities.

## CNS visits IDEAS 2024

Independent Report KARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, visited the ongoing International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) 2024 at Expo Centre, Karachi.

During his visit, Admiral Naveed Ashraf interacted with foreign military officials, industry representatives, and exhibitors; engaging in discussions on advancements in naval technology, global security trends, and potential areas for future collaboration. He also commended the innovative solutions on display and highlighted the importance of

international partnerships in bolstering regional security. Admiral Naveed Ashraf's visit to IDEAS 2024 underscores the Pakistan Navy's commitment to enhancing its capabilities and fostering cooperation with global partners.

## LHC moved action against Bilawal, Ayaz for violating election act

LAHORE (Online): Petition has been filed in Lahore High Court (LHC) against chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and National Assembly (NA) speaker Sardar Ayyaz Sadiq for violating Election Act.

Election Commission, Bilawal Bhutto and Sardar Ayyaz Sadiq have been made respondents in the petition. The petitioner took the plea Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was elected member of NA on the ticket of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians. Bilawal Bhutto is chairman PPP too. It has been said in the petition Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians and PPP are two separate political parties.

Election Act-2017 is being violated.

A letter was written to NA speaker on November 01 regarding this violation by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.



BAKU: Turkish Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Abdulkadir Uraloğlu with Federal Minister Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan on the eve of COP29.

## BFA hosts successful SOPRAN project training workshop

Independent Report QUETTA: A one-day training workshop was held at the Balochistan Food Authority Head Office under the SOPRAN project, organized by the Benazir In-

ance, quality control systems, and nutrient testing in food items, including flour.

Provincial Minister and Chairman of BFA Haji Noor Mohammad Dumar,



Secretary Food Muzaffar Zeeshan Lehri, and Director General BFA Atiqullah Khan attended the workshop. Speaking on the occasion, Food Minister Haji Noor Mohammad Dumar highlighted the Balochistan Food Authority's commitment to providing safe food to the public and acknowledged the support from Nutrition Intl and other governmental and non-governmental organizations.

## An education-friendly initiative of Govt: BISE Quetta decides to waive off examination fees of orphan students

Independent Report QUETTA: The Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Quetta has decided to waive off the examination fees of the orphan students appearing in the Board's examinations.

According to an official statement issued here on Thursday, the BISE has made a very commendable decision regarding waiving off the examination fees of the orphan students.

The decision has been made in light of the resolution adopted in 180th meeting of the Inter-Board Coordination Committee.

As per the policy, the initiative would be enforced

from the examination year for 2026.

The decision of waiving of the fees would be applicable only on the students who are regular, and whose parents have been died.

For they would have to produce the death certificate duly verified by the NADRA, it was mentioned in the official statement.

The facility would be limited to the prescribed examination fees not on the late, double or triple the prescribed fees.

Moreover, the facility would also not be available for the examinations of additional subjects, it was further mentioned.



BAKU: Provincial Advisor Environment and Climate Change Naseemur Rehman Khan Mulakhail addressing a seminar in COP 29 Conference.