

# Independent

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## PM expresses satisfaction over implementation of MoUs on \$2.8 bln Saudi Investment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday, emphasizing the significance of cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in different sectors, expressed satisfaction over the implementation of recently signed bilateral MoUs for Saudi investment worth \$2.8 billion in Pakistan.

The bilateral ties were discussed as Deputy Interior Minister of Saudi Arabia, who is on an official visit to Pakistan, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, according to a PM Office press release.

Recalling the historic and fraternal relations between the two countries, the prime minister thanked the Saudi leadership and government for always supporting Pakistan and said both sides were working together to further

strengthen Pakistan-Saudi Arabia ties into mutually beneficial economic and investment cooperation.

The prime minister welcomed the Saudi Deputy Interior Minister to Pakistan and wished him a successful visit.

He also conveyed his greetings and best wishes to The Custodian of Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud and Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud.

Discussing the situation in Gaza and the broader Middle East, the prime minister recalled the recent Arab-Islamic Summit held in Riyadh, and appreciated the leadership of Saudi Arabia for holding the event and also the stance of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman over the issue of Palestine.

Prime Minister Shehbaz lauded the leadership role of Saudi Arabia and the efforts of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in unifying the Ummah to collectively seek an end to violence in Gaza due to Israel's genocidal actions.

Emphasizing the significance of bilateral cooperation in defence and security sectors, he said that the visit of the Saudi deputy interior minister and his delegation would help bring both sides closer in terms of cooperation in these specific areas.

Prime Minister Shehbaz also reiterated his invitation to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience as the people of Pakistan were waiting to accord him a very warm welcome.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of Federal Apex Committee of National Action Plan.

## Apex Committee approves military operation against terrorist outfits in Balochistan

PM stresses need to crush terrorism, addressing sub-nationalism, extremism, crime-terror nexus, disinformation; Wants all stakeholders to lend helping hands in economic, political stability; links it with end to terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP): The participants of Federal Apex Committee of the National Action Plan on Tuesday approved a comprehensive military operation against terrorist organisations operating in Balochistan including the Majeed Brigade, BLA, BLF and BRAS who were targeting innocent civilians and foreign nationals to scuttle Pakistan's economic progress by creating insecurity at the behest of hostile external powers.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chaired the meeting of the Federal Apex Committee, attended by the federal cabinet, provincial chief ministers, General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), and senior government officials, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The agenda of the meeting focused on the "Reinvigorating Pakistan's Counter Terrorism (CT) Campaign".

The participants were

briefed on the evolving security landscape and the measures being taken to counter terrorism and other critical challenges, including general law and order situation, actions against efforts to stoke sub-nationalism, religious extremism, tackling the illegal spectrum & crime-terror nexus, subversion and disinformation campaigns, among other issues.

The committee highlighted the necessity of a unified political voice and a cohesive national narrative to effectively address these multifaceted challenges.

It was emphasized that political support across party lines and complete national consensus were critical to reinvigorating the national CT campaign under the framework of Vision Azm-e-Istehkam.

Revitalisation of NACTA and the establishment of National and Provincial Intelligence Fusion and Threat Assessment Centre was also agreed

upon.

A whole-of-system approach was adopted, incorporating diplomatic, political, informational, intelligence, socio-economic, and military efforts to address these issues comprehensively.

Specific emphasis was placed on strengthening collaboration between federal and provincial governments and between relevant institutions and ministries to ensure seamless execution of the CT campaign.

It was decided to establish district coordination committees under the Provincial Apex Committees to ensure implementation of directions received from federal and provincial governments. The forum demonstrated political resolve to dismantle ecosystem of illegal spectrum and crime-terror nexus.

At the conclusion, the prime minister directed all stakeholders to pursue the outlined initiatives with

**Those who obstructs Pakistan's security to face consequence: COAS**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir on Tuesday said that all those who creates obstruction in Pakistan's security or tries to stop them from performing their duty will face the music.

Speaking at Apex Committee, here, the COAS said we all must collectively fight the menace of terrorism. "Every Pakistani is a soldier in the war against terrorism, whether in uniform or not" he said.

Gen Asim Munir said that the constitution of the country is supreme for all of us. "The constitution holds us responsible for ensuring the internal and external security of Pakistan," he observed.

He said the personnel of armed forces and other law enforcing agencies are compensating for shortcomings in governance on daily basis through the sac

vigour, ensuring their timely implementation.

He underscored the importance of sustained, coordinated efforts to protect Pakistan's sovereignty, ensure the safety of its citizens, and reinforce economic and social stability.

The COAS reiterated the Pakistan Army's unwavering resolve to eliminate all threats to national security and provide robust support to the government's initiatives aimed at ensuring peace and stability.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Defense Khawaja Asif along with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori inaugurating IDEAS 2024 Exhibition at NRTC Pavilion.

## Arms for Peace': Khawaja Asif, Tessori inaugurate defense exhibition IDEAS 2024

**Independent Report**

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, along with Federal Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, inaugurated the IDEAS 2024 exhibition. Following the inauguration, the Governor also opened the NRTC Pavilion within the exhibition.

Accompanied by the Federal Defense Minister, Governor Sindh toured various sections of the exhibition, where officials provided detailed briefings. The Governor visited stalls representing several countries and re-

viewed the showcased defense equipment.

Governor Sindh praised the advanced defense technology displayed at the stalls of the Pakistan Navy, Air Force, and Army. Demonstrating his keen interest, he tested modern guns and pistols, further lauding the innovative capabilities of Pakistan's defense sector.

IDEAS 2024 continues to serve as a platform showcasing cutting-edge defense technologies and fostering collaboration among global and local defense industries.

## Maulana Fazal always puts interests of Pakistan first: Mohsin Naqvi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi called on Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman at his residence in Islamabad on Tuesday and discussed a variety of issues with him.

On the occasion, Interior Minister Naqvi expressed his best wishes for Maulana Fazlur Rehman and discussed matters of mutual interest, the prevailing political scenario and country's overall situation during their meeting.

Mohsin Naqvi thanked Maulana Fazlur Rehman for his historical role and support for the approval of 26th constitutional amendment. He said Maulana Fazlur Rehman always played an important role in the greater interest of the nation. Maulana Fazlur said on the occasion that their top priority is Pakistan and the people of Pakistan. Senator Kamran Murtaza was also present on the occasion.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with JUI Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman at his residence.

## Ahsan Iqbal urges ADB to establish database systems for Courts, Police

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday urged Asian Development Bank (ADB) to establish database management systems for Courts and Police stations.

A delegation from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Pakistan Mission, led by Senior Director Tariq Niazi, called on the Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, said a press release issued here.

The delegation included Zain Fawzi, Senior Project Officer; Asad Aleem, Deputy Country Director; and Sana Masood, Senior Economist.

During the meeting, Minister Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the need for technological integration across various networks and urged the ADB to develop a judicial information system for

Pakistan's 2,500 courts. "The system should provide detailed profiles of all judges, track the status of disposed cases, and include timelines for pending cases to ensure transparency and efficiency," he stated.

The Minister recommended the establishment of a comprehensive police information system to integrate all 1,500 police stations in the country. This system would include details of each station's jurisdiction and streamline operations. He underscored the importance of leveraging technology to modernize Pakistan's administrative and service delivery systems. "Technology should expose discrepancies in a way that eliminates human manipulation," he said, citing the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) successful implementation of the Iris software as a model for digital automation.

## Chinese, Pakistani militaries to hold joint anti-terrorism exercise

BEIJING (APP): The Western Theater Command of the Chinese People's Liberation Army will send troops to Pakistan to participate in a joint anti-terrorism exercise from late November to mid-December, the Ministry of National Defense announced Tuesday. Coded "Warrior-VIII," the exercise will focus on joint counter-terrorism clean-up and strike operations. The two sides will engage in multi-level and mixed training across various specialties, and organize live troop drills in accordance with the actual combat process, the ministry said. According to China Military Online, this year's exercise is the eighth joint exercise of the series between the Chinese and Pakistani militaries.

with the aim to consolidate and deepen practical exchanges and cooperation, as well as enhance the capability for conducting joint counter-terrorism operations.

## Join Nov 24 protest or leave party: Imran to PTI leaders

**Monitoring Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Imran Khan has urged Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders and ticket holders to participate in the party's upcoming protest on November 24 or sever ties with the party.

In a recent statement, he stated that those unable to join the planned "power show" should "disassociate themselves" from the PTI, calling it a critical moment in the party's

struggle for freedom and justice.

This call follows Imran's announcement on November 13 for nationwide protests, where he denounced what he described as a "stolen mandate," unjust arrests, and the passage of the 26th amendment, which he claimed strengthened a "dictatorial regime."

In a statement shared on X, Imran reiterated the importance of the November 24 protests.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Interior Minister of Saudi Arabia H.E. Dr. Nasser bin Abdul Aziz Al Dawood calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## Durable peace cannot be achieved without resolution of Kashmir, Palestine dispute: Ayaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Tuesday said that durable global peace cannot be achieved without the resolution of Kashmir and Palestine dispute.

He said this during a meeting with Minister/Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development, United Kingdom, Himesh Falconer along with UK Parliamentary delegation who called on him at the Parliament House.

Ayaz Sadiq expressed concern over the grave human rights violations in these regions, stating that without addressing these issues, regional stability would remain elusive. The Speaker stressed that Parliament of Pakistan repre-

sents all political parties and the incumbent Parliament has active opposition that plays a constructive role on matters of national importance.

He affirmed his impartiality as Speaker, ensuring a balanced approach in managing parliamentary proceedings.

Ayaz Sadiq has said that Pakistan is committed to fostering regional peace and stability in the region. He also said that Pakistan has long standing and historic ties with the United Kingdom.

The Speaker said that by enhancing and promoting parliamentary and economic cooperation these ties can be further strengthened.

He emphasized that close interaction and coop-

## Full court remains no more after 26th constitutional amendment: Justice Mazhar

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) constitutional bench has issued notice to federation and all provinces in the case pertaining to imposition of tax on ghee mills and sought reply from them besides adjourning the hearing of the case for indefinite period.

During the hearing of the case justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar remarked full court remained no more after 26th constitutional amendment.

Justice Jamal Mandokhel remarked Constitutional bench be considered full court now.

He gave these remarks on making mention of full court bench decision by counsel for petitioner during hearing of the case of imposition of tax on ghee mills Tuesday.

The petitioner had said it was an important case, therefore, full court bench be constituted.

A seven members constitutional bench of SC presided over by Justice Amin ud Din took up the case regarding tax on ghee mills for hearing. Justice Jamal Mandokhel remarked he has given decision on the case in Balochistan High Court. I think I should not hear the case.

## Pakistan, UK underscore shared interest in trade, investment cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan) Hamish Falconer on Tuesday met Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar here wherein two sides reaffirmed the importance of strong bilateral relations underscoring the shared interest in promoting cooperation in trade, investment and climate action.

Both sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and discussed regional issues of common interest, according to a Foreign Office press release.

Deputy Prime Minister Dar and Parliamentary Under Secretary Falconer noted the strong convergence between Pakistan and the United Kingdom on a wide range of bilateral and regional issues.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a meeting with Minister/Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at Foreign, Commonwealth & Development, United Kingdom Mr. Hamish Falconer along with delegation at Parliament House.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Tribunals' failure

The election tribunals have let the nation down. Following one of the most contested general elections in recent memory — elections so controversial that, more than nine months later, they still cast a long shadow over the incumbent government — these tribunals were tasked with adjudicating the results of 350 National Assembly and provincial assembly seats that had been disputed by the candidates.

It was expected that the tribunals would work in an expeditious manner and do justice where there was compelling evidence of misdoing, as alleged by many candidates and supported by the findings of various independent observers. By acting transparently and with purpose, they could have helped the nation move forward. Instead, with the year almost out, only 17pc of the cases before them have been decided; the legitimacy of the ruling set-up remains in doubt, while yet another protest has been called this coming weekend to protest the 'theft' of the people's mandate.

Meanwhile, the ruling coalition has been able to use its numbers to pass a highly controversial constitutional amendment and a slew of widely criticised laws to consolidate its strength. The Election Commission of Pakistan, which is responsible for appointing the tribunals, has seemed least interested in their progress, even though legal deadlines for the conclusion of tribunal proceedings have long lapsed.

Indeed, the ECP was itself responsible for delaying the formation of election tribunals for Punjab, where the bulk of the disputes were registered, over a petty turf war with the Lahore High Court. Though it eventually managed to appoint retired judges of its choice — thanks to some timely changes to the law — it has now emerged that four out of the eight tribunals for Punjab had not heard a single petition by Nov 15, while the remaining four had decided only 10 out of the 155 disputes lodged. The Balochistan tribunals fared better, having resolved 30 out of the 51 disputes before them. On the other hand, the KP and Sindh tribunals had respectively decided only eight and 12 of the disputes before them.

With the election tribunals having thus failed to fulfil the purpose for which they were created, it is not surprising that Pakistan has not been able to stabilise. In the absence of the legitimacy conferred by a free and fair election, the authorities continue to resort to repressive means to enforce 'order'. However, these will not bear long-term results and are only hollowing out the country's already crumbling political structure. It is imperative, therefore, for the election tribunals to conclude all proceedings as soon as possible while delivering justice. Too much time has already been lost in dilly-dallying — all further proceedings must now be completed transparently so that faith in the electoral process can be restored.

### Promotion criteria

Parvez Rahim

During my years at an American multinational, my boss told me that I had to be ambitious to be promoted. However, just having ambition was not enough; the candidates for promotion had to demonstrate their ability to consistently go beyond what was expected.

There was no place for mediocrity, where workers would just say 'yes' to their bosses. Dissent by subordinates was encouraged provided it was prudent, in the right direction, and helped resolve the issue under discussion. Employees, who would work in the same job for many years and had no chance of promotion, were asked to leave.

The company had a robust, competitive annual performance evaluation of every employee. The appraisal was done by assessing an employee's performance against yearly goals, which were specific and measurable, and given and agreed with him at the beginning of the year. The respective supervisors would discuss the performance evaluation of the subordinate staff with a group of senior managers, who would critically review the assessment and agree to a rating through consensus.

Those with consistently high ratings were considered for promotion, subject to the availability of vacant positions. Merit, and not seniority, was the sole criterion for promotion.

There was great emphasis on the performance of every employee. Supervisors were required to conduct periodic reviews of their subordinate's performance within the year so that the latter was not taken by surprise at year-end. In the event of a vacant position at a higher level, the senior management would try to find a suitable candidate from within the organisation, instead of hiring from outside. It was believed that a manager hired at a senior position might disrupt the organisation's prevailing systems through a rash action, without adequate knowledge of its culture and traditions.

The factors described for eligibility and criteria for promotion include "tenure, performance metrics, skill acquisition, and adherence to company values. By setting specific criteria, the promotion process becomes transparent".

In contrast, the criterion for promotions in our government departments is seniority; not much weightage is given to employees' performance, and there is an uproar if seniority is ignored in promotions. The annual confidential report (ACR) has always been a feature of government service. The head of department gathers information related to the performance and behaviour of the subordinates and finalises the report. What is reported is not communicated to the employee unless there are negative comments, which he is required to explain.

It is reported that over the last few years, employees have been bringing ACR forms to their department heads to fill. Once filled, the forms are handed back to the employees, so that they can submit the same themselves. Such practices make a mockery of the system of performance evaluation. Consequently, employees don't find any motivation to improve their performance and people interacting with them find their behaviour frustrating and non-caring.

In the corporate world, success of companies depends on an effective and credible performance evaluation system, based on which the employees are promoted. According to LeapSome, a platform for performance management and employee engagement, "A well-made promotion decision has the potential to boost morale and inspire trust in employees. A poorly made promotion decision ... can lead to disengagement and resentment among team members."

LeapSome mentions the key criteria observed by progressive companies in promoting employees. Curiosity is a trait that supervisors should look for in candidates. "When an employee asks questions, that's a sign that they're engaged and trusting." Second, a candidate for promotion to a management role must possess managerial and leadership skills. He should be ambitious about managing people and building his leadership skills. Third, the "ideal candidate should know that more responsibility could bring more challenges. They must be ready to handle these and know when to ask for support", which is never discouraged in professionally managed companies.

Fourth, the time an employee spends with the organisation — or more categorically, "employee achievements made against the time served" — and his experience in a certain role is a useful yardstick. And last, "Giving feedback to employees builds trust, motivates them to improve, and shows that you care about their growth". Candidates value genuine and realistic feedback. Deserving promotions will help companies retain their best talent, besides cutting down on costs, and will impact other team members in a positive way. — Courtesy Dawn

### Valuing educators

Gaitee Ara Siddiqi

As an educationist who has worked in multiple schools, I have observed the majority of teachers in private schools struggling to cope with excessive work-related demands. Although a number of high-end schools have employed mental health counsellors for students, very few encourage teachers to approach them, and the educationists themselves do not do so for fear of being stigmatised.

Some schools have counsellors, which both students and teachers, can approach but nothing concrete is achieved as students are primarily 'clients' of the schools and every effort is made to hold on to them. In fact, today, there are multiple cases of students harassing teachers and making their lives miserable, but very little is done to address these issues. Until we learn to value the well-being of our teachers, the future looks very bleak.

Educational institutions are meant to instil values in the student body but since this client mentality has become the trend, teachers are not allowed to say anything to the students. If the teacher feels pressured or overburdened by the excessive workload as well as the mental torture she is subjected to by both the students and the management, she is told to just get on with the job. Most private educational institutions know that teachers are available a dime a dozen and that supply exceeds demand, so that the services of those who do not conform can be easily dispensed with.

In addressing mental health concerns, it is very important that a

congenial environment is fostered not only for the student but also the teaching body because after all, the teaching staff is on the front line. If their mental well-being is looked after, the change will automatically be transmitted to the student body. However, the so-called counsellors can only function in a limited capacity. Their hands are tied and the senior management dictates work policies. Mental health is, unfortunately, very low on their list of priorities, which is why the turnover in the education sector is very high. The environment for teachers is, for the most part, toxic which translates into high absenteeism levels and a high turnover.

Teaching is a noble profession and it is essential for individuals associated with it to be well looked after and given the care they deserve. Think about it: teachers as front-line workers are expected to take an average five to six periods a day, check copies, plan lessons, and carry out all manner of administrative tasks — often at the last minute. With deadlines looming, most are taking work home and working late into the night, although teachers are expected to have a healthier work-life balance than most other professions.

A number of women enter this profession because most of them do not have a choice in the matter as they receive a substantial rebate on the fee of their child who is studying at the school where they teach. Most working women are fighting on a lot of fronts and burning the midnight oil at both ends. Hence, looking after their well-being is of paramount importance.

As individuals

tend to spend most of their day at work, an excessive workload and constant deadlines can lead to stress, anxiety, and depression, and ultimately, burn-out. Teachers must be given time to relax and unwind and be looked after. In fact, it is becoming increasingly stressful for them with each passing day; they are also held accountable for everything that goes amiss as they are soft targets and convenient scapegoats whose services can be easily dispensed with. Very few work out of a passion for the profession or because they have time on their hands; the majority of women in this profession are teaching out of economic necessity which is why it is very important for schools to give them the time, space and mental and emotional care which they need and to be more accommodating of their needs.

Educational institutions should pledge to take care of their teaching staff and ensure a healthy and congenial working environment, which will also benefit them by increasing teacher productivity and resourcefulness. It will be a win-win situation because teachers would then be motivated to deliver, and confident, happy teachers mean confident, self-assured students, which, in turn, will translate to better academic performances.

As a policy, school managements should prioritise the mental health of teachers and encourage, motivate and support them to do their work well.

We should not treat teachers as a means to an end, giving short shrift to their mental and emotional welfare and well-being. — Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### PM directs strict action to curb hoarding, tax evasion in sugar sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the Federal Board of Revenue, Federal Investigation Agency and the Intelligence Bureau to carry out joint action to curb the undocumented sale of sugar, tax evasion and price hikes of the commodity.

The prime minister, in a major decision about the sugar mills and sugar-dealers, asked the said these agencies to ensure full

recovery of General Sales Tax as the crushing season was about to start, according to a PM Office press release.

He instructed the authorities concerned to install cameras at the sugar mills to check sugar hoarding to help maintain the prices.

It will also help recover the sales tax by monitoring the mills' production process and checking the hoarding. The prime minister

warned of strict action against the owners of sugar mill founds involved in sugar hoarding and tax evasion.

"No increase in the sugar price will be tolerated," the prime minister said and called for strict action against the "satta mafia."

He also instructed the government agencies to take similar actions in steel, cigarettes, cement, beverages and other sectors.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Pakistan, Mrs. Henny de Vries calls on the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, at the Finance Division.

### Tanveer reiterates govt resolve for uplift of women entrepreneurs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Tuesday reaffirmed the government's strong commitment to uplifting women entrepreneurs in Pakistan by addressing the challenges they faced.

He expressed this resolve during a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority

(SMEDA) Socrat Aman Rana on the occasion of International Women's Entrepreneurship Day.

Secretary Industries and Production Saif Anjum also attended the meeting, which exhibited a commitment to create a conducive business environment for women entrepreneurs in the country, said a news release.

Rana Tanveer said SMEDA, under the

patronage of the ministry, was poised to introduce a transformative Women Entrepreneurship Policy, aimed at fostering growth, enhancing financial inclusion, and increasing market access for women entrepreneurs across the country.

Currently, only 10% of women entrepreneurs have access to formal markets, and just 2% utilize online marketplaces, he said.

### Pakistan, Qatar discuss cooperation in field of IT, Telecom

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Qatar on Tuesday discussed matters of mutual interest, increasing cooperation in field of IT and Telecommunication, startups and cybersecurity.

During a meeting with the ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater, Shaza Fatima Khawaja said that Pakistan and Qatar have deep friendly relations, adding that the two countries can jointly work in the field of IT and Telecommunication.

She said Pakistan wanted to further enhance ties with Qatar in the field of IT and Telecommunication, according to a news release.

Shaza Fatima said Pakistan aspired to work with Qatar in the cybersecurity field. The signing of MoUs between the institutes of two countries in the field of technology is vital, she said, adding that IT companies of both countries can do joint ventures.

### Gold prices increase further by Rs.3,600 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased further by Rs.3,600 and was sold at Rs.273,500 on Tuesday against its sale at Rs.269,900, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also went up by Rs.3,086 to Rs.234,482 from Rs.231,396 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold increased to Rs.214,942 from Rs.212,113. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.3250 and Rs.2,786 respectively.

### Dutch Ambassador, finance minister discuss ways to strengthen ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Pakistan on Tuesday called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb to discuss matters of mutual interest and explore ways for further strengthening the existing ties between Pakistan and The Netherlands. According to press release issued by finance ministry, during the meeting, various aspects of the longstanding friendship and bilateral cooperation

between the two countries were discussed.

They identified priority areas like mining, IT, oil and gas, agriculture, dairy, and farm production for further business collaborations. On the occasion, the minister highlighted the government's economic plan and reform agenda for promoting economic growth and ensuring fiscal sustainability. He mentioned the economic gains achieved over the last 14 months and reiterated the government's resolve to stay the course.

### PTCL Group Partners with Atlas Honda Ltd. to champion road safety

LAHORE: PTCL Group, Pakistan's leading telecommunication services provider, has taken a step forward towards road safety with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Atlas Honda Ltd. This collaboration underscores PTCL's commitment to promoting safe commuting practices for motorcyclists and aligns with the Group's

certified trainers from Atlas Honda, aimed at instilling essential safety skills amongst PTCL's field staff, who rely on motorcycles for their daily commute.

The training sessions will cover a comprehensive range of topics, from essential bike handling techniques to advanced road safety protocols. Moreover, the collaboration aims to cultivate a proactive safety mindset amongst PTCL employees, enhancing their awareness and reducing on-road risks. Furthermore, the MOU with Atlas Honda also exemplifies PTCL Group's commitment to its ever-growing employee well-being program by fostering sustainable activities that benefit employees and contribute to community welfare at large.



ongoing Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) initiatives.

The signing ceremony, held at the Atlas Honda Limited office in Lahore, with Taimoor Khan, Group VP HSE & Sustainability PTCL & Ufone 4G and Zafar Iqbal, GM After Sales, Atlas Honda signing the MoU.

The partnership introduces specialized "Training of Trainers" (TOT) sessions, led by



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in a meeting with Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan H.E. Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater.

### Pak, Germany agree to strengthen collaboration in renewable energy

ISLAMABAD (APP): German Ambassador Alfred Grannas called on Federal Minister for Power, Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari on Tuesday and both sides agreed to strengthen their collaboration in renewable energy and other development projects to ensure continued cooperation moving forward, Ambassador Grannas expressed Germany's commitment to supporting Pakistan's energy sector reforms, said a press release issued here.

He stated that financial and technological assistance would be provided to address key

challenges in the sector, where possible.

The ambassador noted that innovations in artificial intelligence and battery storage facilities were helping reduce electricity costs. He acknowledged the important role of Germany's private sector in Pakistan's energy projects.

He assured that cooperation would continue in the future to help Pakistan transition to clean energy.

The minister shared Pakistan's target of having 88% renewable energy in the national mix by 2034.

### Remittances surge by 24% due to SIFC's efforts

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan's remittances have witnessed a significant rise of 24 percent due to efforts of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). According to latest statistics, the annual remittances were registered at three billion dollars by last month.

During the last month, over 766 million dollars were received from Saudi Arabia, 620.9 million dollars from the UAE and 429.5 million dollars were received from the United Kingdom in terms of remittances.

### Rupee sheds 10 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Tuesday depreciated 10 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.95 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.85.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.40 and Rs 278.90 respectively.

The price of Euro increased by Rs 1.16 to close at Rs 294.17 against the last day's closing of Rs 293.01.

### Azma Bokhari says: 300 electric buses for Lahore by year-end

ISLAMABAD (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari Tuesday announced that electric buses would roll out in the province by December's end, a major step to combat smog and boost eco-friendly transportation. The government's long-term plan, led by the Chief Minister, would further reduce pollution and switch to environmentally friendly transportation solutions. Azma Bokhari, in an exclusive talk with a private news channel, unveiled Punjab's ambitious plan to revolutionize public transportation in Lahore, adding, "We are committed to providing eco-friendly transportation solutions to our citizens."

"The 300 electric buses will not only reduce environmental pollution but also provide a comfortable and efficient commute experience," Bokhari explained. She also expressed her gratitude to Allah and praised the environment department for effectively managing the smog situation in Punjab and revealed, "The Punjab government is planning to transition to green technology soon."



LAHORE: Participants hold a banner during smog awareness campaign walk at Liberty chowk, in the Provincial Capital.

### PHC dismisses NAB notice against KP CM

PESHAWAR (APP): A two-member bench of the Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Tuesday dismissed a notice issued by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur. The bench comprising Chief Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Waqar Ahmed conducted a hearing on the petition of Ali Amin. During the proceedings, the petitioner's lawyer argued that NAB could only investigate cases involving amounts exceeding Rs 500 million, while the case in question concerned Rs 304 million. The NAB prosecutor informed the

court that the inquiry against Gandapur was still ongoing and that the notice issued to him had now expired. The prosecutor also clarified that no new notice had been issued to the petitioner and stated that the amount under investigation might exceed Rs 500 million. Chief Justice PHC Ishtiaq Ibrahim questioned NAB's jurisdiction under the revised laws, noting that only cases involving amounts above Rs 500 million fall within its purview. The court concluded that since no new NAB notice was pending against the petitioner, therefore there was no basis to continue the case.



LAHORE: A delegation of Punjab University students in a group photo with Governor Punjab/Chancellor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

### CM Punjab launches dialysis program card 1st in history of Pak

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has approved the first 'Chief Minister Dialysis Program Card' in the history of Pakistan and funds for the treatment of each dialysis patient have been increased up to Rs 1 million. Over Rs. 8.5 million for dialysis and Rs. 1.5 million for tests are being allocated for each patient suffering from kidney disease. The CM while presiding over a special meeting to review progress

on health programs and other projects, here on Tuesday, directed to ensure free tests and medicines for dialysis patients. She also directed to continue dialysis procedure of patients under any circumstance. It was agreed in principle to establish more dialysis units in Punjab. The CM directed the Punjab Healthcare Commission to ensure implementation of SOPs in dialysis centres. She directed the Punjab Healthcare Commission to

closely monitor dialysis centres across the province. The CM expressed strong indignation over the spread of AIDS in Multan and sought a report within 24 hours. She said, "Spreading of AIDS among dialysis patients is not only regrettable but also shameful. Halting dialysis procedure due to non-availability of funds is regrettable and it should continue." It was apprised during the briefing that patients from other provinces are also

benefiting from free dialysis facility. Free medicines from Punjab are being provided to Sindh, Balochistan and other areas. It was agreed to set KPIs to determine performance of the health department. A progress report on the Nawaz Sharif Cancer Hospital was presented. The CM directed to appoint the head of the Nawaz Sharif Cancer Hospital. A report on the ongoing projects of PIC-2 and Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cardiology, Sargodha.

### Punjab Governor says: Concrete steps being taken to improve the quality of education in universities

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: A delegation of Punjab University students called on Governor Punjab/Chancellor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore. Office bearers of various student societies of Punjab University were included in the delegation. During the meeting, People's Party Punjab Leader, Faisal Mir, PSF Punjab Information Secretary, Sibte Hasan, Member Punjab Executive, Ahsan Rizvi and former President PSF Lahore Mansoor Kataria were also present. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the youth are the future of the country. He said that the most important purpose of education is to develop tolerance in oneself. Governor Punjab said that concrete steps are being taken to improve the quality of education in universities. Governor Punjab emphasized that students should pay special attention to research and innovation. Governor Punjab said he has always been in favor of union elections.



KARTARPUR: Sikh pilgrims pay their respect during celebrations marking the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, founder of Sikhism, at the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur near the India-Pakistan border.

### Bushra Bibi will not lead protest: Shibli

PESHAWAR (Online): Peshawar Senator Shibli Faraz has said Bushra Bibi will not lead protest as she does not want to come in the politics. There is no tussle between Bushra Bibi and Ali Amin Gandapur, he said this while talking to media men here Tuesday. He held all the cases being made against us are fake and they are aimed at pressurizing us. The difference between political worker and terrorist has been ended. Law and order situation in KP is worse, he said adding police and all forces are after PTI. In this situation who will control law and order situation. We are political people and not the terrorists. They are suppressing PTI since the last and two years but we cannot be coerced. Imposing section 144 in Islamabad is not job of political government, he said adding it is job of cowards. The petitions regarding details of cases against Shibli Faraz came up for hearing before Peshawar High Court (PHC). Hearing was conducted by Chief Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Waqar Ahmad.

### ANF recovers over 210 kg drugs in nine operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting nine operations across the country managed to recover over 210 kg drugs worth Rs 140 million and arrested 11 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Tuesday. He informed that in an operation, 800 grams hashish and 200 grams ice were recovered from an accused arrested near a university in Sialkot. The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions.

### CM KP reviews progress of public complaints portal

PESHAWAR (APP): An important meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (CM-KP) Ali Amin Gandapur to review the status of public complaints resolution through the public complaints portal (ikhtiyar Awam Ka). The CM was briefed by the relevant officials on the progress made so far in addressing the complaints registered on the portal. The meeting was informed that a total of 6,242 complaints have been registered on the

portal so far. Out of these, 2,559 complaints have been resolved, while 3,683 complaints are still being processed. As many as 1,200 citizens have received relief through the portal, and 757 citizens have received partial relief. The participants were informed that 13,384 citizens have registered on the portal, with nearly 300 women actively using the service. District Peshawar has reported the highest number of complaints, with 1,458 complaints, followed by Mardan 405, Bannu 363, Dera Ismail

Khan 335, and Abbottabad 344. Complaints related to municipal services topped the list with 1,966 complaints, followed by issues in education 1,040, public agenda implementation 876, corruption 602, and law and order 539. The CM emphasized that complaints must be resolved within three to seven days. He expressed dissatisfaction over delays in resolving certain complaints and warned the relevant authorities of strict action against any negligence.

## International News

### Ukraine hits Russia with US ATACMS missiles for first time on war's 1,000<sup>th</sup> day

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Ukraine used US ATACMS missiles to strike Russian territory on Tuesday, taking advantage of newly granted permission from the outgoing Biden administration on the war's 1,000<sup>th</sup> day. Russia said its forces shot down five of six of the missiles, which were fired at a military facility in the Bryansk region. Debris of one hit the facility, starting a fire that was swiftly put out and caused no casualties or damage, it said. Ukraine said it had struck a Russian arms depot around 110 kilometres inside Russia in an attack that caused secondary explosions. The Ukrainian military did not publicly specify what weapons it had used, but a Ukrainian official source and a US official later confirmed it had used ATACMS. President Joe Biden gave approval just this

week for Ukraine to use the ATACMS, the longest-range missiles Washington has supplied, for such attacks inside Russia. Moscow has described their potential use as an escalation that would make Washington a direct combatant in the war and prompt its retaliation.

### Putin issues warning to United States with new nuclear doctrine

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin issued a warning to the United States on Tuesday, lowering the threshold for a nuclear strike just days after the administration of Joe Biden reportedly allowed Ukraine to fire American missiles deep into Russia. The updated doctrine, formally known as "The basics of state policy in the field of nuclear deterrence", outlines the threats that would make Russia, the world's biggest nuclear power, contemplate using such weapons. Russia would consider a nuclear strike if it, or its ally Belarus, faced aggression "with the use of conventional weapons that created a critical threat to their sovereignty and [or] their territorial integrity", the new doctrine said. The previous doctrine, set out in a 2020 decree, said Russia may use nuclear weapons in case of a nuclear attack by an enemy or a conventional attack that threatened the existence of the state.



US President Joe Biden delivers remarks during an event launching the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty at the G20 Summit at the Museum of Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

### China's Xi urges G20 to help 'cool' Ukraine crisis

**Monitoring Desk**  
RIO DE JANEIRO: Chinese President Xi Jinping urged G20 leaders to support efforts to de-escalate the war in Ukraine and reach a "political solution," state media reported. His remarks at the G20 summit in Brazil came shortly after Ukraine received a US green light to launch long-range missiles provided by Washington against targets inside Russia. "The G20 should support the United Nations and its Security Council in playing a greater role, and support all efforts conducive to the peaceful settlement of crises," Xi said, according to Chinese state broadcaster CCTV. He called for leaders to avoid "spillovers" from battlefields and escalation of fighting, and to help "cool the Ukraine crisis and seek a political solution." War in Ukraine continues to rage since Russia's invasion in 2022. China presents itself as a neutral party in the war and says it is not sending lethal assistance to either side, unlike the United States and other Western nations. But it remains a close political and economic ally of Russia. NATO members have branded Beijing a "decisive enabler" of the war.

### Lebanon says Israeli strike on central Beirut kills five

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: Lebanon's health ministry said Israel struck a densely packed Beirut neighbourhood on Monday, killing five people, in the third attack in two days on the city's central districts. "The Israeli enemy strike on Zaaq al-Blat in Beirut killed five people and injured 24," a ministry statement said, giving an updated death toll. The official National News Agency (NNA) said an apartment near a Shiite Muslim place of worship had been targeted.

### Biden pledges record \$4bn to World Bank fund for poorest countries

**Monitoring Desk**  
RIO DE JANEIRO: US President Joe Biden pledged a \$4 billion US contribution to the World Bank's International Development Association fund for the world's poorest countries, a senior Biden administration official said on Monday. Biden announced the three-year US pledge during a closed session of the Group of 20 summit in Rio de Janeiro, the official told reporters, adding that the US Treasury was leading negotiations at the World Bank for the IDA replenishment. The new US pledge is a record and substantially exceeds the \$3.5bn Washington committed in the previous IDA fund replenishment round in December 2021. It is unclear if US President-elect Donald Trump, who has proposed cutting foreign aid in the past, will honour Biden's pledge as he and billionaire Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk seek to slash US spending through a new government efficiency panel. An appropriation by the US Congress to fund the commitment would not likely take place until after Trump takes office in January.



Palestinians gather to receive food cooked by a charity kitchen, amid a hunger crisis, as the Israel-Gaza conflict continues, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

### US envoy in Lebanon for talks on halting Israel-Hezbollah war

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: US special envoy Amos Hochstein arrived in the Lebanese capital on Tuesday for talks with officials on a truce plan, which Lebanon has largely endorsed, to halt the Israel-Hezbollah war. The United States and France have spearheaded efforts for a ceasefire in the war, which escalated after nearly a year of deadly exchanges of fire between Hezbollah and Israeli troops. Israel expanded the focus of its operations from Gaza to Lebanon in late September, vowing to secure its northern border to allow tens of thousands of people displaced by the cross-border fire to return home.

Since the clashes began with Hezbollah attacks on Israel, more than 3,510 people in Lebanon have been killed, according to authorities there, with most fatalities recorded since late September. With the Lebanese government reviewing a US truce proposal, an official who has been following the talks closely said Monday that it had "a very positive view" on the plan. "We are finalising our last remarks about the US wording of the draft," the official said. Another government official said Lebanon was "waiting for US special envoy Amos Hochstein to arrive so we can review certain outstanding points with him."

### Trump plans to use military for mass deportation

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: President-elect Donald Trump confirmed on Monday that he plans to declare a national emergency on border security and use the US military to carry out a mass deportation of undocumented migrants. Immigration was a top issue in the election campaign, and Trump has promised to deport millions and stabilise the border with Mexico after record numbers of migrants crossed illegally during President Joe Biden's administration. On his social media platform Truth Social, Trump amplified a recent post by a conservative activist that said the president-elect was "prepared to declare a national emergency and will use military assets to reverse the Biden invasion through a mass deportation programme."

### UK and India to resume stalled free trade talks

**Monitoring Desk**  
RIO DE JANEIRO: Britain and India will resume stalled talks to agree a free-trade deal, the two countries said after their leaders met at the G20 summit in Brazil. Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who took power in London in July, hailed his meeting with Indian counterpart Narendra Modi as "very productive" and vowed that a trade pact with Delhi would boost UK growth. "A new trade deal will support jobs and prosperity in the UK — and

represent a step forward in our mission to deliver growth and opportunity across the country," he posted on X late Monday. Hours earlier, Starmer's office confirmed the two countries would relaunch the talks "in the new year" as Britain sought "a new strategic partnership with India". That will include "deepening cooperation in areas like security, education, technology, and climate change."

### Iran offers to cap sensitive uranium stock to avoid IAEA resolution

**Monitoring Desk**  
VIENNA: Iran has offered not to expand its stock of uranium enriched to up to 60% purity, near the roughly 90% of weapons grade, and made preparations to do that, the UN nuclear watchdog said in confidential reports to member states on Tuesday. During International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi's trip to Iran last week.

### Jailing of 45 Hong Kong democrats in landmark trial draws criticism

**Monitoring Desk**  
HONG KONG: Hong Kong's High Court on Tuesday jailed 45 pro-democracy activists for up to 10 years following a landmark national security trial that has damaged the city's once feisty democracy movement and drawn criticism from the US and other countries. A total of 47 pro-democracy activists were arrested and charged in 2021 with conspiracy to commit subversion under a Beijing-imposed national security law which carried sentences of up to life in prison. Benny Tai, a former legal scholar identified in the judgement as a "mastermind" of the activists' plans, was sentenced to 10 years in jail, the longest sentence so far under the 2020 national security law. The charges related to the organising of an unofficial "primary election" in 2020 to select the best candidates for an upcoming legislative election. The activists were accused by prosecutors of plotting to paralyse the government by engaging in potentially disruptive acts had they been elected.

# Ahsan for 'National Curriculum Summit' to work out reforms on modern lines



ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said the Ministry of Education had been asked to hold a 'National Curriculum Summit' to work out necessary reforms and align the country's education system with the requirements of the modern era.

"We want to take the national curriculum beyond the O and A level education system," he said while addressing the launch ceremony of the Model Assessment Framework at the auditorium of the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE).

He called for inviting

experts from both the private and public sectors to discuss educational reforms so that a 'comprehensive review' could be carried out to frame and implement a modern curriculum system in the country.

The Planning minister also expressed the desire to establish a state-of-the-art Teachers Training Center to improve the quality of education and produce manpower that meets contemporary needs, for which the Ministry of Education had already been given the task.

He said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government had initiated this project during its last tenure but could not complete it due to political instability.

He added that the center, in collaboration with provincial education departments, would be the best in South Asia, where

students could receive quality education focused on improving their critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving, and team-learning skills.

"It will be a paradigm shift from memorization-based education," Iqbal said, adding that the initiative would also reform the existing examination system.

Ahsan Iqbal said memorization-based education was irrelevant in the modern era, where innovation and creativity drive development.

He believed that the country could not achieve the required goals of progress and prosperity without improving education standards and developing human resources.

"Today's era is not about muscle power; it's about brain power. Nations with superiority in brain power will succeed. The first step

toward national progress is improving the education system."

Mentioning a recent report by Pakistan's District Education Performance Index (DEPI), which evaluated 134 districts' performance, he regretted that not a single district was listed in the 'Very High' category. Only Islamabad was placed in the 'High' category, while 56 districts secured the 'Medium' category—32 from Punjab, 16 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 8 from Sindh.

He said 77 districts fell into the 'Low' category, with 33 from Balochistan and 22 from Sindh.

Looking at the overall performance, the minister said Punjab's score stood at 61.39 percent, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's at 54.47 percent, Sindh's at 51.55 percent and Balochistan's at 45.50 percent.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja addressing launch ceremony of 'Digital Dialogue Pakistan'.

## Pakistan committed for fostering cordial relations with Australia: Ayaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Tuesday expressed Pakistan's strong commitment to fostering cordial and friendly relations with Australia. During a meeting with Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Neil Hawkins, he highlighted the importance of enhancing parliamentary diplomacy as a means of expanding bilateral ties between the two nations.

"Pakistan places great importance on its cordial and friendly relations with Australia," he said and emphasized that parliamentary diplomacy could play a pivotal role in deepening these ties.

The Speaker while underscoring the significance of parliamentary exchanges in strengthening mutual understanding and cooperation between both countries, said that it will also provide valuable opportunities for parliamentarians to learn from each other's experiences.

Ayaz Sadiq also acknowledged the vital role played by the Pakistan-

Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group in the National Assembly. This Parliamentary group, he said, has been instrumental in enhancing communication and collaboration between the two countries.

He emphasized that the group's ongoing efforts are essential in promoting bilateral contacts and fostering stronger ties between the two nations.

Ayaz Sadiq reaffirmed Pakistan's constitutional commitment to protecting the rights of all communities within the country.

"Pakistan's constitution guarantees the protection of the rights of all communities within Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Board of Directors, of Board of Directors, Dr. Attiya Inayatullah, presenting annual report of PCP to Minister of State for Finance, Ali Pervaiz Malik, during Corporate Philanthropy Awards 2024 ceremony organized by Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy (PCP) at a local hotel.

## Rana Mashhood says: Nation rejects opposition's call of destabilizing Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan on Tuesday said that entire nation had rejected the November 24 protest call of the opposition as the people did not want any hurdle to derail the country's prosperity and development.

Addressing a news conference, Mashhood said that a political party having imported agenda of destabilizing Pakistan made attempts in the past of sits during a previous visit by the Chinese prime minister in 2014 and had also given a protest call to disrupt the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit. He said a mega event of the Prime Minister's University

Sports (PMUS) Olympiad would start from November 21 to 23 in which around 3,000 athletes would participate.

"Protests during nationally significant events do not send a positive message," he said and added that the government would not allow these disgruntled elements to enter the capital and disrupt the daily life.

"With 3,000 participants, the PMYS Olympiad will not only foster a spirit of healthy competition but will also serve as a platform for the youth to engage, excel, and represent their universities with pride." He added that Ambassadors, international development partners and international sports organisations were also invited to participate.

## Two dead as car overturns into ditch near Rawalakot

ISLAMABAD (APP): A fatal road traffic accident occurred in the early hours of Tuesday morning near Rawalakot, Azad Kashmir, resulting deaths of two individuals.

According to initial reports, rescue officials informed that the vehicle overturned into a ditch, causing immediate fatalities, private news channel reported.

Rescue teams rushed to the scene shortly after receiving reports of the accident.

The teams, comprising personnel from the Rescue 1122 and local police worked diligently to retrieve the bodies from the wreckage.

The rescue teams successfully recovered the bodies from the ditch and shifted them to the nearby hospital for medico-legal formalities. Police officials have initiated an investigation into the accident to determine its cause.

## Musical activities helped to boost tourism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Singer Salman Paras from Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) said on Tuesday that music-related activities boosted tourism in the region as local languages are known and heard worldwide.

While talking to the media, he said, "We are blessed with four seasons, and GB is surrounded by mountains that boost the tourism around the world."

Paras said that the local traditional musical instruments played an important role in the composition of music. The songs were especially composed to entertain the local and foreign tourists, he added.

He discussed the customs and culture of GB, emphasizing the friendliness of the local people and the beauty of the natural scenery.

Salman Paras is a Shina Folk singer from Gilgit-Baltistan. He has recorded more than 50+ songs since 2002. He is proficient in various genres and is also close to Sufi folk music.

## Salik directs Establish Pakistan House in Karbala, Religious Affairs Directorate in Iraq

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Tuesday held a meeting with the Pakistani Ambassador to Iraq, Muhammad Zeeshan Ahmed to deliberate on measures to facilitate Pakistani pilgrims travelling to Iraq.

The minister emphasized the need to establish a Pakistan House in Karbala, as well as a Directorate of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Inter-



faith Harmony in Iraq. Reiterating the government's commitment, the minister said that every effort would be made to address the needs of pilgrims and facilitate their journey. During the meeting, the Pakistani Ambassador suggested increasing the number of community welfare attachés in Iraq to better serve the expatriate and pilgrim community.

## Chairman PRCS meets Pak Envoy in Azerbaijan during CoP29

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, held a productive meeting with His Excellency Mr. Qasim Mohiuddin, Pakistan's Ambassador to Azerbaijan, at the Pakistani Embassy in Baku here on Tuesday.

According to a PRCS spokesman, the meeting occurred on the sidelines of the 29th Conference of the Parties (CoP29) and focused on strengthening humanitarian efforts and addressing climate change challenges.

Chairman Laghari briefed the Ambassador on PRCS's mandate, key programs, and recent interventions. He highlighted PRCS's active role in supporting vulnerable communities, particularly during the recovery phase following the devastating 2022 monsoon floods in Pakistan.

## Abid Sher Ali warns 'PTI's challenge to state's writ will not be tolerated'

ISLAMABAD (APP): PML-N Senior Leader Abid Sher Ali Tuesday issued a stern warning, stating that the federal government would not permit PTI to challenge the writ of the state or incite lawlessness in the country, emphasizing that such actions would no longer be tolerated.

Abid Sher Ali in his exclusive talk with a private news channel reaffirmed the federal government's commitment to maintaining law and order amidst the ongoing PTI protest calls.

"Government will not permit PTI to challenge the state's authority or incite lawlessness in the country," he emphasized. He strongly condemned PTI's actions and said, "They are habitual of disrupting the country and lack a public agenda."

"PTI is using tactics to harm the country's peace and development, labeling them as internal culprits," he believed.

"Those who are calling for protests will never succeed," he added.

Abid Sher Ali while criticizing PTI, said, they had done nothing but harm Pakistan's reputation and slammed the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) for challenging the federal government instead of focusing on his own work.

## DIG directs traffic police to ensure rule implementation without discrimination

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: According to the details, DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza briefed the officers of Islamabad Traffic Police on the best performance of their duties and reviewed

standard number plates without discrimination. Due to strict adherence to traffic laws, there has been a significant reduction in traffic accidents, he added.



DIG Islamabad appreciated the performance of the officers and personnel on duty, stating that Islamabad Traffic Police officers and personnel are always engaged in performing their duties well, regardless of the harsh weather conditions. Their efforts are commendable.

He further said that the Islamabad Traffic Police is considered a model force throughout the country, and further improvements should be made. Officers should treat citizens courteously during duty. Our primary duty is to alleviate the difficulties faced by citizens.

Across the city, actions are ongoing against drivers violating traffic laws and using fancy or non-



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

## SSP Shahzaib vows to tighten noose around gang members

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations/Investigation, Muhammad Arsalan Shahzaib, presided over an important meeting with the City Zone investigation officers on Tuesday.

A public relation officer told APP that, during the meeting, SSP Operations/Investigation Islamabad issued directives to the officers to ensure the arrest of missing members of criminal gangs and to compile data of accused released in property cases over the past three months.

He emphasized round-the-clock operations

## CDA Chairman accelerates major construction projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's directives have sparked swift action on key infrastructure projects in the capital, following which the Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, on Tuesday visited the Serena Chowk and Jinnah Avenue F-8 Interchange construction sites early in the morning to oversee progress.

"The pace of progress must accelerate, and all work should meet the highest quality standards," Randhawa stated.

He also directed the immediate completion of utility line relocation.

Acknowledging the efforts of laborers on-site, Randhawa commended their hard work, reinforcing the commitment to timely project delivery.

A detailed briefing was provided to the chairman, confirming that all activities were on schedule.



ISLAMABAD: A view of massive traffic jam at Islamabad Highway in day hours, in the Federal Capital.

## UN adopts Pakistan's resolution on right to self-determination

UNITED NATIONS (APP): A key UN panel Monday approved, by consensus, a resolution renewing the global commitment to the principle

of self-determination for peoples still subjected to colonial, foreign and alien occupation, with Pakistan saying that it's focus was on creating a world where everyone could live in "dignity, free from oppression".

Co-sponsored by 65 countries, the resolution, submitted by Pakistan's UN Ambassador Munir Akram, was adopted without a vote in the General Assembly's Third Committee, which deals with social, humanitarian and cultural issues.

The resolution, which Pakistan has been sponsoring since 1981, serves to focus the world's attention on the peoples still struggling for their inalienable right to self-determination, including those in Palestine and Kashmir.

The text is expected to come up for General Assembly's endorsement next month.

Under its terms, the 193 member Assembly would declare its firm opposition to acts of foreign military intervention and occupation suppressing the right to self-determination of peoples and nations, calling upon those States responsible to cease them.

## NDMA sends another relief consignment to Gaza, Lebanon, Syria

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Tuesday sent its 20th shipment of humanitarian aid, containing essential relief supplies, to assist war-affected populations in Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria.

The 17-ton shipment comprised rice buckets, powdered milk, canned food, family packs, sleeping bags, medical support kits, and

a generator. Following the directives of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, NDMA, in partnership with Al-Khidmat Foundation, sent the aid consignment via chartered flight from Jinnah International Airport, Karachi, to Damascus, Syria. The send-off ceremony held at Jinnah International Airport was attended by senior officials of the government and representatives of the Al-Khidmat Foundation.

## In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad

HBL Main Branch Haripur (Plaintiff)

Versus (1) Sajjad Ahmed S/o Nawab Khan R/o House No. 54/5 TIP Housing Scheme 2 Phase 3 Haripur (2) Stanley Foods Pvt Ltd Haripur (3) Village and Post Office Jabri Haripur. (Defendant)

Whereas the HBL Main Branch Haripur has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 1282735/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial Institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (28-10-2024). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a decree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.

Next date of hearing is 30-11-2024.

(sd/)  
JUDGE  
Banking Court Hazara Division, Abbottabad.