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Relief for people govt's top priority

## PM satisfies with economic stability, investment boom

**National progress is only possible when everyone fulfils their due responsibility; Tax evaders, abettors won't be left unpunished; Directs relevant authorities to expedite action against tax evaders.**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that country's economy was on path to stability and due to steps taken in this regard, stock market was showing brisk business.

He said that foreign investment was a reflection of confidence in the government's policies. The prime minister received a briefing from the Ministry of Finance regarding the country's economy and the meeting with the IMF delegation, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister was briefed on the economic indicators and the

current situation of inflation. The meeting was also briefed on the steps taken against tax evasion and those facilitating such theft. The prime minister stressed that public relief should be accorded priority on all other steps and they were taking all possible measures to fulfill public promises.

He also expressed satisfaction over the sliding down of the inflation rate to 7 percent from 38 percent and said the interest rate was lowered from 22 percent to 15 percent which would spur business activities and create jobs opportunities in the country.

The meeting was attended by ministers includ-

ing Muhammad Aurrangzeb, Ahmad Khan Cheema, Attaullah Tarar, Dr Mussadik Malik, Ali Pervaiz Malik, PM's coordinator Rana Ahsan Afzal and relevant senior officials. Prime Minister Sharif further observed that due to surge in exports and record remittances, the country's foreign reserves had increased.

He also praised Punjab chief minister and the provincial government for reforms in the agriculture sector.

The prime minister directed for accelerating actions against tax defaulters, and reiterated to bring the tax evaders and their facilitators to book.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers and MPAs meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti.

## PTI candidate wasting Election Tribunal's time by seeking adjournments: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Monday said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Zaheer Abbas Khokhar was wasting time of Election Tribunal by seeking several adjournments.

He was giving his reaction as Zaheer Abbas Khokhar took another adjournment in the application challenging election of Attaullah Tarar in NA 127, in February 8 general elections.

The minister said his lawyers appeared in the Election Tribunal and they were fully prepared having

all the documents. The opposite party had no evidence or proof, he maintained. "Zaheer Abbas Khokhar wants to escape from the court, that's why he requested the court to adjourn the hearing," he remarked.

"If he had evidence, why did Zaheer Abbas Khokhar ask for an adjournment," he asked. Criticising Zaheer Abbas, he said he had challenged his (Tarar's) victory but now he was repeatedly seeking adjournments and wasting the time of the Election Tribunal.

He said if the PTI candidate had no evidence, he should admit it.

## Finance Minister lauds ADB's financial assistance to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) led by Senior Director, Tariq H. Niazi called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue



Senator Muhammad Aurrangzeb at the Finance Division on Monday.

The meeting was also attended by ADB's Country Director, Ms. Emma Fan and her team in Pakistan, according to press release issued by finance ministry.

Tariq H. Niazi briefed the Minister on ADB's public sector management and governance initiatives aimed at ensuring stronger macro-fiscal management and effective governance with improved policy framework and institutional capacities in the Bank's developing member countries.

## Court extends interim bail of PTI founder in six cases, Bushra Bibi in one case

ISLAMABAD (Online): District Court Islamabad has extended interim bail of former Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan in 6 cases and Bushra Bibi in one case. Bushra Bibi has been granted exemption from attendance as well.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Afzal Majoka took up for hearing 6 bail before arrest pleas of Imran Khan and one bail before arrest plea of Bushra Bibi Monday.

The court extended the interim bail till December 7. The exemption plea of

Bushra Bibi from attendance for one day from court was accepted while Imran Khan was not presented through video links despite court's orders.

Investigation officer sought time for verification of Toshakhana receipts.

Judge Afzal Majoka said there is hearing of bail plea of PTI founder. His attendance remains there.

Defence Counsel Khalid Yousof said jail authorities are making pretences in online attendance. You please announce decision on bail plea of Bushra Bibi.

## BA session to be commenced from today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The session of Balochistan Assembly is scheduled to be commenced from today (Tuesday) in Quetta.

It may be mentioned here that the Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail had summoned the session of Provincial Assembly.

According to the notification of the Provincial Assembly's Secretariat, the session would start at 03:00 PM today.

As per the agenda, call attention notice would be tabled by the Member Provincial Assembly, Rehmat Saleh Baloch about handing over of the Technical Training School in Kharan to the private sector.

Similarly, the draft law of Balochistan Social Security Employees Institution would also be tabled in the today's sitting of the Assembly.

**Apex Committee meeting postponed**  
ISLAMABAD (INP): The Apex Committee meeting on the National Action Plan (NAP) against terrorism, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, has been postponed.

The meeting, originally scheduled for 2:30 on Monday was called off. A new date and time are yet to be announced.

## KP CM writes letter to PM for summoning meeting of CCI

PESHAWAR (Online): Chief Minister (CM) KP Ali Amin Gandapur has written letter to Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif to summon meeting of Council of Common Interest (CCI).

According to copy of letter received by media KP CM said in the letter it is incumbent to hold meeting of CCI after every 90 days as per article 154 of the constitution. But this constitutional obligation is not being met after January 2024.

It was said in the letter that meeting of CCI is must for bolstering cooperation between federal units, resolution of key issues, peace in the country, harmony and socio-economic development of the country.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receiving a briefing from the Ministry of Finance regarding the country's economy and the meeting with the IMF delegation.

## CM Bugti congratulates Domki on success in by-election of PB-8 Sibi

**Terms success outcome of PPP leadership's policies**

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has congratulated the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) nominated candidate, Sardar Kohyar Khan Domki on his victory in the by-election of PB-8, Sibi.

In a felicitation statement issued here on Monday, the Chief Minister said that successfully of Sardar Kohyar Domki is an outcome of the Balochistan friendly policies of the President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

He said that the success of the PPP's nominated candidate in the by-election of trust of the masses. He said that all the commitments made by the PPP with the people would be fulfilled.

He also said that the PPP would play its role for resolving the issues being faced by the people of Balochistan.

The Chief Minister said that Sardar Kohyar Domki is an active youngster and he as such he would play his effective role to resolve the issues of masses.

## Ahsan seeks stronger US-Pak ties across key sectors

**Minister highlights opportunity for both nations to revitalise relationship in light of new US administration**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Monday highlighted the importance of addressing global challenges such as climate change, energy sustainability and food security while discussing

sustainable agriculture, and modern infrastructure to build a more resilient future.

He also stressed the need for engaging the vibrant Pakistani diaspora in the United States to strengthen cultural, academic and economic ties between the two countries, a news release



future cooperation between Pakistan and the United States.

Addressing an event organized by USAID to mark the longstanding US infrastructure development support to Pakistan, he called for collaborative research in renewable energy,

and "Pakistan, with its strategic location at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East, is a natural partner for the United States in promoting regional connectivity and economic integration," Ahsan Iqbal said.

## Non-recovery of abducted child All parties, Anjuman Tajran announce shutter down strike today

QUETTA: All political parties and Markazi Anjuman Tajran have announced to observe shutter down strike today (Tuesday) against non-recovery of the kidnapped child, Musawar Khan.

The announcement was made at a joint press conference by the leaders of the political parties and office bearers of the Markazi Anjuman Tajran here at protest dharna staged at the Unity Chowk near the Provincial Assembly on Monday.

The protest dharna was staged by the family members and others for recovery of 10-year old, Musawar Khan, who was kidnapped by unknown persons on Friday last from the Patel Bagh area.

The provincial President of Pashtoonkhw National Awami Party

(PKNAP) Nasrullah Zairay made announcement of the decisions made by All parties.

He told the media persons that shutter down strike would be observed against non recovery of the kidnapped child, Musawar Khan. He said that the All parties and others along with the family members of the child would also hold protest demonstration in front of the provincial assembly against non recovery of the child today.

Meanwhile, all the leaders of political parties criticized the provincial government for its failure in recovering the child.

Present at the joint press conference were the leaders of the parties including PKNAP, PKMAP, ANP, National Party, Balochistan National Party, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Nazrauti and JUL.

## Governor contacts IGP, directs to ensure safe recovery of kidnapped child

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail contacted the Inspector General of Police, Moazzam Jah Ansari over the matter of innocent child, Musawar Khan, kidnapped from Quetta, on Monday.

In his conversation, the Governor stressed on taking concrete steps for early recovery of the 10-year old kidnapped child.

He also directed the IGP to take speedy and strict measures for ensuring safe recovery of the child and taking stern action against those involved in the kidnapping so as to prevent such untoward incidents in future.

The IGP assured the Governor that all available resources would be mobilized for recovery of the child at the earliest.

## Seven policemen abducted by armed assailants in Bannu

BANU (Agencies): Seven policemen have been abducted by unidentified armed men from the Ahmedzai sub-division in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) Bannu district. District Police Officer (DPO) Ziauddin confirmed.

The armed assailants seized control of the Rocha checkpost and took the police personnel hostage. DPO Ziauddin said that a search operation has been launched in the area, with authorities cordoning off the location to apprehend the kidnappers.

The abduction occurred shortly after the Maghrib prayer when a group of armed men stormed the checkpost and took the officers, including their weapons, to an undisclosed location.

The abducted policemen have been identified as Saleem, Aqal Rehman, Mewah Jan, Roshan, Abdul Malik, Neematullah, and Shad Muhammad. Authorities are working to secure their release and bring those responsible to justice.

## PM grieved over dengue outbreak in Bangladesh

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed sorrow over the loss of lives due to dengue outbreak in Bangladesh.

"Deeply saddened by the loss of precious lives due to the dengue outbreak in Bangladesh," the prime minister wrote on X.

He said, "Pakistan stands in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Bangladesh at this difficult time and we stand ready to assist in whatever way we can".

## SC dismisses plea seeking 50% vote requirement for electoral victory

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Supreme Court of Pakistan has rejected a constitutional petition seeking to declare elections null and void if a candidate scores less than 50% of the total votes for any house of parliament. The petition was heard by the Constitutional Bench headed by Justice Amin U Din Khan, and was ultimately dismissed with a fine of Rs.20,000 on the petitioner. Other members of the bench included Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha A Malik, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Musarrat Hilali and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan.

The court questioned the petitioner, Mr. Muhammad Akram, on the constitutional basis for such a declaration, pointing out that the current system declares a candidate victorious based on the maximum number of votes received, regardless of whether they reach

50% or not.

Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar asked under which article of the Constitution the Supreme Court could declare a candidate unsuccessful for receiving less than 50% of the total vote. Justice Ayesha Malik also inquired about which articles of the Constitution would be violated if a candidate with the maximum votes, but less than 50%, was declared successful.

The Court emphasized that the current system is lawful, and if the petitioner desires a change in the law, he should approach the parliament for new legislation. Justice Musarrat Hilali noted that every citizen has the right to vote, but the Supreme Court cannot compel eligible voters to participate in polling.

In a surprising turn, the petitioner admitted not casting his vote in the previous general elections when questioned by Justice Jamal Mandokhail.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail speaks during a ceremony at High Court Bar.

## Our lawyers are guardians of law and democracy, maintains Governor Balochistan

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that our lawyers are the guardians and servants of law and democracy. He said that we hold the invaluable services and sacrifices of all lawyers including the martyrs of 8th August in high esteem. Nevertheless, the democratic behaviours would be promoted through lawyers in the society.

The Governor was addressing the ceremony arranged at the Balochistan High Court here on Monday.

Also present on the occasion were the President Supreme Court Bar Association,

Rauf Ata, newly elected President of Balochistan High Court Bar Association, Mir Attaullah Langove, Additional Attorney General of Pakistan, Najam Mengal, President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Lawyers Wing, Anwar Nasim Kasi, besides other senior lawyers.

Addressing the gathering, Governor said that the role of lawyers based on their cooperation is very important for strengthening the rule of law.

The Governor emphasized upon the importance of role based on the cooperation of lawyers community.

## Heirs of kidnapped child, traders community continue protest; lawyers express solidarity too

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The heirs of the child kidnapped from Quetta four days ago continued protest against his non-recovery in the provincial metropolis on Monday.

While the family members of the kidnapped child staged protest dharna (sit-in) on second consecutive day in the middle of city, Unity chowk near the Balochistan assembly and High court, the traders' community and lawyers also joined the protest and expressed solidarity with the family members.

A protest rally was also taken out by the lawyers led by the senior leaders Ali Ahmed Kurd, Rahib Buledi and others from district court to the spot of dharna.

Meanwhile, the sit-in by the protestors caused massive traffic jam in the main city area disrupting the flow of traffic there.

As a result of which, the people including students and women faced immense problems especially during the schools and office timings.

Meanwhile, children of

different schools also took out protest rally for recovery of the kidnapped child. They came in the protest sit-in in form of the rally and expressed solidarity with the family members of Musawar Khan.

Similarly, the Provincial Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami and Member Provincial Assembly, Maulana Hidayatullah Rehman Baloch also visited the protest dharna and expressed solidarity with the protestors.

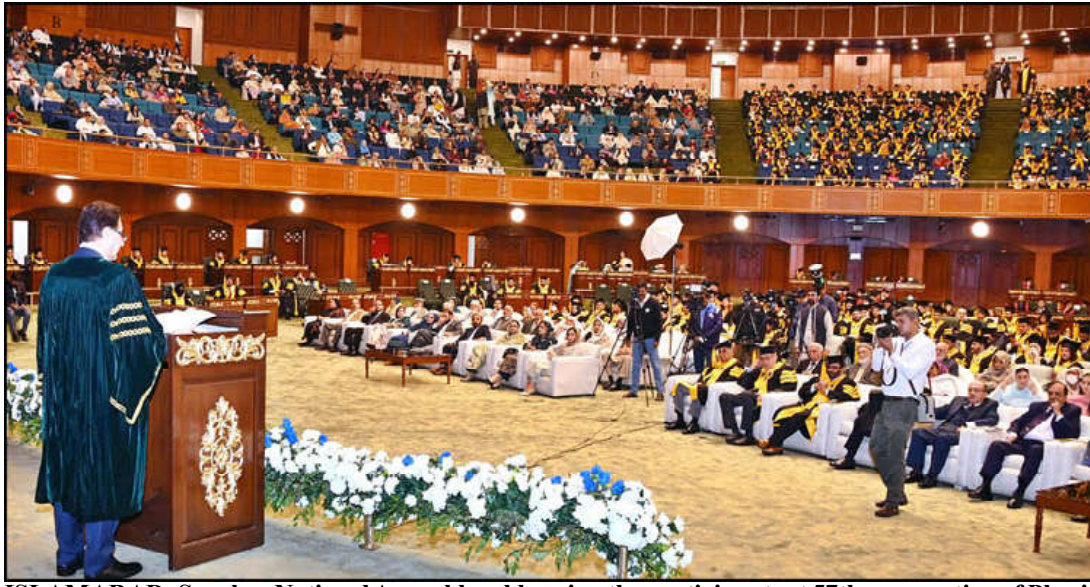
The lawyers including Ali Ahmed Kurd, Rahib Buledi, Maulana Hidayatullah Rehman and other protestors denounced the provincial government and police for their failure in recovery of the child kidnapped from Patel Bagh area of Quetta on Friday last.

They said that the government has miserably failed to protect the life and property of the common men, as a result of which, they are feeling their insecure. They demanded of the government and other concerned law enforcement agencies to ensure safe recovery of the kidnapped child without any further loss of time.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over meeting regarding PSDP 2024-25.





ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly addressing the participants at 57th convocation of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan at Jinnah Convention Center.

## Ayaz commends CPSP's commitment to strengthen Pakistan's healthcare system

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Monday said that Parliament is committed to enhance country's healthcare sector, while emphasizing the pivotal role of young doctors in transforming the health care system.

While delivering keynote address at the 57th Convocation of the College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan (CPSP) here, he highlighted the dedication, compassion, and hard work of young doctors as essential to advancing healthcare in the country.

"Patients often sacri-

fice everything for their treatment in hospitals. In such times, kind words and a smile from senior doctors offer them a new sense of life," the Speaker remarked.

The convocation was attended by Punjab Health Advisor Major General (Retd) Azhar Kiani, former caretaker Health Minister Punjab Dr. Jamal Nasir, CPSP President Dr. Mohammad Shoaib Shafi, distinguished doctors, graduating students, and their families from across the country.

Ayaz Sadiq has described the graduating doctors as essential for the

nation's healthcare system. He lauded CPSP as one of Pakistan's premier institutions which is renowned not only nationally but also internationally for its immense contributions to medical education and training. Addressing the young doctors, NA Speaker urged them to extend their responsibilities beyond medical treatment and foster ethical, and honest relationships with their patients.

He pointed out critical challenges such as improving maternal and child healthcare and delivering medical services in rural areas, underscoring that these

issues cannot be resolved without the commitment and expertise of young medical professionals.

While mentioning the CPSP's six decades of service, he commended its role in maintaining high standards in postgraduate medical education.

He praised the leadership of CPSP for equipping its graduates with world-class knowledge and skills, as well as instilling values of compassion and humanity. The Speaker also assured parliament's full support for CPSP's initiatives aimed at advancing healthcare in Pakistan.

## Chairperson says: Punjab youth to get Intl job opportunities under CM's vision

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of the CM Task Force on Skills Development, Adnan Afzal Chattha reaffirmed the Punjab government's commitment to empowering youth with world-class skills development education. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Maryum Nawaz, he said that the government aims to transform vocational institutes to meet international standards, equipped with state-of-the-art labs and a modern curriculum.

By providing youth with market-driven skills, the program will enable youth to excel in the global job market and secure better livelihood opportuni-

ties, he said in an interview with PTV News. The Punjab government is playing a significant role in promoting skill development education alongside traditional schools, aiming to raise awareness among youth and parents, he added. The government is promoting various programs to equip youth with market-driven skills, enhancing their employability globally, he said adding that the government has launched various initiatives to empower youth, including the Prime Minister's Digital Youth Hub, Laptop Scheme, Skills Development Programme, Talent Hunt Youth Sports League, Green Youth Movement,

National Innovation Award, Youth Development Centre, National Youth Council, and YES Programs.

Additionally, vocational training programs in fields like nursing, electrical work, solar technology, tile fixing, welding, and bricklaying are available, he mentioned. He said that key partners include TEVTA, PSDF, and international collaborations like China these programs aim to equip youth with market-driven skills, enhance employability globally and contribute to Pakistan's economic growth. He said that empowering rural women and youth through vocational training programs is a game-changer for their socio-economic well-being.

## Dr Mukhtar urges dialogue, unity among IUI Officers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Acting Rector of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IUI), Professor Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, called for a renewed spirit of openness and accountability during his recent address to university officers.

Stressing the importance of candid dialogue and constructive engagement, he highlighted the need for transparent discussion on genuine concerns to bridge gaps between officers and the administration.

Dr. Mukhtar's address, marked by a call for equitable and merit-based progress, was part of a

broader initiative aimed at nurturing a collaborative environment within IUI. Emphasizing his commitment to these principles, he encouraged officers to embrace a culture of self-responsibility, mutual respect, and accountability.

In response to officers' concerns, which were met with attentive listening, Dr. Mukhtar pledged to address them gradually and concretely, acknowledging the importance of constructive, ongoing dialogue. He underscored the role of educational institutions as "hubs of the legacy of the Prophets" and advocated for an Islamic renaissance that aligns with IUI's unique identity.



ISLAMABAD: DG FDAASif Ghafoor, Director Kamran Kohlo in a group photo with participants during closing ceremony of Waster Water Conference.

## PS Shehzad Town arrest 17 in search operation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police conducted a grand search and combing operation on Monday in various areas of the Shehzad Town police station jurisdiction, falling under the Rawal Zone, to curb criminal activities.

A police spokesperson told APP that, the operation was conducted under the supervision of SP Rawal Zone Kazim Naqvi. He said teams comprising police personnel, CTD including lady officers and Frontier Corps (FC) officials, participated in the operation.

## Senate body on IT discusses nationwide internet disruption

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology, chaired by Senator Palwasha Mohammad Zai Khan on Monday discussed the reasons behind the recent nationwide internet disruption and other pressing matters.

Senator Palwasha Khan criticized the absence of the Minister and Secretary for Information Technology, calling it negligence in defending the ministry's actions.

She noted that the internet disruption has significantly impacted the livelihoods of around 2.5 million free-lancers across the country. Despite multiple invitations, the Minister

for IT failed to attend the committee meeting for the third consecutive time.

The Committee decided to write to the Prime Minister, highlighting the Minister's repeated absence and inability to defend the ministry's decisions.

The committee reviewed a letter from the Interior Ministry directing the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to block VPNs without informing the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications. Senator Afnan Ullah questioned the legality of the directive, stating that VPNs do not fall under the scope of social media apps.

## 62 cases registered in Islamabad against Imran: Police submits final report

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad Police have informed Islamabad High Court (IHC) that as many as 62 cases are registered against PTI founder Imran Khan in different police stations of Islamabad.

Islamabad Police have filed report in IHC containing details of cases against former PM Imran Khan. The report said that 62 cases are registered against Imran Khan in different police stations of Islamabad.

This final report was presented in the court on Monday.

The petition seeking details of cases registered against Imran Khan came up for hearing in IHC Monday.

Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir took up for hearing petition filed by Noreen Niazi sister of Imran Khan.

DSP Legal of Islamabad police Sajid Cheema presented final report on court's orders in respect of the cases registered against Imran Khan in Islamabad.

It is pertinent to mention here that Noreen Niazi had filed petition seeking details of cases registered against her brother incarcerated in Adiala jail.

Police had verbally told the court the details of cases on previous hearing, however court had ordered to submit final report.

## FIA arrests man for sexual exploitation of child

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Monday arrested a suspect involved in the sexual exploitation of a young girl in Lahore.

According to the FIA spokesperson, this marks the first operation conducted under the International Child Sexual Exploitation Database (ICSED) since Pakistan joined the international database on November 1.

## IHC seeks response regarding FIA's officers' promotions

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday served notices to respondents in a petition against the decision of the central selection board of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) regarding the promotion of officers.

The court instructed the secretary Ministry of Interior to submit a report on November 21, after deciding on the applications of petitioners. Justice Babar Sattar heard the case filed by FIA officers including Bakhtiar Cheema and others. The court said in its order regarding the hearing that the petitioners' lawyer said that they were affectees of the working papers sent by the establishment division and other respondents regarding the promotions from BPS-19 to BPS-20. They stated that the available cadre positions for the posts of director law BPS-20 were told wrongly. If the correct position was told then the petitioners could be considered for these posts.

## Climate scientist blames emission of volatile organic compounds for smog

ISLAMABAD (APP): Climate scientist, Salaal Hasan, on Monday, blamed volatile organic compounds for creating smog as most of the industries were using these dangerous molecules. Talking to media, he said that volatile organic compounds, mostly chlorine, hydrogen, and sulfur produced from different sources, when reacted with sunlight caused ozone layer at the surface of the earth.

"Quality of air index above 80 to 100 marks is considered health hazard," Hasan added. He also maintained that these chemicals directly affect the tissues of the lungs, which could result in deaths or irreversible disability and it could be very dangerous, especially for infants and pregnant women.

## PML-N coordinator vows to strengthen political activities in KP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Youth Coordinator for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) chapter, Idrees Sagar, on Monday, vowed to strengthen political activities to counter evolving strategies of opponents at the province.

During a press conference here, Sagar stressed the need to empower youth, proposing modern strategies for organizing efforts across all districts in the KPK, said Sagar urging the importance of unity among party workers.

He emphasized bridging the political gap between top leadership and party workers performing at gross root levels. The party should work on an inclusive approach to strengthen the political influence.

Sagar, in his closing remarks, suggested considering Ikhtiar Wali Khan, on any appropriate position at the government level due to his devotion to the party for over three decades.

He was optimistic that his leadership skills always united the members under one umbrella.

## Nadir advises PTI supporters to beware of exploitation

ISLAMABAD (APP): A prominent Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Sardar Nadir Nabil Khan Gabol on Monday advised Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters to beware of exploitation by their party leaders and issued a stern warning to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister, stating that the federal government will not tolerate the misuse of public resources.

In an interview with the PTV news channel, he said that the government has made it clear that it will not tolerate the misuse of

government resources for PTI's personal agenda, adding, that the government will closely monitor PTI's actions to prevent any exploitation of public funds or resources for political gain. Gabol said that the government was making progress and would not be swayed by PTI's attempts to exploit the situation for their gain. He urged youth to distance themselves from the PTI protests, adding, that the country's progress and welfare should be the primary focus, rather than getting entangled in political unrest.

## Islamabad admin bans public gatherings for 2 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration on Monday imposed a two-month ban on all public gatherings of five or more people, processions, rallies and demonstrations.

According to the notification issued by Additional District Magistrate Usman Ashraf the ban was imposed due to law and order, citing concerns about potential unlawful assemblies, disruption of public order and the current security environment.

The order specifically mentions concerns about planned religious and sectarian processions and demonstrations.

The ban prohibits gatherings in all public places within Islamabad's revenue limits.

## AIOU holds pilot phase workshop on "Art of Parenting"

ISLAMABAD (APP): A four-day workshop titled "Art of Parenting" was inaugurated at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on Monday, aiming to familiarize master trainers with two guides developed by the university, "Aghosh" and "Parwarish".

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Dr. Khalid Chauhan, Director General of Research and Development at the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), Pakistan, emphasized that Aghosh and Parwarish are crucial books for child upbringing. He encouraged master trainers to engage with the content and disseminate it to the community to realize the dream of an ideal society.

Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Raja Rashid Ali recited Amjad Islam Amjad's poem "Mere Betay Ne Aankhein Ek Nayi Duniya Mein Kholi Hai" and highlighted the increasing challenges of raising children in the modern era.

He stressed the importance of parents and teachers focusing on children's character building.

Dean of the Faculty of Education, Prof. Dr. Fazal Rahman stated that tolerance and adaptability are key qualities to instill in children to create an exemplary society. He urged the master trainers to approach this task as a mission and a national need.



ISLAMABAD: Laborers are busy binding steel at the construction site of an underpass along Khyaban-e-Suharwardi in the Federal Capital as part of ongoing development work.

## Anti-smog symposium calls for sustainable solution

ISLAMABAD (APP): Capital Development Authority (CDA) on Monday held an anti-smog symposium to raise awareness about the growing environmental challenges posed by smog and air pollution.

Chairman CDA, Muhammad Ali Randhawa while addressing the event appreciated the initiative and emphasized the critical need for collaborative efforts in tackling the issue of smog and promoting sustainable urban development.

He encouraged all sectors of society to play a role in improving air quality and protecting the health of the public. "Smog knows no boundaries, and it is a

shared responsibility to work together to reduce pollution levels in our cities. The steps we take today will benefit generations to come," Randhawa remarked.

Prof. Dr. Naeem Taj, who served as both the chief organizer and supervisor of the event, opened the symposium with a compelling address highlighting the importance of collective efforts to mitigate air pollution and promote clean, healthy environments for future generations.

"Increased levels of air pollution, particularly during the winter months, pose a significant threat to public health. Our goal today is

not only to raise awareness but also to provide practical solutions that individuals, communities, and institutions can adopt to reduce their environmental impact," said Prof. Dr. Taj.

Following the symposium, Chairman CDA along with other participants took part in the Anti-Smog Walk fostering community engagement and environmental responsibility and a Tree Plantation Drive as part of the hospital's ongoing environmental initiatives.

The participants including environmental experts, healthcare professionals and local authorities walked through designated areas around the hospital,

carrying banners with messages about air quality, environmental protection, and the importance of clean air for public health. The walk was a powerful demonstration of solidarity and a call to action for everyone to take responsibility for their environment.

The volunteers, hospital staff, and community members worked together to plant a variety of trees on the hospital grounds, symbolizing a collective commitment to enhancing green spaces and combating the effects of air pollution.

Prof. Dr. Naeem Taj expressed his gratitude to all attendees, sponsors, and

participants, saying, "Events like these are critical in raising awareness and inspiring meaningful change. It is through these efforts that we can protect the health of our communities and build a cleaner, greener future."

The event was also graced by other guests including Member Administration, Talat Mehmood; Member Finance, CDA, Tahir Naeem Akhtar; Prof. Dr. Shajee, Head of the Medicine Department at PIMS; Dr. Shazli Manzoor, Pulmonologist; Dr. Intiaz Paracha, Pulmonologist and Dr. Akbar Siddique Satti, former Head of the Medicine Department.

## Police nab 2,285 outlaws in rural zone over last 10 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Police rural zone police teams have carried out an extensive crackdown against criminal elements in the federal capital over the past 10 months to maintain peace and security.

During this period, the rural zone police teams arrested a total of 2,285 accused involved in various criminal activities and recovered cash and valuables worth over 135 million rupees from their possession, a public relation officer told APP on Monday.

Moreover, 250 accused of 98 criminal gangs were also apprehended.

## AGP to organize seminar on Workplace Harassment Protections

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP) office is scheduled to organize an awareness seminar on the Provisions of the Protection Against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2010 here Wednesday.

The seminar, organized in collaboration with the UN Women would address key aspects of creating safe and inclusive work environments for women, according to press statement. The event will bring together esteemed speakers and specialists, including representatives from UN Women Pakistan, FOSPAH (Federal Ombudsman Secretariat for Protection Against Harassment), and the Auditor General's Office. Keynote addresses and sessions will focus on gender stereotypes, respectful workplace prac-

tices, and international best practices for preventing workplace harassment.

The seminar will kick off with preliminary remarks on the workshop's objectives by Dr. Zahra Kamal, a prominent psychologist and gender specialist from UN Women. Louise Nylin, UN Women's Country Representative, will deliver remarks to set the tone for the day. Other highlights include a presentation on workplace harassment laws by Ms. Meher Jamy of FOSPAH, and an engaging discussion on gender and social norms led by Dr. Zahra Kamal. The closing sessions will cover concepts and norms of respectful workplaces and international best practices with emphasis on situation in Pakistan by Muhammad Younas Khalid of UN Women.



ISLAMABAD: Students cross very busy Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed Road, during heavy traffic, which may cause any incident any time as needs to attention for concern authority, in the Federal Capital.

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**  
Tuesday November 19, 2024

**When medicine fails**

Who would have thought that the medicine that was developed to cure disease would one day be overpowered by the very microorganisms it was supposed to target?

Medical science may have progressed with lightning speed over the decades, but has now hit a significant roadblock in the form of antimicrobial resistance. From Nov 18 to Nov 24 — World Antimicrobial Awareness Week — countries will be reminded of this grim reality, as thousands of people worldwide continue to die because their sickness is not responding to antibiotic treatment.

This should be especially alarming for a country like Pakistan, where the consumption of antibiotics is the third highest in the world. There are no checks on the intake of these drugs, thanks to a general lack of awareness and a lax attitude on the part of doctors, pharmacies and patients. Doctors often recommend antibiotics to patients without even diagnosing their illness; pharmacies readily sell them over the counter, and those consuming them resort to their improper use.

Under these and other circumstances, pathogens develop resistance. Indeed, when in a country like the US, with its high-quality healthcare, almost one-third of antibiotic prescriptions are not needed, one can expect worse in Pakistan, where regulations and international best practices are routinely overlooked.

The situation is nothing less than a medical emergency: between now and 2050, medical experts expect antibiotic resistance to kill 40m people worldwide. A disproportionate number is likely to be from the developing countries where healthcare is poor and disease-rife — a situation that is compounded by high levels of illiteracy and lack of education. Against this backdrop, it would indeed be a miracle if this year's theme for WAAW — 'Educate. Advocate. Act now' — is taken seriously by our authorities — not simply for health reasons but also to reduce the huge economic burden caused by longer hospital stays, more expensive, often inaccessible, therapy, and loss of work hours.

A coordinated strategy is needed at a national scale to reduce the microbial danger. But, in the meantime, health authorities can step up disease-reducing measures such as carrying out frequent vaccination campaigns, ensuring cleanliness in neighbourhoods and public places, and keeping a vigilant eye on hospitals — the hotbeds of infection.

As recommended by the WHO, they would do well to promote antimicrobial stewardship to train doctors in judiciously prescribing and administering antibiotics. Besides, affordable lab tests can lead to more accurate diagnoses for patients who are otherwise deterred by high costs. Nothing, of course, can take the place of greater awareness among the public itself. But the state has to lead the way by recognising the health challenge and taking steps where it can.

**70 Years of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship**

*China values friendship, cultural exchange, and diplomacy for global success through understanding and cooperation*

By Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

Founded in 1954 under the name China Cultural Foreign Relations Association, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) is marking its seventeenth year, advancing global cooperation through the bonds of friendship. Despite these modifications, CPAFFC still upholds its primary goal of promoting Global Development Friendship through facilitating cultural exchange and promoting diplomatic dialogue. China believes in prioritizing the collective welfare over individual country interests to achieve worldwide success and urging nations to come together for a shared objective, aiming to attain global prosperity and peace through collaboration rather than rivalry. By consistently upholding these beliefs, the CPAFFC plays a crucial role in China's global integration and represents its long-standing dedication to a more interconnected and fairer world.

This anniversary isn't pretty much celebrating past successes; it's a name to action for the destiny. President Xi Jinping's imaginative and prescient of a "network with a shared future for mankind" taking

shape. In Beijing, celebrations marked China's progress in successful diplomacy.

China's concept of a "shared future for humanity" goes beyond just being an ideological notion - it urges all countries to set aside their differences and prioritize the overall welfare of everyone. It supports a fresh worldwide solidarity that goes beyond political and economic agendas. The progress of humanity relies on the progress of every nation.

China's long-standing foreign policy of appeasement and non-interference reflects that peace is largely a political necessity and a moral conviction. China's development policy is primarily based on five standards of peaceful coexistence, serving as a supply of notion for international locations around the sector. It is essential to emphasize that China's foreign policy is based totally on principles such as mutual recognition for sovereignty, non-violence, self-reliance, equality and non-violent coexistence. These ideas have enabled China to establish sturdy and cooperative relations with nations round the arena.

The seventieth anniversary also provide a moment to mirror at the significance of intercultural exchange. For China, vari-

**Xi Jinping's vision of "shared future for mankind" progresses, celebrated in Beijing for successful diplomacy**

ety isn't always a source of division but a source of possibility. The concept of "concord without uniformity" is deeply embedded in Chinese philosophy and reflects the perception that diversity is the middle of human civilization. In today's globalized world, this idea is greater relevant than ever. It's essential to foster expertise, promote appreciate, and encourage the peaceful coexistence of various cultures.

In a technology ruled by virtual technologies, go-cultural communie has emerge as each less difficult and extra complicated. China's ongoing efforts to engage with different international locations — whether or not thru government diplomacy or civil society exchanges—are important for fostering global peace and mutual know-how. Initiatives like the Confucius Institutes, which teach Chinese language and lifestyle, and China's energetic participation in worldwide cultural exchanges, show off its dedication to human beings-to-people diplomacy.

Central to the

inspiration for broader national cooperation.

The anniversary additionally highlighted the significance of enticing more youthful generations in worldwide international relations. The CPAFFC's ongoing efforts to increase teens applications and global exchanges ensure that mutual know-how and friendship will keep growing in the coming decades.

At a time of rising geopolitical tensions and protectionism, China's method to international relations remains rooted in openness and inclusivity. Unlike different countries that are trying to find to impose their very own fashions, China respects the right of all international locations to determine their own paths to improvement.

In practice, this means jointly tackling shared challenges—climate change, poverty, inequality, and conflict. It means providing development assistance without conditions normally imposed by other powers. For instance, BRI does not prioritize asserting Chinese sovereignty but rather emphasizes forming mutually beneficial partnerships among all parties.

Amidst global challenges such as climate change, political instability, and economic inequality, the 75 years at the CPAFFC serve as a testa-

ment to the importance of friendship in international relations. In a time of frequent conflict and rivalry, the importance of human connection is crucial. An example is the Chinese saying, "True and honest communication results in long-lasting friendships."

China's dedication to cultivating this profound and significant bond has influenced its foreign policy for the last 70 years - and will have a lasting impact for years to come. The idea of a "society for the shared future of mankind" is not a dreamy vision, but a realistic blueprint for global interactions to come. By collaborating, nations can address current issues and establish a future founded on peace, advancement, and mutual regard. Looking ahead to the next 70 years, CPAFFC's ethos of camaraderie and unity will keep motivating individuals globally. China's contribution to promoting global connections - through culture, education, trade, and diplomacy - will be vital in building a fair, prosperous, and peaceful world for everyone.

*— The author is Secretary-General Pakistan-China Friendship Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province & was member of APCA delegation to Conference His email syeed.gilani@gmail.com.*

**The impasse persists**

Maleeha Lodhi

For all the speculation during last month's SCO summit about a thaw in Pakistan-India relations, there has been no melting of the ice between the two neighbours. Instead, subsequent developments indicate the long-standing diplomatic impasse persists and may even have deepened.

The speculation was sparked by the visit to Islamabad last month of S. Jaishankar to attend the meeting of the 10-member Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, the first by an Indian foreign minister in over a decade. But he made clear ahead of the trip that no bilateral engagement was envisioned. Nor did Islamabad seek a meeting on the sidelines. The media noise over the customary exchange of handshakes and pleasantries did not obscure the reality that Jaishankar's 24-hour stay did nothing to break the

diplomatic deadlock — and wasn't intended to.

In fact, overtures to New Delhi by former prime minister and head of the ruling party Nawaz Sharif and his daughter, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, elicited no response from the Indian government.

Nawaz Sharif said he saw Jaishankar's visit as a positive sign that might lead to improved relations and hoped the two countries would restore sports and trade ties. Maryam Nawaz publicly called for "climate diplomacy" with India to deal with the growing challenge of smog on both sides of the Punjab border. This was met by silence from New Delhi. But the chief minister of Indian Punjab ridiculed Maryam's claim that smog from the Indian side was reaching Lahore.

Expectations that sports would help to pave the way for a thaw did not materialise. Although cricket diplomacy has

played a part in the past to ease tensions and bring the two countries closer, not so this time. Despite informally conveyed urgings by Pakistani officials, India announced it would not send its cricket team to play in Pakistan for the eighth-anniversary Champions Trophy, which Pakistan will host in February/March 2025.

The Indian cricket board apparently cited security concerns for its decision. For their part, Pakistani officials rejected the Indian suggestion to play their matches in Dubai or elsewhere and ruled out any 'hybrid solution'. The row continues.

Meanwhile, to add to disputes between the two countries, in late August, New Delhi formally asked Islamabad for a review of the Indus Waters Treaty.

The 1960 treaty, brokered by the World Bank, has for over six decades survived wars, confrontations and tensions to provide a framework that governs the shar-

ing and management of trans-border rivers. The fate of the treaty may now be at risk due to India's insistence on modifying it on grounds of what it calls "fundamental and unforeseen change" in circumstances as well as security concerns.

The latest communication follows an earlier one in January 2023, when India notified Islamabad of its intention to amend the treaty's dispute settlement provisions. According to Indian media reports, the latest one includes India's concerns over issues such as "demographic changes, environmental challenges, and the need to accelerate clean energy development".

Islamabad responded by a terse statement expressing willingness to discuss any concerns in the relevant body, the joint Indus Waters Commission, while calling on India to comply with the treaty. The two countries have disagreed in recent years over

the treaty's dispute settlement mechanism; India boycotted a court of arbitration hearing in January 2023 at the Hague on Indian hydroelectric projects on the Chenab and Jhelum rivers disputed by water-stressed Pakistan.

These developments do not create a propitious climate for India-Pakistan diplomatic re-engagement. But the biggest obstacle is India's obdurate refusal to discuss the Kashmir dispute. Relations, in fact, were ruptured in August 2019 when India illegally annexed bifurcated and absorbed the disputed state of Jammu and Kashmir into the Indian union — in violation and defiance of UN Security Council resolutions. Formal dialogue and the peace process were suspended by India long before this. But Delhi's 2019 action, accompanied by a sweeping set of repressive measures, prompted Pakistan to suspend trade and downgrade diplomatic

ties by recalling its high commissioner.

The Modi government's post-2019 actions in J&K only intensified tensions with Pakistan. Ignoring Islamabad's protests, it undertook a slew of far-reaching legal, demographic, and electoral changes in occupied Kashmir aimed at disempowering Kashmiri Muslims. This further vitiated the regional climate and left ties more fraught. In a bid to consolidate and 'legitimise' its August 2019 action, the Modi government allowed elections to be held to the J&K assembly — after a decade — but only after truncating the powers and authority of the 'elected' government by substantially empowering the lieutenant-governor, nominated by Delhi.

This was opposed by all Kashmiri parties and showed the Modi government had no intention to cede central control of J&K.

**Sick sector**

Zarrar Khuhro

You've almost certainly heard of Multan's Nishtar hospital; as south Punjab's largest public sector hospital, it is visited by thousands of patients every year. Even if you're not familiar with the hospital, you will almost certainly have heard of an incident that took place in 2022, when a video went viral showing several corpses in various stages of decomposition left to rot on the roof of the hospital.

Some reports claimed that there were 200 to 500 bodies (in reality there were four), and there was furious speculation that these belonged to missing persons allegedly being disposed of with the collusion of hospital authorities. The truth, when it emerged, was less sensational and — in keeping with Pakistani realities — much more predictable.

The bodies were of the unclaimed and unidentified dead and were meant to be stored in special rooms. Instead, hospital staff had, in violation of SOPs, simply dumped them on the roof under the open sky. This was inhuman, shouted the government of the day, while pledging heads would roll. Investigative committees were constituted in classic Pakistani tradition. And in keeping with that tradition, nothing really happened. And now in 2024, the hospital is once again in the news, and once again for all the wrong reasons.

Following the death of a kidney patient, who undertook regular dialysis at the hospital, from HIV-related complications, it emerged that the three dialysis machines reserved for HIV patients had, in fact, been used for the dialysis of kidney patients who were free of the deadly blood-borne virus. The result? At least 30

kidney patients now have HIV, as reported in Asif Chaudhry's comprehensive story in this paper last week.

By Oct 26, the hospital knew what had transpired, but reportedly tried — again in keeping with tradition — to hush it up. It only came out with the news once a person had died. Worse, when the news spread and patients went and got HIV tests at the hospital, reportedly the results turned out negative. When they went and had the same tests conducted at a private lab, they tested positive. From this, we can only conclude that either the hospital labs are ineffective or falsifying results. For those familiar with how Pakistan's health system operates, neither possibility is implausible.

For those unfamiliar with the way dialysis is conducted, allow me to explain in light of my own experience as a person with a family member who regularly underwent this treatment: the patient is tested constantly; prior to every session, a comprehensive blood screening is conducted to make sure that the patient does not suffer from a disease, such as hepatitis C, that could contaminate the machines. It appears that this screening was either not conducted, or else conducted in such an unprofessional way that the results would count for nothing.

In addition, patients with renal failure or impaired kidney function are sometimes tested several times a week to make sure that their creatinine and urea levels are in control.

Now, consider this: while the hospital apparently learned of this disaster in October, we have no way of knowing how long this contamination had been in play or how many people have been infected beyond the 30 that have

been reported. Those hapless patients would then have gone on to have regular blood tests and procedures which means that the circle of infection would have likely spread beyond themselves, not to mention that many of these would have gone on to expose others, such as spouses or sexual partners, etc to HIV, meaning that the spread may be exponential. Only now is the hospital attempting to track down those who may have been infected, but it's already too late.

In 2016, the exact same thing took place at Larkana's Chandka Medical College hospital, where over 50 dialysis patients were infected with HIV. This only came to light when many patients who had undergone dialysis there later sought treatment at SIUT (which follows protocols to the letter), where the virus was detected. As with Nishtar, proper dialysis procedures had not been followed.

And of course, we all (should) remember what happened in Rotodero in 2019, when a local doctor who catered to low-income segments was accused of having inadvertently infected 282 adults and children with HIV through negligence and the unsanitary reuse of syringes and blood transfusion equipment. (The doctor himself was reportedly an HIV patient, having contracted the virus through a blood transfusion after a car accident.) Reporters who covered this story say that while he was certainly at fault, he was also used as a scapegoat to cover for what is in fact a systemic breakdown, as many of the patients he saw may have already been infected elsewhere. Our healthcare sector itself is sick, and no amount of committees is going to heal it. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Asking questions**

Neda Mulji

Recently, a student of Grade 8 asked a few questions in a rapid sequence during a science lesson. Her mind was reeling and one question led to another. The questions were met, as they inevitably are, with suspicion, and the teacher retaliated with 'don't act too smart'. That rebuttal is flawed at many levels. Firstly, aren't students being sent to school to become smart? Isn't the purpose of all learning geared towards asking questions relentlessly to engage with content on a deeper level?

Unfortunately, our schools have always laid more emphasis on discipline and compliance than relentless learning. Any behaviour that breaks the flow of the teacher's talk time is met with rebuke. It's almost as if the teachers are racing against the clock to regurgitate what they know in each chapter of the textbook being taught.

Students cannot be involved in learning in depth, nor can they learn to answer questions if they don't ask. Questions don't arise in a vacuum; they are the result of a thinking mind. Fostering a culture where questions are encouraged and appreciated helps instill a love for learning in students. It teaches them that curiosity is a strength and that questions demonstrate critical thinking.

This mindset is particularly crucial in primary and secondary classrooms, where students are still shaping their view of the world and belief systems and, at this stage, it is important for adults to value their self-expression as they learn to think, express and share ideas.

Besides, questions in class, and indeed later on in professional life, provide valuable feedback reflecting understanding as well as gaps in knowledge. They also encourage collaboration, help students develop a voice and gain confidence in their abilities. Questions can create a vibrant learning environment, albeit noisy and chaotic. Chaos is often misunderstood in our culture as a lack of discipline, even though the sparks of intelligence and revelation often take root in chaos.

Educators who fear too many questions in class are often vying for control, hoping that they can orchestrate an environment where the teacher remains the main character in the movie. If students are to develop the confidence to ask, explore and un-lock their potential, they need a safe, non-

judgemental environment where the quality and frequency of questions is not controlled. In an ideal world, students would not hesitate to ask or answer questions.

There is much literature and work being done on the foundational skills of learners in early years. Yet, the power of engaging them through questions is underrated. One of the fundamental ways that children develop communication skills is to practise relaying their thoughts, and the transformation to active learning comes from being involved, engaged and motivated.

When questions are unwelcome, it not only stifles curiosity, it discourages creative thinking and out-of-the-box solutions and negatively affects students' self-esteem as they lose their ability to express themselves and start relying on another authority to

simply 'transfer' content that they are expected to learn and reproduce.

Fast forward a few years — when these learners engage with technology, they will no longer have the skill to conduct research on their own using their digital literacy skills. Their engagement with AI, for example, rests on asking the right questions, using relevant prompts and leading their own learning. A large part of resea-rch prompts has to do with framing the right questions. When they no longer have the skills to engage with technology, the tools of learning become redundant in real-world experiences.

Reading and comp-rehension skills are re-quired in all subjects, at all educational levels. Whilst teachers give questions to be answered by students, few take the time out to flip the formula and ask students to come up with questions based on what they read. The quality of the questions students come up with is a quick assessment method signalling which students have read and understood the content.

Asking questions, whether relevant or not, helps students learn decision-making, challenges their thinking and clarifies their thoughts. It also prepares them for a world where they will have to engage in conversations on topics they know little about and will need to ask questions to learn how to develop their understanding. The best scientists in history have engaged in problem-solving by asking hypothetical questions. How are we to produce problem solvers if students are only taught to learn content they receive and are not equipped to build on it through interrogation and original thought? -- Courtesy Dawn

## Punjab Governor says: Pakistan wants to benefit from Spain's expertise in olive cultivation

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: The Spanish Parliamentary delegation met with the Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan here today at the Governor House Lahore. Governor Punjab welcomed the delegation on their arrival at Governor House. During the meeting, both sides discussed ways to enhance cooperation in energy, infrastructure, olive production and agriculture sectors.

Governor Punjab thanked the Government of the Spain for its cooperation with Pakistan in European Union.

Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the trade relations between the two countries are very old, however, there is need to increase the trade volume between the two countries. Governor Punjab said

Pakistan wants to benefit from Spain's expertise in olive cultivation. Governor Punjab further said that Chakwal and Attock areas of Punjab province are very fertile in terms of olive production, adding that olive oil is also being extracted there. He sought Spain's cooperation in oil cultivation.

Governor Punjab stressed the need for exchange of parliamentary delegations between the two countries. He said that it is encouraging that Spain's Parliamentary delegation has visited Pakistan for the first time.

He added that such visits should continue. He expressed the hope that this visit will further strengthened the relations between the two countries. Governor Punjab further said that Pakistan wants peace in the world.



LAHORE: Tehreek-e-Insaf Opposition Leader in Punjab Assembly, Malik Ahmed Khan Bhachar along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Lahore press club.

## Minister says: Pb govt taking practical steps for people's welfare

SARGODHA (APP): Provincial Minister for Ushr and Zakat Rana Munawar Ghous Khan on Monday said the Punjab government was taking practical steps for people welfare. While talking to APP here at Umer Park, the minister said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was doing politics of hatred in the country whereas the incumbent government, under the leadership of the

chief minister, was taking public-friendly initiatives to make the province prosperous. A number of development projects were also underway, he added.

Rana Munawar Ghous said he had made clear to officers to make sure transparency in providing Zakat to deserving people.

All out efforts would be made to make PP-78 a developed one, he added.

## LG Minister to digitize accounts of local bodies

MARDAN (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Local Government, Arshad Ayub Khan Monday announced plan to digitize accounting process of local bodies for streamlining transfers, postings, and financial operations.

He expressed these views while presiding over a performance review meeting of tehsil municipal administrations (TMAs) of district Mardan.

The minister directed TMOs to increase property rents for local bodies, re-evaluate government land allotments according to the new lease

policy, and preserve TMA resources with the approval of respective councils.

He also directed to resolve the issue of distribution of assets between TMA Mardan and Garhi Kapura at the earliest.

Arshad Ayub Khan emphasized zero-tolerance for negligence in public interest projects and urged municipal bodies to take immediate steps to boost revenue.

He directed authorities to intensify operations against illegal housing societies in the district.



PESHAWAR: Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry, Parliamentary Secretary of Information and Broadcasting, attending the Qul ceremony of the late Senator Ilyas Bilour.

## PJA conducts training program on forensic science

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Judicial Academy (PJA) on Monday launched a six-day training program on forensic science, medico-legal procedures, post-mortem examination, and arms and ammunition analysis for judicial officers.

PJA Director-General Justice (Retd) Sardar Ahmad Naem addressed the inaugural session, emphasizing that dispensing justice was not merely a job but a sacred trust bestowed by Almighty Allah. He stated that judges who fear Allah Almighty have no fear of

any worldly power and can deliver justice without any external pressure. DG Sardar Ahmad Naem highlighted the importance of post-mortem reports in criminal cases, noting that they are crucial in determining the fate of individuals.

He emphasized that judicial officers must thoroughly understand post-mortem reports and other aspects of criminal cases to ensure justice is served. The training program will continue for six days, with 30 participants, including additional district and sessions judges.



LAHORE: The Spanish Parliamentary delegation meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

## Heartily appreciate Spain's support for achieving GSP Plus status: Maryam

LAHORE (APP): A Senate delegation from Spain called on Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz at the Chief Minister's Office here on Monday.

During the meeting, the CM discuss the promotion of bilateral relations, trade and tourism between Spain and Punjab. The chief minister said, "Spain is Pakistan's second largest export partner in the European Union, there are numerous opportunities to increase bilateral trade volume." An agreement to increase cooperation in the fields like economy, climate change, disaster risk management and environmental pollution was also discussed in the meeting.

We intend to further promote parliamentary diplomacy. We are making Punjab a tourist hub, will welcome Spanish investment in the sector. As special package is being prepared to facilitate foreign investors."

She said, "We are especially focused on women empowerment. The number of female parliamentarians has increased significantly."

## Foreign delegates visit Iqbal Museum

LAHORE (APP): A special visit of Javed Manzil (Allama Iqbal Museum) was organized on Monday for foreign delegates who participated in the ongoing International Iqbal Conference.

According to official sources here, the visit was organized as per the direction of Punjab Tourism Secretary Farid Ahmad Tarar. The foreign delegates were taken to Iqbal Museum via tourism bus service.

Archaeology Director Muhammad Hassan and

Iqbal Museum Curator Hamid Nazir welcomed the delegates as per the direction of Punjab Archeology Director General Zaheer Abbas Malik.

During the visit, the foreign delegates were shown historic rooms of Iqbal's residence, items used by him and unique documents. A briefing on Iqbal's poetry, philosophy and his role in the Pakistan movement was given to the delegates. They lauded the role of the archaeology department in conserving the heritage.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan presenting cheque to student on best performance during 41st convocation of Kind Edward Medical University.

## Two including one girl injured in SW house blast

PESHAWAR (APP): At least two people, including a minor girl, were critically injured when a blast occurred inside a house in South Waziristan on Monday.

According to a police spokesman, the incident occurred in Latha tehsil of South Waziristan, where a minor girl and a man were critically injured in an explosion inside their house.

The injured were rushed to the district headquarters hospital for treatment.

Heavy police force reached the site and started an investigation to ascertain the cause of the blast from possible explosive material.

## Miscreeats destroyed school in S Waziristan

PESHAWAR (APP): Unknown miscreeats detonated explosives inside a high school in the Azam Warsak area of South Waziristan during late-night hours, police informed on Monday.

According to the police spokesman, miscreeats planted explosive material inside Government High School, Azam Warsak, and escaped. The explosive was later detonated with a remote-controlled device.

## Governor Kundi meets British Council leadership to strengthen education, skills dev programs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi during a meeting here on Monday with James Hampson, the Country Director of the British Council in Pakistan, and the Head of Education at the British Council, reiterated his commitment to advancing education and skills development in the province.

The Governor outlined his priorities, including enhancing the quality of education, empowering youth and women through skill training programs, and forging partnerships between universities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and their counterparts in England.

These collaborations aim to bring global expertise to KP universities through student and faculty exchanges.

A key topic of discussion was the Governor's vision for the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) KP chapter, which he presides over. The Governor emphasized the importance of innovative initiatives and expanding its reach for community service.

He also highlighted the immense potential of arts and design talent among university students in KP, particularly young women, and shared that a formal proposal for collaboration with the British Council on this initiative had already been sent.



LARKANA: International Expert-Culture and Heritage, UNESCO Office in Pakistan Dr Cristina Menegazzi addressing during Training Workshop of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) for the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in Pakistan at Conference Hall Mohen jo Daro organized by Directorate General of Antiquities and Archaeology Government of Sindh & UNESCO Pakistan.

## KP CM expresses dismay over delay in resolving public complaints; warns strict action

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur on Monday expressed dissatisfaction and dismay over delay in resolving public complaints registered on "Ikhtiyar Awam Ka" portal and warned strict action for negligence.

Presiding over a meeting here at CM secretariat to review the status of public complaints the CM instructed that complaints from previous administrations also be shifted to the "Ikhtiyar Awam Ka" portal to ensure resolution without discrimination.

A statement issued here after the meeting said that he emphasized the importance of transparency and efficiency, stating, "The timely and satisfactory resolution of public

complaints was the responsibility of officials, and any failure would not be tolerated."

During the meeting, the CM was briefed on the progress made so far. Officials reported that the portal had received 6,242 complaints, out of which 2,559 had been resolved while 3,683 complaints were in progress.

The briefing revealed that relief provided to 1,200 citizens, while 757 others received partial relief through the platform.

It said that 13,384 citizens were registered on the portal including around 300 women, adding that 1458 complaints were registered from Peshawar, 405 Mardan, 363 Bannu, 335 Dera Ismail Khan, 344 Abbottabad, 277 Mansehra, 237 Charsadda, 235 Hari Pur, 223 Swabi, and 185 Lower Dir.

The portal received

1966 complaints against, 1040 Education, 876 Implementation of public agenda, 602 corruption and 539 law and order.

The CM Gandapur reaffirmed his commitment to personally oversee the resolution of public grievances, ensuring citizens receive satisfactory outcomes. He urged the public to make greater use of the portal, emphasizing that their genuine concerns would be addressed. He directed the officials concerned to enhance the portal's effectiveness and make it user friendly besides facilitating overseas Pakistanis to register complaints and ensuring their resolution.

He also instructed to launch awareness campaigns on social media to encourage public use of the platform for resolution of their problems.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor, Kamran Khan Tessori in the presence of Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah administers the oath of office to Mukesh Kumar Chawla, the newly appointed provincial minister, during oath taking ceremony held at Governor House in Karachi.

## Sindh CM calls on Governor

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah called on the Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House here on Monday.

They discussed the ongoing development projects funded by the federal government in the province.

The Governor Kamran Khan Tessori said that the federal government would continue supporting the provincial development. He said that the people would benefit from the projects funded by the federal government.

The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said that the role of the federal government was commendable in the development of the province, said a Governor house communique.

## "Maryam Ke Dastak" expanded to Punjab's 32 districts

LAHORE (APP): On the directive of Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the "Maryam Ke Dastak" program has been expanded to 32 districts across the province.

The ten new districts added include Rahim Yar Khan, Vehari, Lodhran, Toba Tek Singh, Layyah, Rajanpur, Nankana Sahib, Chiniot, Gujrat, and Khushab.

This emerged during a progress review meeting presided over by PITB Chairman Faisal Yousaf, here on Monday.

"Maryam Ke Dastak" offers over 65 government services such as Domicile Certificates, FIR copies, Birth Certificates, Learner's Driving Licenses, and e-Stamping through the PITB-developed 'Dastak Doorstep Delivery App' and web portal. Citizens can now avail these services directly

at their doorsteps, reducing the need to visit government offices ensuring greater convenience, especially for women, the elderly, and working professionals.

Previously, Dastak services were available in major districts, including Lahore, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Multan, and Sargodha. Citizens can also avail these services by calling the helpline at 1202.

On this occasion, Chairman Faisal Yousaf remarked, "The Maryam Ke Dastak initiative aims to improve service delivery through trained representatives, providing a more efficient and citizen-friendly experience." The program underscores the government's commitment to accessible, transparent, and technology-driven public service delivery, he added.



HYDERABAD: Sindh United Party (SUP) President, Syed Zain Shah addresses to his supporters during public gathering meeting against federal canals projects, at Naseem Nagar Chowk in Hyderabad.

## Spanish parliamentary delegation meets speaker Punjab Assembly

LAHORE (APP): A 4-member Senate delegation from Spain called on Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan in the Punjab Assembly here on Monday. The delegation comprised Vicente Azpitarte, Natalia Utero, Antonio Gutierrez and Luis de la Pena.

Pakistan Ambassador to Spain Zahoor Ahmed and Secretary General Chaudhry Aamir Habib were also present.

PA Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan accorded a warm welcome to the delegation, and said the visit of the Spanish parliamentary delegation reflected the growing relationship between Pakistan and Spain. He said the exchange of

parliamentary delegations would further strengthen bilateral relations between both the countries.

Malik Muhammad Ahmad said that Parliamentary diplomacy could play a significant role in resolving global challenges, adding that steps had been taken to improve parliamentary tools in the Assembly.

Now standing committee hearings were open to the media instead of in-camera, he said and added that legislative process was very transparent and organised, ensuring the participation of every member. This system promotes deep research and discussion on various topics so that the best laws could be made, he added.

## Finance minister reviews progress on financing for priority sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday held a virtual meeting with the Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and Chairman Pakistan Banks' Association (PBA) and their teams to discuss progress on financing for the priority sectors.

The minister appreciated the work done by PBA and SBP for coming up with substantial initiatives and taking measures for implementing the more tangible initiatives, said a news release. He urged that initiatives with short term and immediate impact be given priority and their implementation time frame be compressed for finalizing them by end December and hopefully rolling them out from early next year.

The minister also assured full support for arranging necessary consultations between PBA/SBP and the stakeholder ministries, adding the Finance Division would also host a meeting of all relevant stakeholders to hear their viewpoints, and help forge a consensus on the proposed initiatives.

Chairman PBA apprised the minister on various initiatives planned by PBA for building an inclusive and sustainable financial ecosystem.

He proposed that electronic warehouse receipt finance, SME index, corporate farming financing, venture capital fund for fintechs, revival of agri cooperatives and establishment of financial data exchange could be some of the potential initiatives to create a long-term impact towards a sustainable financial ecosystem.

He also proposed initiatives such as fan financing, EV financing, solarization of tube-wells and markup subsidy and first loss coverage for SME financing for a short-term and more immediate impact on the system.

Meanwhile, SBP Governor highlighted the progress achieved on various fronts in respect of various initiatives proposed by PBA for financing to priority sectors.

He argued that some of the proposals suggested by PBA were concrete in scope and the central bank had already issued necessary notifications on regulatory side to facilitate their implementation. He also proposed a more proactive consultation between stakeholders, particularly with telecos and power companies, on initiatives requiring data collection and building scorecard for agriculture and SME sectors for sustainable financing.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a virtual meeting with the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Mr. Jameel Ahmed, and the Chairman of the Pakistan Banks' Association (PBA), Mr. Zafar Masud, along with their teams, to discuss progress on financing for the priority sectors.

## Qaiser Sheikh says: Pakistan's ports significantly improved

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, has said that Pakistan's ports have been significantly improved, and many companies have signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to invest in Pakistan's industry.

The Minister, who participated in the Global Maritime Trade Summit organized by the International Chamber of Shipping, expressed his gratitude for the invitation.

He thanked the Chairman of the International Chamber of Shipping, Emmanuel Grimaldi, and the Hong Kong Transport and Shipping Department.

In his speech, the Minister stated, "About 90% of global trade depends on the shipping industry. He emphasized that Pakistan's ports have been significantly improved. "Due to these improvements, Maersk Line, Mediterranean Shipping Company, Hutchison, and Abu Dhabi Ports Company have signed memoranda of understanding and agreements to invest in Pakistan's maritime sector and shipping industry," he said. Sheikh also invited other international shipping companies to invest in Pakistan.

He said, "Pakistan's geographical location is of great strategic importance, as it provides easy access for transporting goods to China, Central Asian countries, and the Middle East."

The minister said, "Our deep ports at Port Qasim and Gwadar have significant handling capacity, but the current transportation is less than half of their potential. This is in contrast to nearby ports like Dubai, Jebel Ali, and Salalah, which are quite busy."

Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh also highlighted, "The ongoing rapid development at Gwadar Port, with hopes that it will soon be fully operational. Recently, the federal cabinet directed that 50% of trade will be routed through this port."

## Rana, Shafay discuss industrial promotion

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain and Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain met here at PSIC House on Monday.

During the meeting, it was agreed to move forward together for the promotion of industry and technical education, and early settlement of the issue pertaining to 96 acres of federal land taken by TEVTA on a 99-year lease in Taxila. The Punjab government agreed to the proposal to revise lease of the land. The committee will determine suitable revised lease for the land within a week.

Rana Tanveer Hussain said that the federal and Punjab governments will work together for the promotion of technical education and industry. Coordination between the two governments is essential for the promotion of technical education and industry, he said and added that the federal government will cooperate with Punjab in all possible ways. He said, "It is our commitment to equip the youth with quality technical education. The future of Pakistan is linked to the promotion of quality technical education."

Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain apprised Rana Tanveer about the measures taken to promote industry and technical education in Punjab. It should be noted that Government College of Technology is also established on leased land in Taxila.

He said, "The Punjab government has taken practical steps to promote quality technical education. By equipping the youth with modern sciences, they will change the destiny of the country and the nation."

He said that labs and courses of TEVTA institutes are being aligned with the modern requirements. He said that measures being taken for the promotion of investment are proving fruitful.



HYDERABAD: Special Assistant to CM Sindh for Investment and Public Private Partnership, Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar offers Dua after unveiling the plaque during the inauguration ceremony of Divya Roller Flour Mills, at Tando Muhammad Khan road in Hyderabad.

## Jazzsunsets 3G in support of its '4G for all' vision

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator, has achieved a groundbreaking milestone by transitioning to a 4G-only mobile broadband network, making it the first telecom operator in the country to phase out 3G services fully.

This bold move, which reallocates all spectrum resources to high-speed 4G, is a cornerstone of Jazz's transformation into a ServiceCo, leveraging advanced technology to improve lives and livelihoods across Pakistan, said a news release.

With its 4G customer base having reached 50 million, Jazz's decision to optimize spectrum utilization will deliver faster internet speeds, enhanced service reliability, and broader network coverage. This transition underscores Jazz's unwavering commitment to driving Pakistan's digital economy and bridging the digital divide, particularly in underserved and remote communities.

Khalid Shehzad, Chief Technology Officer at Jazz said "Repurposing our spectrum solely for 4G is a monumental step in our ServiceCo transformation, reaffirming Jazz's leadership in digital innovation. Expanding 4G access not only improves service quality but also fosters customer-centric solutions that empower livelihoods and uplift communities. Remarkably, this transformation was achieved over a year-long journey, reflecting our meticulous planning and execution."

Kazim Mujtaba, President Consumer Division at Jazz, added: "As we redefine connectivity with a fully 4G-powered

## PSX gains 232 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 232 points, a positive change of 0.24 percent, closing at 94,995.67 points as compared to 94,763.64 points on the last trading day.

A total of 765,206,618 shares were traded during the day as compared to 893,170,249 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 23,924 billion against Rs.30,811 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 457 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 192 of them recorded gains and 220 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 45 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Hascol Petrol with 85,137,088 shares at Rs 9.24 per share, Fauji Foods Limited with 60,498,160 shares at Rs 11.55 per share and K-Electric Limited with 58,382,098 shares at Rs.5.17 per share.

## CCP approves 50% acquisition of Total Parco by Gunvor Group

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) on Monday granted approval for the acquisition of 50 percent share-holding in M/s. Total Parco Pakistan Limited (TPPL) by M/s. Aquashore SA, a company operating under Switzerland's Gunvor Group. Under the terms of the sale and purchase agreement, these shares will be transferred from M/s. TotalEnergies Marketing Services to Aquashore SA, said a news release. In the petroleum sector, this acquisition marks the latest in a series of high-profile transactions recently approved by the CCP.

Earlier this year, Saudi Aramco acquired 40 percent equity stake in GO Petroleum, while another Saudi group, Wafi Energy Holding Limited, acquired 77.42 percent share-holding and control of Shell Pakistan Limited.

These transactions highlight the growing interest of global energy giants in Pakistan's dynamic energy sector.

## Over 4.8m cotton bales arrive at ginning units by 15th

MULTAN (APP): Seed Cotton (Phutti) equivalent to over 4.8 million (48,93,948) bales have reached ginning factories across Pakistan till November 15, registering a decrease of 33.60 percent as compared to corresponding period of last year. According to a fortnightly report of the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) issued to media on Monday, over 4.5 million (45,06,779) bales have undergone the ginning process i.e converted into bales Cotton arrivals in Punjab were recorded 22,44,880 bales registering a decrease of 34.53 percent as compared to the corresponding period of last year when arrivals were recorded 34,28,915 bales. Sindh generated 26,49,068 bales registering a decrease of 32.79 percent as compared to corresponding period of last year when arrivals were recorded 39,41,709 bales.

## Current Account records a surplus of \$349 million in Oct 24: SBP

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan's external Current Account Balance witnessed positive improvement for the consecutive third month in October 2024 as Current Account recorded a surplus of \$349 million in the month while Current Account for the first four months of the financial year 2024-25 recorded as \$ 218 million, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported on Monday. Cumulatively the current account balance for July to October 2024, according to the latest SBP data, has shown significant improvement as a surplus of \$218 million was recorded during the first four months of FY 2024-25 as compared to the deficit of \$1,528 billion during the corresponding period of last year.

"The external Current Account recorded a surplus of US\$349 million in October 2024, after showing a surplus of US\$86 million and US\$29 million in September 2024 and August 2024 respectively," said SBP adding that accumulative current account balance for July-October 2024-25 also turned into surplus after a deficit of \$131 million in the first three months of the current fiscal year.

According to SBP figures, the merchandise trade deficit has declined on month-on-month as well as yearly basis during October 2024. The balance on trade in goods in October 24 has recorded a deficit of \$1,586 million against the deficit of \$ 2,061 million of September 2024 and \$1,664 million in October 2023, the data shown. Likewise, the services' trade deficit was recorded at \$261 million during October 24 as compared to the deficit of \$258 million during September 2024 and \$ 206 million in October 2023, the data shown adding that balance on trade in July October FY24-25.

## Sindh govt committed to economic growth and farmer's prosperity: Qasim

HYDERABAD (APP): Sindh Chief Minister's Special Assistant for Investment and Public-Private Partnership Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar has reiterated the Sindh government's commitment to improving the province's economy in line with the vision of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto.

He said that the provincial government, under the guidance of President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and the leadership of Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, was implementing plans to improve the province's economy.

According to a handout, speaking at the inauguration of the state-of-the-art Divya Roller Flour Mills on the Hyderabad-Tando Muhammad Khan Road on Monday, he highlighted the benefits of this new facility.

"The establishment of Divya Roller Flour Mills will safeguard local farmers' produce and ensure timely compensation for their hard work," he said.

He emphasized that the use of modern machinery at the facility would encourage innovation in other industries.

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships, TSS Amber, Izumo Hermes, Singapore Bulker and Star Crimson scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal and Power Electric Port Terminal respectively on Sunday.

Meanwhile four more ships, Greentec, Sanmar Raga, Khairpur and Navig-8 Montiel scheduled to load/offload Rice, Chemicals, Mogas and Gas oil are also arrived at outer anchorage on today morning.

## ICT export remittances surge by 34.9% in first four months of FY 2024-25

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's ICT export remittances have witnessed a remarkable growth of 34.9%, reaching US\$ 1,206 billion during the first four months of FY 2024-25 (July to October) said Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja.

In a statement, she said ICT exports were US\$ 894 million in the same period last year (FY 2023-24).

Shaza Fatima said in October 2024, the remittances from ICT services export amounted to US\$ 330 million, a 38.6% increase over US\$ 238 million in October 2023. The Minister of State for IT said on the directives of the Prime Minister of Pakistan steps were being taken to increase IT exports.

She said the Ministry of IT, the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) and the IT industry were committed to increasing the country's IT exports.



ISLAMABAD: A young vendor is displayed Kinnow attraction for customers at fruit and vegetable market sector I-11, in the Federal Capital.

## Pakistan possess huge opportunity to decarbonize, reduce emissions through Just Energy Transition

BAKU (APP): The global experts on Monday underscored that Pakistan possessed a huge opportunity to decarbonize and reduce carbon emissions of its energy mix through just energy transition.

A high-level panel discussion on the sidelines of COP29 at the Pakistan Pavilion showcased Pakistan's energy transition efforts, discussing pathways to a sustainable future amidst growing climate concerns.

The panel, titled "Pakistan's Energy Transition: Pathways to a Sustainable Future", brought together key stakeholders from government, industry, and climate organizations to address the country's renewable energy goals, challenges, and opportunities in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Managing Director of ITrust, Liz Branden set the tone for the discussion by emphasizing the energy sector's role as the largest emitter of CO2, with demand continuing to rise globally. Branden highlighted that although Pakistan is one of the smallest emitters of greenhouse gases, the country faces catastrophic climate impacts, including devastating floods and significant economic losses, despite its minimal contribution to global emissions.

She stressed that Pakistan has a unique opportunity to play a significant role in the global energy transition, leveraging its renewable energy potential and a strong commitment to reducing carbon emissions. The country has set ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), aiming to cut its carbon emissions by 30% and achieve a renewable energy mix of over 60% by 2030. Pakistan also launched a climate finance framework at COP29, a move that has been described as a promising step toward attracting.



PESHAWAR: Customer selecting and purchasing LPG cylinder from vendor at Firdous area.

## FTT for reforms to save agricultural economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman, Fair Trade in Tobacco (FTT) here on Monday highlighted the importance of policy reform to support Pakistan's agricultural economy and the livelihoods of millions dependent on the tobacco industry.

He urged the government to rationalize excise duties on tobacco products in Pakistan to combat the rising share of illicit trade and protect the legitimate sector from further economic damage, said a news release.

"The legitimate tobacco sector in Pakistan is already heavily taxed," said adding that "Tier-I brands are paying 84% in excise, while Tier-II brands face a 60% excise duty. However, the illicit sector pays nothing and continues to grow unchecked, depriving the national exchequer of Rs. 300 to 330 billion annually—equivalent to \$1.2 billion. This is a staggering loss for our economy."

He emphasized that the share of illicit trade in Pakistan's tobacco market has skyrocketed from 37% in 2021 to nearly 63% in 2024.

These illicit operators sell their products below the legal minimum price of Rs. 162.25, bypassing tax obligations and undercutting legitimate businesses.

## Biden lifts ban on Ukraine using US arms to strike inside Russia

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden's administration has lifted restrictions that had blocked Ukraine from using US-provided weapons to strike deep into Russian territory, said three sources familiar with the matter, in a significant change to US policy in the Ukraine-Russia conflict.

Ukraine plans to conduct its first long-range attacks in the coming days, the sources said, without revealing details due to operational security concerns. The White House declined to comment.

The move by the United States, which comes just over two months before president-elect Donald Trump takes office on Jan 20, comes after months of requests by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to allow Ukraine's military to use US weapons to hit Russian military targets far from its border.

The change follows Russia's deployment of North Korean ground troops to supplement its own forces, a development

that has caused alarm in Washington and Kyiv. The first deep strikes are likely to be carried out using ATACMS rockets, which have a range of up to 190 miles (306 km), according to the sources.

### Moscow warns US over allowing Ukraine to hit Russian soil with long-range weapons

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: President Joe Biden's decision to let Ukraine strike targets inside Russia with U.S.-supplied long-range missiles was met with ominous warnings from Moscow, a hint of menace from Kyiv and nods of approval from some Western allies.

Biden's shift in policy added an uncertain but potentially crucial new factor to the war on the eve of its 1,000-day milestone. News of Biden's change came on the day a Russian ballistic missile with cluster munitions struck a residential area of Sumy, a city in northern Ukraine, killing 11 people, including two children, and injuring 84 others.

On Monday, another Russian missile attack started fires in two apartment blocks in Odesa, in southern Ukraine. At least eight people were killed and 18 were injured, including a child, regional Gov. Oleh Kiper said. Washington is easing limits on what Ukraine can strike with U.S.-made weaponry, U.S. officials told The Associated Press on Sunday, after months of ruling out such a move over fears of escalating the conflict and bringing about a direct confrontation between Russia and NATO.

The scope of the new firing guidelines isn't clear. But the change came after the U.S., South Korea and NATO said recently that North Korean troops are in Russia and apparently are being deployed to help the Russian army drive Ukrainian troops out of Russia's Kursk border region.



Palestinians, including rescuers, search for casualties at the site of an Israeli strike on a house, in Gaza City.

## Israeli strikes kill 20 Palestinians in Gaza, some in attacks on tents, medics say

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip killed 20 Palestinians on Monday, including six people in attacks on tents housing displaced families, medics said.

Four people, two of them children, were killed in an Israeli airstrike on a tent encampment in the coastal area of Al-Mawasi, which is designated as a humanitarian zone, while two died in temporary shelters in the southern city of Rafah and another in drone fire, Gaza health officials said.

In the northern Gaza town of Beit Lahiya, medics said an Israeli missile struck a house, killing at least two people and wounding several others. On Sunday, medics and residents said dozens of people were killed or wounded in an Israeli airstrike on a multi-floor residential building in the town. Another airstrike on a house in Gaza City killed seven people and wounded 10, medics said. Later on Monday, an Israeli airstrike killed four people in the Nuseirat camp in the central area of the coastal enclave, they added.

The Israeli military, which has been fighting Palestinian militant group Hamas in Gaza since October 2023 in a war that has left Gaza in ruins, did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment on Monday's incidents.

On Sunday, the military said it had conducted strikes on "terrorist targets" in Beit Lahiya. Israel accuses Hamas and allied militants of operating within residential areas including hospitals for cover.

## UK PM Starmer seeks 'pragmatic' Chinese ties in meeting with Xi

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer called on Chinese President Xi Jinping to establish "consistent, durable" relations between their two nations on Monday, pressing on with efforts to thaw ties between London and Beijing at a G20 summit.

The meeting in Brazil was the first between the countries' two leaders since 2018, and Starmer struck an upbeat tone, saying he would like to engage with Beijing on areas such as trade, the economy and climate, and have broader engagement on science, technology, health and education.

The British leader also said he would start plans to have a "full bilateral" with Xi in either Beijing or London and hoped his finance minister Rachel Reeves could meet Vice Premier He Lifeng before the restart of the UK-China Economic and Financial Dialogue early next year.

"We want our relations to be consistent, durable, respectful as we have agreed, avoid surprises where possible, and strengthened dialogue should provide stronger understanding," Starmer told Xi at the start of their meeting.

"The UK will be a predictable consistent sovereign actor committed to the rule of law and multilateral system," he said, adding he appreciated Xi's candour in a call in August and would match him in tone when raising differences between the two. Xi told Starmer the two countries enjoy a vast space for cooperation, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. The meeting's cooperative tone was in stark contrast to ties under the former Conservative government, which took a robust approach to differences with China, particularly over human rights, Hong Kong and allegations of Chinese espionage.

Relations between London and Beijing deteriorated as Britain grew concerned that an open door to Chinese investment could pose national security risks.

## Philippines, United States sign military intelligence-sharing deal

**Monitoring Desk**  
MANILA: The Philippines and the United States signed a military intelligence-sharing deal on Monday, deepening defence ties between the two nations facing common security challenges in the region.

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin signed the agreement with his Philippine counterpart, Gilberto Teodoro, at Manila's military headquarters where they also broke ground for a coordination center that will facilitate collaboration between their armed forces.

Called the General Security of Military Information Agreement or GSOMIA, the pact allows both countries to share classified military information securely. "Not only will this allow the Philippines access to higher capabilities and big-ticket items from the United States, it will also open opportunities to pursue similar agreements with like-minded nations," said Philippines' defence ministry spokesperson Arsenio Andolong.

Security engagements between the United States and the Philippines have deepened under President Joe Biden and his Philippine counterpart Ferdinand Marcos Jr, with both leaders keen to counter what they see as China's aggressive policies in the South China Sea and near Taiwan. China's foreign ministry said on Monday any kind of military agreement or security cooperation "must not be directed against or harm the interests of a third party, and they must not undermine regional peace or exacerbate tensions."

## Shrouded in smog, Delhi pollution reading is the highest this year

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: A thick blanket of toxic smog engulfed most parts of northern India on Monday and readings of air quality in the capital New Delhi hit their highest this year after dense fog overnight.

The smog, a toxic blend of smoke and fog, happens each year in winter as cold air traps dust, emissions, and smoke from illegal farm fires in some surrounding states. Visibility dropped to 100 m (109 yards) in Delhi and Chandigarh, a city northwest of the capital, but authorities said flights and trains continued to operate with some delays.

India's pollution control authority said the national capital territory's 24-hour air quality index (AQI) reading was at 484, classified as "severe plus", the highest this year. According to Swiss group IQAir's live rankings, New Delhi was the most polluted city in the world with the air quality at a "hazardous" 1,081 and the concentration of PM2.5 — particulate matter measuring 2.5 microns or less in diameter that can be carried

into lungs, causing deadly diseases and cardiac issues — was 130.9 times the World Health Organisation's recommended levels.

Experts say the scores vary because of a difference in the scale countries adopt to convert pollutant concentrations into AQI, and so the same quantity of a specific pollutant may be translated as different AQI scores in different countries.

Delhi authorities directed all schools to move classes online and tightened restrictions on construction activities and vehicle movements, citing unfavourable meteorological conditions and low wind speed.

Farm fires — where stubble left after harvesting rice is burnt to clear fields — have contributed as much as 40 per cent of the pollution in Delhi, SAFAR, a weather forecasting agency under the ministry of earth sciences has said. Satellites detected 1,334 such events in six states on Sunday, the most in the last four days, according to India's Consortium for Research on Agroecosystem Monitoring and Modeling from Space.

## NATO's largest artillery exercise underway in Finland

**Monitoring Desk**  
ROVANIEMI: Finland is hosting its first large-scale NATO artillery exercise since the Nordic nation joined the military alliance last year, with live fire drills starting on Sunday.

The exercise conducted in the northern Lapland region in November is part of Dynamic Front 25, the largest NATO artillery exercise ever held in Europe, with fire drills in Finland as well as Estonia, Germany, Romania and Poland.

Running from 4 to 28 November, it marks the first time NATO allies are practicing artillery fire at a large scale on Finnish soil.

The Nordic nation, which shares a border with Russia, joined NATO last year, dropping decades of military non-alignment after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

"We work on interoperability with our allies, to carry out artillery fire in coherence with our NATO allies," said Romain, a French army captain and unit commander of the 93rd mountain artillery regiment, giving only his first name.

## North Korea's Kim urges improved military capabilities for war

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un urged the country's military to improve capabilities for fighting a war in a speech last week, state media KCNA said on Monday, after Pyongyang dispatched thousands of troops to Russia. Kim delivered the speech to a conference of battalion commanders and political instructors held in Pyongyang on Friday, during which he called for building political and military strength and fighting efficiency to ensure that

the armed forces can cope with a war. Threats from the United States and its allies including South Korea and their military confrontation with North Korea have brought tension to "the worst phase in history," he said, calling the Korean peninsula "the world's biggest hotspot." "He ardently called upon all the participants to go all out for bringing about substantial and fundamental improvement in improving their capabilities for fighting an actual war," KCNA said.

Heardently called upon all the participants to go all out for bringing about substantial and fundamental improvement in improving their capabilities for fighting an actual war," KCNA said.

## Bangladesh to seek extradition of ousted Sheikh Hasina: govt

**Monitoring Desk**  
DHAKA: Bangladesh will seek the extradition of ousted former prime minister Sheikh Hasina who was toppled in a revolution in August and fled to India, interim leader Muhammad Yunus said.

Dhaka has already issued an arrest warrant for 77-year-old Hasina — last seen arriving in neighbouring India after fleeing by helicopter as crowds stormed her palace. Hasina has been summoned to appear in court in Dhaka on Monday to face charges of "massacres, killings, and crimes against humanity", but she remains in exile in India.

Yunus said his administration was focused on ensuring those guilty of cracking down on the protests to oust Hasina faced justice.

Several of her former government ministers, who were detained and held in custody, are expected in court to face similar charges.

## Record 80 million Americans expected to travel for Thanksgiving holiday, industry group says

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW YORK: Americans are expected to set a new record for Thanksgiving travel, with nearly 80 million to hit the roads, catch flights and board cruises over the holiday period, travel group AAA said on Monday.

About 1.7 million more people will travel this year from Tuesday, Nov. 26 to Monday, Dec. 2, compared to a similar period in 2023. Although staffing and aircraft shortages have capped the airline industry's ability to ramp up capacity during the holidays in previous years, a record number of

Americans are expected to fly to their destinations this year. American Airlines plans to shuttle 8.3 million passengers from Nov. 21 to Dec. 3, about 500,000 more customers than last year. Delta Air Lines said it is expecting a record 6.5 million passengers over a 12-day period, a 5% year-over-year increase.

Southwest Airlines and American Airlines both said their passenger volumes will peak on Sunday, Dec. 1, as more travelers plan to return home immediately following the holiday versus extending their trips.

## Hezbollah spokesman assassinated in Beirut

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: An Israeli airstrike without warning on the office of Syria's Baath party in Lebanon's capital Beirut killed the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah's Media Relations Officer, Mohammed Afif, a Lebanese security source said.

"The strike on Ras al-Nabaa killed Hezbollah media relations official Mohammed Afif," the security source said. Ali Hijazi, secretary-general of the Lebanese branch of the Baath party, confirmed the death of Hezbollah media official Afif.

## UK to put Sudan resolution to vote by UN Security Council

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: Britain will seek backing from other United Nations Security Council members on Monday for its demand that Sudan's warring parties stop hostilities and allow deliveries of aid, the British foreign ministry said.

With London holding the rotating presidency of the council, British foreign minister David Lammy is due to chair a vote on a UK/Sierra Leone-proposed draft resolution, which also calls for the protection of civilians.



Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva greets Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, as she arrives ahead of the G20 Summit, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

## 'Cut the theatrics': UN climate chief at deadlocked COP29

**Monitoring Desk**  
BAKU: The UN's climate chief told countries at the deadlocked COP29 summit on Monday to "cut the theatrics" as pressure mounts on G20 leaders to deliver a breakthrough.

As the UN climate talks limp into a second week in Azerbaijan, the world is no closer to a finance deal for poorer countries that will determine the success or failure of COP29.

UN climate boss Simon Stiell said that "bluffing, brinkmanship and premeditated playbooks burn up precious time and run down the goodwill needed". "Let's cut the theatrics and get down to business," he told delegates assembled in a cavernous

football stadium in Baku. Nations have until Friday to break the impasse over how to raise \$1 trillion a year for developing countries to cope with global warming.

Pressure is mounting on G20 leaders to throw their weight behind the stalled process in Baku as they meet in Brazil for the annual summit of the world's biggest economies — and top polluters — on Monday and Tuesday.

"A successful outcome at COP29 is still within reach, but it will require leadership and compromise, namely from the G20 countries," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Sunday in Rio de Janeiro.

## Pope seeks international study into Gaza genocide

**Monitoring Desk**  
ROME: Pope Francis has suggested the global community should study whether Israel's military campaign in Gaza constitutes a genocide of the Palestinian people, in some of his most explicit criticism yet of Israel's conduct in its year-long war.

In excerpts published on Sunday from a forthcoming book, the pontiff said two international experts say that "what is happening in Gaza has the characteristics of a genocide".

"We should investigate carefully to assess whether this fits into the technical definition (of genocide) formulated by international jurists and organisations," the pope said in the excerpts, published by Italian daily La Stampa.

## Serbia train station accident death toll rises to 15

**Monitoring Desk**  
BELGRADE: A victim injured in the collapse of a railway station roof in Serbia this month died on Sunday, bringing the death toll to 15, health officials said.

The concrete roof at the Novi Sad station came crashing down on November 1, killing 14 people, aged from just six to 74 and injuring three others.

"The patient in question suffered the most severe injuries... Despite the efforts and fight of the doctors, the outcome was fatal," Vesna Turkulov, director of the Clinical Centre of Vojvodina, told local media.

## Suspected Houthi rebels in Yemen target a ship in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Suspected attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels targeted a commercial ship traveling through the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, though no damage or injuries were reported, authorities said Monday.

The attacks come as the rebels continue their months-long assault targeting shipping through a waterway that typically sees \$1 trillion in goods pass through it a year over the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza and Israel's ground offensive in Lebanon.

The ship's captain saw that "a missile splashed in close proximity to the vessel" as it traveled in the southern Red Sea near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait connecting to the Gulf

of Aden in the first attack late Sunday night, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said in an alert. The attack happened some 30 miles (48 kilometers) west of Yemen port city of Mocha.

On Monday, another attack some 70 miles (112 kilometers) southeast of Aden in the Gulf of Aden similarly saw a missile splash down close to the vessel, the UKMTO said.

"The vessel and crew are safe and proceeding to its next port of call," the UKMTO added.

The Houthis did not immediately claim the attacks. However, it can take the rebels hours or even days to acknowledge their assaults.



Employees work at a production facility of Unwave company, a Ukrainian producer of jammers and radio electronic warfare, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, at an undisclosed location, Ukraine.

## Romina urges nations to prioritize investment in greening education to boost climate action

BAKU (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam emphasised that transforming educational systems to empower students and inspire communities to take meaningful actions for a greener and more sustainable world is crucial for building climate-resilient societies.

"Education is the cornerstone of sustainable development and climate action for resilient and environmentally-sustainable society," said the PM's climate aide while addressing as a keynote speaker here on Monday at a high-level event 'Acting on Commitments - Ministerial Discussion on Green Education and Planning for the Future', organised by Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) in collaboration with Cambridge University on the sidelines of COP29 global Climate Summit.

"By greening our education systems, we are equipping the next generation with the knowledge, skills, and values needed to address climate change and build a resilient future", she said.

She said that as a nation highly vulnerable to climate change, Pakistan recognises the transformative power of education in addressing climate challenges. Our commitment to greening education stems from the belief that equipping our youth with climate knowledge is fundamental to achieving long-term resilience and sustainability.

Highlighting Pakistan's efforts regarding mainstreaming climate education into the national education system, the PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam said, that significant progress has been made by the present government by integrating climate education into national curricula.

"From primary to university levels, we have developed educational modules tailored to build climate awareness. These modules emphasize the science of climate change, its impacts, and actionable solutions, ensuring that students grow up with a sense of responsibility toward the environment. These efforts also extend to training teachers as key change agents in this mission", she noted.



BAKU: PM's Coordinator on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam photographed along with panel speakers at a high-level event 'Acting on Commitments - Ministerial Discussion on Green Education and Planning for the Future', organised by Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) in collaboration with Cambridge University.

## Ayaz Sadiq says Pakistan to continue unwavering cooperation to Syria in education, trade

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz has said that Pakistan would continue its unwavering cooperation and support to Syria in education, trade, tourism, especially religious tourism.

During a meeting with the Ambassador of Syrian Republic in Pakistan Dr. Ramez Alraee, he said that Pakistan and Syria enjoy historic and brotherly relations, both countries are tied in the bond of shared religion, fraternity, history and culture.

The matters pertaining to bilateral relations and important regional and international issues were discussed in the meeting.

The Speaker stressed the need for unity among the Muslim countries to cope with the challenges confronting to Muslim ummah. He said that the peace in the Middle East is linked with peace in Palestine. He noted that Pakistan fully supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria and a desire durable peace in Syria.

Ayaz Sadiq emphasized the importance of Pak-Syria Parliamentary Friendship Group (PFG) and highlighted the role of PFG in the National Assembly as a significant platform for fostering mutual understanding and collaboration.

He lauded the commencement of commercial flight operations of Syrian Airlines between Damascus and Lahore.

The Speaker was confident that flight operations of Syrian Airlines would promote people-to-people contact, trade and tourism between both brotherly nations. He also appreciated the hospitality extended by Syria to Pakistani Zaireen visiting Syria for Zyarat of Shrines. The envoy said that Syria values its historic relations with Pakistan and the Syrian Government wants to further strengthen the existing ties through enhanced cooperation in diverse fields.



QUETTA: Former Chief Minister Balochistan, MPA Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

## Sanjrani urges regulation, not ban on border trade

Independent Report  
QUETTA: Former Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani has emphasized the importance of border trade, warning that its closure would exacerbate economic hardship and poverty, particularly in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Sanjrani stressed that border trade is the sole source of livelihood for people residing along the borders in these provinces.

He advocated for introducing a modern regulatory system instead of banning border trade, citing the devastating impact of restrictions on daily trade, which would push millions of people below the poverty line. Sanjrani cautioned that such measures would lead to widespread economic despair and desperation in Balochistan. Moreover, he expressed concerns that restricting people's livelihoods would fuel anti-state elements, further destabilizing the economy already burdened by unemployment and poverty. Sanjrani's stance echoes the World Bank's findings that trade has been a powerful driver of economic development.

## Tribal leader killed in Khuzdar

Independent Report  
KHUZDAR: Unknown gunmen opened fire on Ferrozabad Road in Khuzdar at 10 am, killing Khair Muhammad Mardouei, a prominent tribal figure and leader of the Balochistan National Party. The perpetrators escaped the scene unhindered.

DSP Muhammad Jan Sasoli and his team promptly arrived at the scene, collected evidence, and shifted the body to Teaching Hospital for further proceedings. The authorities have yet to apprehend the culprits.

The incident has sent shockwaves through the community, and an investigation is underway to determine the motive behind the killing.

## Rana Sana says: Use of VPN not un-Islamic

ISLAMABAD (Online): Rana Sana Ullah special assistant to Prime Minister (PM) for political affairs has said use of VPN is not un-Islamic and there will be no sin or punishment on it.

"Therefore, us it fearlessly, he said this while reacting to the decision of Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) for declaring use of VPN un-Islamic during his talks in a private TV channel.

He held "to my personal opinion this matter does not relate to CII. I think Raghob Naemi has given inappropriate opinion. He has supported government but his support otherwise has proved criticism against government. He should have made consultation before giving this opinion. I think VPN has nothing to do with shariah, he remarked.

## Commander CTF-150 holds key leadership engagement with DG Operations Sir Lankan Navy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Commodore Asim Sohail Malik of Pakistan Navy, Commander Combined Task Force (CTF-150), held a virtual key leadership engagement with Rear Admiral Buddhika Liyanagamage, Director General Operations of Sri Lanka Navy.

The meeting focused on reinforcing objectives of Combined Maritime Forces and exploring avenues of cooperation with Sri Lanka Navy.

During the meeting, Commodore Asim Sohail Malik apprised the Admiral on the operational activities of 13th PN led CTF-150 mission and underscored importance of collaborative approach to combat threats posed by non-state actors.

Potential participation of Sri Lanka Navy assets in CTF-150 was also agreed by both sides as CMF collaboration with littoral states is vital to disrupt narcotics trafficking and other illicit activities in North Arabian Sea.

Commander CTF 150 also highlighted Pakistan Navy's commitment to maritime peace and stability in the region and reiterated support for upcoming command of CTF-154 by Sri Lanka Navy team.

During the meeting senior national representatives from Pakistan and Sri Lanka at CMF and key officials from Sri Lanka Navy were also in attendance, further underscoring the strong bilateral commitment to regional maritime security.

PTA decides to give 2 weeks time for un-registered VPN

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has decided to give two weeks time for registration of non registered VPN.

According to sources this decision has been taken in review meeting of PTA following the issuance of directives from interior ministry for closure of non registered VPN. Sources said it was decided in the meeting to give time till November 30 for registration of non registered VPN. Later the crackdown will be launched against non registered VPN from December 01. One trial has been completed successfully with reference to closure of VPN. Second trial will be conducted in coming days in this regard. PTA said time is being given to non registered VPN holders for registration ahead of closure. PTA said non registered VPN are security risk. Access can be sought to sensitive data and objectionable material through non registered VPN.



Navy in support of CTF-150 mission to counter illicit maritime activities at sea, said a news release issued by Directorate General Public Relations (Pakistan Navy).

Malik says PTA encouraging violence under guise of protest

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik, on Monday accused the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of inciting violence under the pretext of a protest call.

Talking to a private news channel, he emphasized that while the democracy allow peaceful protests, PTI's actions appear to challenge the writ of the state deliberately.

The purpose of these protests is to execute a conspiracy designed to push the country back into turmoil, he said adding that the government would not tolerate any attempt to destabilize the country.

The government has been working tirelessly to stabilize the country amid significant challenges, while PTI continues its efforts to derail this progress.

He said that any attempt to create unrest would be met with strict action, ensuring the protection of citizens and the state's stability.

Wildlife Dept demolishes Peregrine Falcon hunting pits in Gwadar, Ormara

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Wildlife Department has demolished the Peregrine Falcon hunting pits in a major operation to prevent illegal hunting in the Taloband Plains area of Gwadar and Ormara.

This action was taken under the direction of Assistant Conservator Zahiduddin and Sub Divisional Officer Asmat Ali Dogarzi.

The team of the Department of Wildlife and Ormara, led by Deputy Ranger (DR) Wildlife Sanaullah Baloch, conducted a detailed review of the area and destroyed several pits built by hunters.

Sanaullah said that these pits were being used for illegal hunting of rare birds.

He said, "Hunters stay in these pits for several months and set traps to catch the mariner, which is not only dangerous for this rare species of bird but also damages the ecological balance."

Wildlife department game watcher Shah Nawaz and Khalid Dad were also involved in this operation, who monitored the area with the team and helped identify pits.

The DR said, "The Wildlife Department has vowed to continue to take strict action against poaching to protect rare and endangered species."

"This action has been hailed by environmental protection experts and local people as an important step towards conservation of wildlife," he added.

## NP condemns Coast Guards' violence against unarmed citizens in Gwadar

Independent Report  
GAWADAR: The National Party's district spokesperson in Gwadar has strongly denounced the Coast Guards' violence against unarmed citizens in Jiwhani, Chatti, Ganj, and Pawan. The spokesperson termed the actions of law enforcement agencies as "thoughtless" and emphasized that shutting down employment opportunities while also denying people their right to livelihood is unacceptable. The border trade supports the livelihoods of millions, and its closure will only exacerbate feelings of deprivation. Criticizing the Coast Guards for using violence against civilians, including women, the spokesperson stressed that this behavior is condemnable.

The National Party expressed deep concern over the situation and demanded that action be taken against those responsible for the violence. They also called for the simplification of border trade to prevent further economic hardship.

The incident highlights the need for law enforcement agencies to protect citizens rather than infringe upon their rights.

## Suspected human trafficker in Libya boat accident case arrested

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has arrested a human trafficking case linked to a tragic boat accident in Libya, on Monday.

According to FIA spokesperson, this action came on the orders of Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Raza Naqvi.

Yasir Mehmood, a suspect listed in the Red Book's most wanted list was apprehended during a major operation by the FIA's Gujranwala zone.

He faces multiple charges with over five cases filed against him in 2023 by the Composite Circle Gujrat.

Yasir is accused of defrauding victims by collecting Rs 24 lakh each to facilitate their illegal journey to Europe.



QUETTA: Senator Manzoor Kakar meeting with Chief Executive Officer QESCO Engr. Shafiqat Ali.

## Gwadar hosts awareness program on climate change and groundwater issues

Independent Report  
GWADAR: An awareness program on climate change and groundwater issues was held in Gwadar, organized jointly by the district administration and civil society. Deputy Director of Irrigation, Pazer Ahmed Baloch, delivered a detailed briefing, highlighting the severe impact of 2024's heavy rainfall on Gwadar's old settlement, particularly Thana Ward. Many families were forced to relocate, and some still haven't returned to their homes.

Experts emphasized that climate change has disrupted the rainfall system, with Gwadar receiving 180 mm of rainfall in 2024, significantly above average. The excessive use of groundwater and boring has led to seawater entering underground reservoirs, causing land degradation and the loss of ancient trees.

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"This action has been hailed by environmental protection experts and local people as an important step towards conservation of wildlife," he added.

## Meeting held about DC Office security, local, issuance of arms license in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) General Quetta Muhammad Anwar Kakar on Monday chaired a meeting regarding DC office security, local/domicile and issuance of computerized arms license.

The meeting was attended by Officers of Assistant Commissioner (City), Assistant Commissioner (Sadar), Registrar, Sub-Registrar, Arms License Branch, General Branch and Admin Branch and Local Domicile Branch.

In the meeting, there was a detailed discussion regarding security issues including ban on private officials in the DC office and issuance of priority basis to local domicile in the domicile branch.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Muhammad Anwar Kakar said that the DC office should immediately ban private people from working in the branch, and added the officers would visit branches on daily basis.

Similarly, discussing security in the DC office, he said that security should be tightened at all entry and exit points of the office saying that private people have also been banned from the Registrar and Sub-Registrar offices.

## Police arrest bike lifters

HUB (APP): The Athol police on Monday arrested two motorbike lifters in an operation.

On the direction of SSP, Lasbela, the police arrested the bike lifters namely Ilyas Baksh and Imam Baksh and recovered a motorcycle from their custody, the police spokesman said.

The police registered case against the accused and started investigation, he added.



QUETTA: Chief of Pashtoon Tribe, Nawab Ayaz Khan Jogezi addresses during the protest demonstration against abduction of young boy, at Provincial Assembly Chowk in Quetta.

## DPM Dar chairs 5th session of Exploration & Production Committee

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday chaired the fifth Session of the Exploration & Production Committee constituted by the Prime Minister to develop a comprehensive action plan for addressing the challenges faced by the Exploration and Production (E&P) sector in Pakistan.

Building on the discussions from previous sessions, several key decisions were made to improve the sector's outlook.

The committee reached an in-principle agreement to submit a long-awaited framework to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) for the sale of 35% of the unallocated gas volumes to third-party buyers. The framework includes a 100 million standard cubic feet per day (mmscfd) cap for the first year, with annual reviews thereafter.

In another significant move, the committee decided to initiate a bidding round for available onshore exploration blocks by December 2024. The deadline for bid submissions is set for March 15, 2025. In parallel, a separate bidding process will be launched for offshore exploration blocks, with a six-month period allowed for potential bidders to evaluate the offered blocks and make their bids by 30th of June 2024.

Dr. Rubaba nominated for Cadet Colleges Board of Governors

Independent Report  
QUETTA: Advisor for the Women Development Department, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, along with MPA Ghulam Dastagir Badini, has been nominated to represent the parliamentary side in the Board of Governors for Balochistan's cadet colleges. According to the correspondence from the Balochistan Provincial Assembly, the Speaker has forwarded the nominations to the Secretary of the Higher Education Commission.

Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi is currently serving as the Advisor to the Chief Minister of Balochistan for Women Development. She has previously excelled as the Parliamentary Secretary for Health, where her exceptional management of COVID-19 earned her a performance excellence award. As Parliamentary Secretary for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, she consolidated 210 years of legislative drafts into a single publication, earning a Certificate of Merit from the former Chief Minister of Balochistan.

Additionally, as the Parliamentary Secretary for Science and Information Technology, she played a significant role in establishing the IT Secretariat, a Forensic Lab, and activating IT offices at the district level. Recognizing her contributions, the current Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, has nominated her for a prestigious civil award, which she will receive next year.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti meeting with Haji Noorullah Badini father of Shaheed Lt. Saifullah Badini.

## Female abducted on way to Quetta from Chaman recovered by Levies, QRF

Independent Report  
QUETTA: A female, who was abducted while she was on her way to Quetta from Chaman, soon after he got the information in this regard.

He had ordered to conduct comprehensive search for recovery of the abducted female at all the check posts and other places.

As a result of which, the QRF recovered the abducted female and arrested two accused in the case, taking speedy action on directives of the Deputy Commissioner, Chaman.

Govt. to introduce strict Umrah policy to curb begging in Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistani government is tightening its grip on begging in Saudi Arabia by introducing a stringent Umrah policy. As per details, the move aims to curb the begging mafia that has been tarnishing Pakistan's image in the holy land.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs has decided to take drastic measures against beggars, including obtaining an affidavit from pilgrims before departing for Umrah, promising not to beg. Those who violate this affidavit will face strict legal action.

To further prevent begging, Umrah pilgrims will only be allowed to travel in groups, not individually. This measure ensures that pilgrims are accountable for their actions and are less likely to engage in begging.

Tour operators will also be required to obtain affidavits from pilgrims, making them complicit in preventing begging.

Sources revealed that the government is serious about addressing this issue, as begging has harmed Pakistan's relationship with Saudi Arabia.

Earlier, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) conducted operations during various areas of Multan and arrested four travel agents involved in sending citizens to Saudi Arabia for begging.

According to an FIA spokesperson, the arrested agents, identified as Sadiq Hussain, Mohammad Ejaz, Ghulam, and Ghulam Yaseen.



QUETTA: Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar inaugurating provision of electricity project in Christian Colony, Nawan Killi.