

# Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

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Quetta

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## Unconditional loyalty with Pak is an important part of constitution & our moral duty: CM

Mir Sarfraz Bugti emphasizes need to promote modern education along with conventional education; says students are leaders of future & ambassadors of Balochistan

**Independent Report**  
 QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stated that unconditional loyalty with Pakistan is an important part of the constitution and is our moral duty.

He said that history is witness to the fact that Allah Almighty gave honour to whoever has been loyal with Pakistan, while he committed betrayal with the country, got disgrace and humiliation.

The Chief Minister was addressing the science and art exhibition organized at the Jinnah Elite School here on Tuesday morning.

The Provincial Minister for Education, Ms. Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani and other con-

cerned high ups, head of the institution, Sardar Usama Khan Tareen, were also present.

The Chief Minister inaugurated the science and art exhibition at the school in which students from different educational institutions participated.

He expressed heartfelt joy over seeing the creativity depicted in the science and art projects put on display at the exhibition.

He said that he is very much pleased to see the project based on the artificial intelligence. He exhorted the students to move forward taking the same positive mindset.

The Chief Minister underlined the need to pro-

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QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti inaugurating Sciences and Art Exhibition at Jinnah Elite School.

## Quetta traders observe shutter down against non-recovery of missing Musawir Khan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The shutter down strike was observed by the traders' community against non-recovery of the missing 10-year child, Musawir Khan in the provincial metropolis on Tuesday.

All the main business concerns, markets and shops remain closed because of the shutter down strike in the metropolis.

It may be mentioned here that the call for shutter down strike was given by Markazi Anjuman Tajran Balochistan to press the government and administration for early recovery of the child kidnapped from Patel Bagh area of Quetta on Friday last.

Almost all the political and religious parties announced their wholehearted support to the traders for observance of the shutter

down strike. While the shutters of shops and markets remained down, the flow of traffic also remained thin in the main and other areas of the city due to the strike.

Meanwhile, the protest sit-in remain continued on third consecutive day i.e. Tuesday by the family members of the kidnapped child and traders at the Unity Chowk.

The members of the family and other people from different walks of life participated in the dharna being staged for recovery of Musawir Khan.

On the other hand, the family members and traders community lodged protest outside the provincial assembly the same afternoon.

They demanded of the government to ensure safe recovery of the kidnapped child at the earliest.



QUETTA: A view of closed shops and markets during shutter down strike called by Anjuman Tajran and All Parties against kidnapping of Muhammad Musawir Khan.

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

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

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

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

He gave these remarks

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

The participants were briefed on the evolving security landscape and the measures being taken to counter terrorism and other critical challenges, including general law and order situation, actions against efforts to stoke sub-nationalism,

Continued on page 2

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

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

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

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

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



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail in a group photo with participants of National Security Workshop organized by National Defence University.

## Zakullah & Hazrat Wali appointed as DC Ziarat, Harnai

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Secretary Quetta Development Authority (ODA), Zakullah and Deputy Secretary Food Department, Hazrat Wali have been posted as the Deputy Commissioners of Ziarat and Harnai districts respectively.

This was announced in an official notification issued by the Services and General Administration Department (S&GAD) here on Tuesday.

It may be mentioned here that Deputy Commissioners of Ziarat and Harnai had been suspended by the government on account of negligence in the official duties last week.

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

Monitoring Desk

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

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

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

amendment, which he claimed strengthened a "dictatorial regime."

In a statement shared on X, Imran reiterated the importance of the November 24 protests. He framed the event as "a golden opportunity to secure genuine freedom for Pakistan" and warned that "enslaved nations eventually die away."

He also acknowledged that while his initial calls for protest were directed at PTI members, he now extended the invitation to the entire nation. He called for people to join the demonstration with the same fervour as they did during the February 8 elections, which were marred by controversy.

## No document from UAE gov't on visa restrictions on Pakistanis: Embassy

DUBAI (APP): The Embassy of Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Tuesday rejected the media reports referring to the sharing of a document by the UAE government citing reasons for imposing visa restrictions on Pakistani nationals.

"These claims are factually incorrect. No such document has been shared by UAE authorities," the embassy said in a press release.

## SC constitutional bench dismisses petition against extension in tenure of COAS

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) constitutional bench has dismissed the petition against extension in tenure of Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir.

The court dismissed the petition being not persuaded.

The objections raised by registrar office related to non maintainability of the petition were kept maintained.

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

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

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

Mohsin Naqvi thanked Maulana Fazlur Rehman for his historical role and support for the approval of 26th constitutional amendment.

He said Maulana Fazlur Rehman always played an important role in the greater interest of the nation. Maulana Fazl said on the occasion that their top priority is Pakistan and the people of Pakistan. Senator Kamran Murtaza was also present on the occasion.

## Governor exhorts political parties to play role for promotion of unity among nationalities

**Independent Report**  
 QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has exhorted the political parties to play role for promotion of unity and trend of dialogue and encouragement of the open contact among different nationalities.

He said that the dialogue connects different minds in politics, synchronize diversified voices and provides thoughtful guidance for finding solution to the major issues.

The Governor made it clear that we can't afford more mutual differences and disputes. Therefore, it is necessary for us to create collective spirit to take all along. We can make our progressive and bright future safe by connecting with the national thinking and approach.

The Governor was

Continued on page 2



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

## Arms for Peace: Khawaja Asif inaugurates defense exhibition IDEAS 2024

KARACHI (INP): Defense Minister Khawaja Asif on Tuesday said International Defense Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) 2024 would boost the country's defense industry.

The minister was addressing the inaugural session of the IDEAS 2024 being held here at the Expo Centre. He welcomed foreign delegates and guests urging them to "get the best out of the exhibition."

Three services chiefs also attended the opening ceremony. He said that the slogan of IDEAS 2024 is "Arms for Peace" as Pakistan is a peace-loving coun-

try. "Pakistan believes in resolving issues through dialogue," the minister stated.

Khawaja Asif said Pakistan's defense industry was booming. "Public and private sectors can play an important role in enhancing defense production," he added.

Exports of defense equipment would help strengthen country's economy, he continued.

The defense minister said the IDEAS 2024 would be a regional gateway. "Promoting connectivity is essential for regional peace and socio-economic development," he said.

## Opposition lambasts Govt over law and order situation in Balochistan Assembly

**Independent Report**  
 QUETTA: The leader of Opposition and other members of the provincial assembly lambasted the provincial government over law and order situation in the session of provincial assembly here on Tuesday.

The Speaker Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai was in the chair. In start of the session, the leader of Opposition, Mir Younas Aziz Zehri raised the point of order urging the chair to cancel the routine agenda of the session and speak on the law

and order issue because of the prevailing law and order situation in the province.

However, the Provincial Minister, Mir Saleem Khosa objected to it saying that as the Chief Minister is not in the House, so defer the debate on law and order some other day.

On that, the members from Opposition and Treasury benches exchange hot words.

The member of provincial assembly belonging to National Party, Mir Rehmat Saleh Baloch

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers and MPAs expressing their views on law and order situation in the Balochistan Assembly.

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

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

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

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

The deputy prime minister emphasized the importance of transforming the close relationship between the two countries into an enhanced strategic partnership, commensurate with the rich history of Pakistan-UK cooperation and in line with the aspirations of the 1.7 million-strong British Pakistani community.

Deputy Prime Minister Dar also briefed the Parliamentary Under Secretary Falconer on Pakistan's perspective on Afghanistan and the evolving situation in South Asia. He stressed that the resolution of longstanding disputes, including the core Jammu and Kashmir dispute, was critical to achieving lasting peace and stability in South Asia.

Parliamentary Under Secretary Falconer thanked the deputy prime minister for receiving him and underlined the importance accorded by the United Kingdom to its relations with Pakistan. He added that the UK was looking forward to working with Pakistan at the UN Security Council.



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

### Unconditional loyalty...

**Continued from page 1**

able hands because of the talented and diligent youth like you, as he spoke to the students participated in the science and art exhibition.

The Chief Minister also mentioned that youth of Balochistan have not only proved their mettle at the national but also at the international level, so we are proud of them.

He on the occasion announced Rs. 1 million for the school. He also announced cash reward of Rs. 100,000 for the students who presented tableau.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister visited the stalls and witnessed the projects displayed in the exhibition.



QUETTA: The World Bank's Country Director, Najib Benhassine meeting with former Senate Chairman and Member Provincial Assembly, Sadiq Sanjrani.

### Opposition lambasts Govt over law...

**Continued from page 1**

presence of Chief Minister and other responsible officials is necessary on the issue.

The Provincial Minister for Irrigation, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani said that we are also pained over the kidnapping of the child from Quetta. However, the Chief Minister has gone to Islamabad for an important meeting, we would hold detailed discussion once he returns from there.

The leader of Opposition on the occasion said that the law and order situation has been deteriorated in the province while on the other hand, the police is impounding the kabuli vehicles.

### Governor exhorts political parties...

**Continued from page 1**

This province can also provide access to the Central Asian States.

He also said that the key reality of any society happens to be the economic base. The poverty, lawlessness and unemployment can be comprehended and analyzed better in the light of economy, he said adding that the real issue of people is not morality but economy.

He stressed that the issues of all social evils, backwardness and lawlessness can be ended by providing the people livelihood and bringing economic stability.

The Governor on the occasion expressed best wishes for the guests coming from other provinces and hoped that their stay would remain pleasant in Quetta.

The Governor and Major General Muhammad Raza Azad exchanged the commemorative shields.

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

UNITED NATIONS (APP): A key UN panel Monday approved, by consensus, a resolution renewing the global commitment to the principle of self-determination for peoples still subjected to colonial, foreign and alien occupation, with Pakistan saying that it's focus was on creating a world where everyone could live in "dignity, free from oppression".

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

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

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

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

Introducing the resolution, Ambassador Akram, Pakistan's permanent representative to the UN, said that it was aimed at "creating a world where every nation, every community, and every individual can live in dignity, free from oppression, and with the ability to shape their destiny."

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

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

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday urged all the political leadership to continue lending their helping hands to the federation in overcoming the economic challenges, which was requisite to financial and political stability in the country.

The prime minister also clearly linked the stability and peace in the country with complete elimination of the specter of terrorism, which had resurfaced its head recently in southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces.

Addressing a meeting of the apex committee of the National Action Plan attended by the political and military leadership, the prime minister said with the grace of Allah Almighty, the economic efforts and sincerity of purpose, showed by all the stakeholders in the governments from the provincial chief ministers to the federation, the country was moving on the path to stability.

He commended the efforts put forth by all the federal and provincial governments, saying that without it, they could not move forward.

The prime minister

### Apex Committee approves...

**Continued from page 1**

religiosity, ensuring timely implementation.

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### NOTICE INVITING TENDER (FRAMEWORK)

The Administrator Metropolitan Corporation Quetta invites sealed bids for a Closed framework-based agreement with rates for one year (the year starting from the date of agreement) on the composite schedule of rates 2023 Government of Baluchistan, amended up-to-date and Market rate, from interested contractors/firms. The procurement shall be carried out under the Baluchistan Public Procurement Rules, 2014. Amended up-to-date (Balochistan Public Procurement Closed Framework Agreement Regulation 2020.)

**BASIC ELIGIBILITY:** Registration with tax authorities i.e. (NTN, BRA and Sales Tax Department), where applicable. Registration with PEC for the current year in the relevant category. Registration with BPPRA. **METHOD OF PROCUREMENT:** Single-stage - Two envelopes Bidding Procedure. **TERMS & CONDITIONS:** The Closed Framework agreement will be for one year. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of Rs 1000000/= (one million) in the form of a Deposit at a Call from a scheduled Bank, that remains for the framework time limit. For each work, the Contractor has to submit 10% of the estimated amount as performance security only in the form of a Deposit at Call from a scheduled Bank against every work order. (BPPRA rule-44). The contractors will submit their bid in percentage against CSR 2023 Government of Baluchistan, amended up-to-date and Market rate. The parallel framework agreement will be signed by a minimum of three Contractors. No contract exists until a work order is issued against the Framework agreement. Further Terms & Conditions and evaluation criteria are mentioned (incorporated) in detail in bidding documents. Submitting a bid means, the firm agrees with all mentioned terms & conditions. **TSE-242511586423 BIDDING / TENDER DOCUMENTS:** Issuance: Tender Fee deposit of an amount of Rs: 25000/= in A/C No 4405-4 NBP Manan Chowk Branch (non-refundable). Document will be issued from Office of Metropolitan Engineer Inscorb road Quetta, from the date of advertisement on BPPRA web site till one day before Opening date or can be downloaded from the website of BPPRA ([www.bppra.org.pk](http://www.bppra.org.pk)), documents by downloading them from BPPRA website will also be required to deposit above-mentioned fee. **Submission:** Last date of submission will be 4/12/2024 at 10:00 Hrs. **Opening:** The tender document will be opened on 4/12/2024 at 11:00 Hrs. **Place:** Submission, inquiries and opening will be Office of Metropolitan Engineer.

Sr. No	Tender Name	Tender Document Fee (Non-Refundable)	Reserved Price	Earnest Money as Call Deposit
1.	Main Canteen/ Cafeteria	Rs:1000/-	Rs:50000/-	Rs:25000/-

1. Bidding Document/Terms and conditions can be obtained from the office of the undersigned after submitting fee for Bidding Document (Rs. 1000/- for each, Non Refundable) at NBP's Account # 0052-00317670774 under the title of Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Institute of Cardiology/NBP Cant Branch.

2. Interested bidders may submit their bidding/auction document in Procurement Department of SMBZAN-ICQ. Call Deposit Receipts will be returned back on the spot to unsuccessful bidders, while the CDR of 1st highest bidder will be retained in the custody of Procuring Agency till the maturity of contract.

3. Any defaulter declared by the Govt./Semi-Govt. is not allowed to take part in auction process.

4. Without CDR, Tender receipt and Original CNIC, No one shall be allowed to participate in Auction Process.

5. According to Law, Bidder must be an Active Tax Payer, having NTN/STRN.

6. The period of contract will commence upon signing of contract.

7. Successful bidder must submit half Payment of Successful bid in Hospital's account including applicable taxes upon the day of award and entitled to submit remaining within 07 days of the contract.

8. Successful bidder will pay all the applicable taxes imposed by Government of Balochistan.

9. In case of non-compliance submitted amount of warranty will be forfeited.

10. For further details contact with undersigned during office hours (from 09:00AM to 02:00PM).

**DIRECTOR HOSPITAL SMBZAN-ICQ**  
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Federal Minister for Investment, Privatisation and Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan held a meeting with Minister for Economy, H.E. Mikayal Jabbaaro in Azerbaijan.

## PM reiterates govt's commitment to children's rights, well-being

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on World Children's Day, reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the rights, well-being, and development of our children, who were the architects of their future and the most valuable asset of the nation.

He also urged parents, educators, civil society, and policymakers to work together to create a society where every child felt loved, valued, and safe. "On this World Children's Day, let us renew our pledge to put children first in our national priorities, ensuring a future where they can thrive with dignity, equality, and hope," prime minister said, in a message on World Children's Day, being observed on November 20.

The prime minister said the day served as a re-

minder of their collective responsibility to protect and fulfill the rights of every child, without discrimination and ensure that every child, regardless of their circumstances, had access to quality education, healthcare, and a safe, nurturing environment. "It is our duty to provide them with facilities and opportunities they need to achieve their full potential and contribute positively to the society," he stressed.

The prime minister said that the government of Pakistan had implemented several initiatives aimed at improving the lives of children like Daanish Schools which were being established to provide quality education to underprivileged children in remote and underserved areas. These schools had transformed the lives of countless children, offering

them a pathway to a brighter future, he added.

He said that they had declared education emergency by mobilizing resources to improve literacy rates, rebuild schools, and ensure quality education to the children.

"Special efforts are being made to enroll millions of out-of-school children through targeted campaigns, community outreach, and incentives for families to send their children to school. To address malnutrition and improve learning outcomes, the government has introduced nutrition programs in public schools, ensuring children receive healthy meals that support their physical and cognitive development," PM Office in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saying.

also clearly linked the stability and peace in the country with complete elimination of the specter of terrorism, which had resurfaced its head recently in southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces.

Addressing a meeting of the apex committee of the National Action Plan attended by the political and military leadership, the prime minister said with the grace of Allah Almighty, the economic efforts and sincerity of purpose, showed by all the stakeholders in the governments from the provincial chief ministers to the federation, the country was moving on the path to stability.

He commended the efforts put forth by all the federal and provincial governments, saying that without it, they could not move forward.

The prime minister

### Tribal elder among four killed in Bannu firing

PESHAWAR (APP): At least four people including a tribal elder and a woman were killed when armed men fired multiple shots on their vehicle in Janikhel area of Bannu district, police informed on Tuesday.

Police said tribal elder, Malak Shudi Khan along with four others, was traveling in a pickup van when armed assailants intercepted their vehicle near Sin Tanga, Wariki Janikhel area and started indiscriminate firing on them.

As a result of intense firing, four people identified as Malak Shudi Khan, Ajab Khan, Ajmal and a woman were killed on the scene. After the killing spree, the assailants managed to flee the scene. Area police, after collecting evidence from the crime scene, have started an investigation.

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

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



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Haji Wali Muhammad Noorzai and others meeting with Provincial Minister Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa.

### NOTICE FOR AUCTION

OF MAIN CANTEEN/ CAFETERIA SERVICES AT SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN- INSTITUTE OF CARDIOLOGY QUETTA FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-25

Last date for Buying and Submitting Tender 26-11-2024 till 10:00AM  
Auction date and Time 27-11-2024 at 10:30AM

Sr. No	Tender Name	Tender Document Fee (Non-Refundable)	Reserved Price	Earnest Money as Call Deposit
1.	Main Canteen/ Cafeteria	Rs:1000/-	Rs:50000/-	Rs:25000/-

1. Bidding Document/Terms and conditions can be obtained from the office of the undersigned after submitting fee for Bidding Document (Rs. 1000/- for each, Non Refundable) at NBP's Account # 0052-00317670774 under the title of Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Institute of Cardiology/NBP Cant Branch.

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### TENDER NOTICE

TSE-242511592243 Only electronic bid will be submitted, NO physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER/ PROVINCIAL B&R BARKHAN invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates  
Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Works	E/Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF BT ROAD GHAFFAR ROAD 59,478,355 NAHARKOTAREAAT DISTRICT BARKHAN.	

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority. Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 41,634,849 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Audit Report of Last 3-years from a reputable Chartered Accounting firm. List of Machinery List of staff working with firm. Bank statement of last 3-years showing the turn over for the required work. Scanned Copy of original CDR Scanned Copy of original Green Challan Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 3% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from [www.bppra.gov.pk](http://www.bppra.gov.pk) Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at [www.bppra.gov.pk](http://www.bppra.gov.pk) Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 05 December, 2024 till 09:00 AM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 10:00 AM on EPPS System Address: O/O Executive Engineer (Roads) CWPP&H Department, Near DC House, Barkhan Phone no: 0829668503 Email: [xenbuildingbarkhan@gmail.com](mailto:xenbuildingbarkhan@gmail.com)

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (ROADS) CWPP&H DEPARTMENT DISTRICT BARKHAN**  
PRQ No.1996/19-11-2024  
[www.dpr.gov.pk](http://www.dpr.gov.pk) @dpr\_gob @dprgob @dprgobalochistan

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He believed that the country could not achieve the required goals of progress and prosperity without improving education standards and developing human resources. "Today's era is not about muscle power; it's about brain power. Nations with superiority in brain power will succeed. The first step

toward national progress is improving the education system."

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

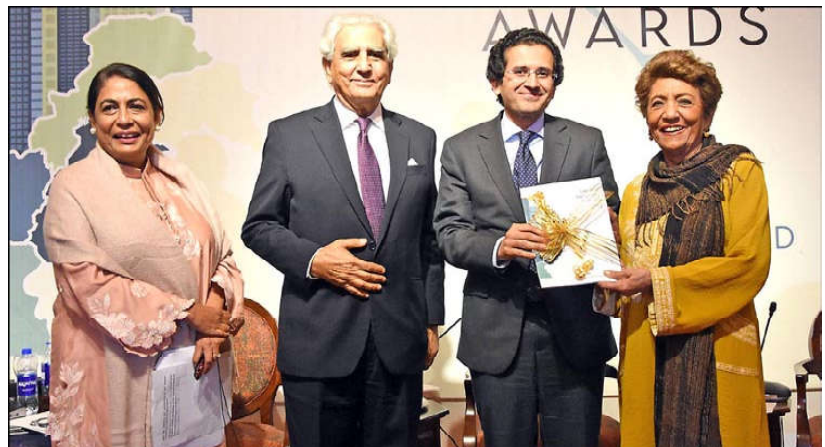
Ayaz Sadiq also acknowledged the vital role played by the Pakistan-

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Two dead as car overturns into ditch near Rawalakot

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

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

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

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

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

## Musical activities helped to boost tourism

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The minister empha-

ready been forwarded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Chaudhry Salik directed the expeditious finalization of the MoU to enhance the welfare of pilgrims. He further instructed the immediate establishment of the Pakistan House in Karbala, as well as a Directorate of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Inter-



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

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## Chairman PRCS meets Pak Envoy in Azerbaijan during CoP29

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

According to a PRCS spokesman, the meeting occurred on the sidelines of the 29th Conference of the Parties (CoP29) and fo-

cus on strengthening humanitarian efforts and addressing climate change challenges.

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

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

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

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

"Government will not permit PTI to challenge the state's authority or incite lawlessness in the coun-

try," he emphasized. He strongly condemned PTI's actions and said, "They are habitual of disrupting the country and lack a public agenda."

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

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

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

## SSP Shahzaib vows to tighten noose around gang members

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

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

## CDA Chairman accelerates major construction projects

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

During the visit, the chairman reviewed the ongoing work, inspected construction quality, and urged contractors to adhere to deadlines.

He emphasized round-the-clock operations to expedite completion and instructed simultaneous work on various sections of the projects, including the commencement of the Jinnah Avenue flyover.

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

He also directed the immediate completion of utility line relocation. Acknowledging the efforts of laborers on-site, Randhawa commended their hard work, reinforcing the commitment to timely project delivery.

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



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

## Naat competition held on 2nd day of academic week of FBISE

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Naat Competition marked the second day of the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education's (FBISE) Academic Week and co-curricular activities.

Director Research and Academics FBISE, Mirza Ali, welcomed participants and emphasized the importance of spiritual and academic activities in shaping students' holistic development.

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

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

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

Following the direc-

tives of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, NDMA, in partnership with Al-Khidmat Foundation, sent the aid consignment via chartered flight from Jinnah International Airport, Karachi, to Damascus, Syria.

The send-off ceremony held at Jinnah International Airport was attended by senior officials of the government and representatives of the Al-Khidmat Foundation.

## CCAR calls for conference on repatriation, resettlement of Afghan refugees

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees (CCAR) at the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) Muhammad Abbas Khan on Tuesday said the Government of Pakistan should host an international multilateral stake-holders' conference aimed at addressing the challenges related to the voluntary repatriation and third-country resettlement of Afghan refugees.

He said that the main objective of the conference should be to encourage the Western countries to increase their quotas and expedite the process for admitting Afghan applicants into their countries from Pakistan.

He was speaking at a seminar titled "Challenges and Opportunities in Repatriation and Resettlement of Afghan Refugees" organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), said a press release.

Khan underscored the importance of international burden-sharing, urging global stakeholders to enhance resettlement opportunities for Afghan citizens on Pakistani soil.

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

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## Tribunals' failure

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

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

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

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

With the election tribunals having thus failed to fulfil the purpose for which they were created, it is not surprising that Pakistan has not been able to stabilise. In the absence of the legitimacy conferred by a free and fair election, the authorities continue to resort to repressive means to enforce 'order'. However, these will not bear long-term results and are only hollowing out the country's already crumbling political structure.

It is imperative, therefore, for the election tribunals to conclude all proceedings as soon as possible while delivering justice. Too much time has already been lost in dilly-dallying — all further proceedings must now be completed transparently so that faith in the electoral process can be restored.

### Jawed Naqvi

While India and Pakistan can and do unfurl their flags in distant territories — say, in a cricket stadium in Sharjah or when they secure a medal at the Olympics, as the javelin throwers of the two countries did recently and expressed spontaneous respect for each other to everyone's joy — there is no reason why both can't hoist their flags in the other's country. Assuming, of course, they remain friends, and it doesn't take much.

Ask Wasim Akram's team about the ovation they got in Chennai after defeating India. Or recall the ease with which Sourav Ganguly's boys conquered the hearts of Pakistani spectators in Lahore's Gaddafi stadium in a match that ended an avoidable drought in bilateral contests.

Else, taking the flag to rival territory would be limited to diplomatic compounds, if they still manage to exist, in the other's country. To have one's national flag flutter in a targeted territory out of pique or hostility doesn't usually work, more so if the object of the sneer has a robust

military.

When one country tried to carry its flag across the Himalayan border in 1962 in a way that wasn't seen as friendly by the other side, the consequences were unpleasant.

It makes little sense to strain the vocal cords by screaming and hurling invectives at the opponent (always from a safe distance, unsurprisingly) more so if the intention is to unfurl the national flag there.

But that is precisely the route Devendra Fadnavis, the deputy chief minister of Maharashtra, has taken to vent his spleen at Pakistan. Maharashtra goes to polls on Wednesday, and many hopes and fears are riding it, including the BJP's whose regional satrap Fadnavis is. Baring fangs that could make Bram Stoker's characters envious, Fadnavis has been whipping up real or make-believe rage, exhorting audiences to help him plant the Indian flag in Pakistan.

The method in the madness is not unfamiliar. The BJP's indoctrinated cadres respond to the party's dog whistle with alacrity on election eve often to propose something

outlandish like conquering Pakistan. Ahead of the Haryana state polls recently, Indian ministers openly explored the idea of sending troops into Azad Kashmir.

The state elections in Maharashtra are vital for both sides for good reasons. With 48 seats in parliament, it is the largest political constituency after Uttar Pradesh, which sends 80 MPs. The opposition took away a disturbing number of seats from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's kitty in the parliamentary polls earlier this year but fell short of its own estimates of the damage it could inflict.

Maharashtra played a key role nevertheless in reducing Modi's headcount to a minority, forcing him to seek uncertain alliances to stay in power. In the state polls, more than 90 million are eligible to decide 288 seats between two principal contestants. Both sides are led by factions of the Shiv Sena, split into two by the BJP's so-called dirty tricks bureau. But recent revelations have laid it bare that a master orchestrator of the drama was allegedly none other than a leading

tycoon close to the prime minister.

It was in Gautam Adani's plane that Modi landed in Delhi to take the oath of office as prime minister in 2014. According to recent claims by a senior leader of Maharashtra's ruling alliance, Adani was also the host of the meeting at his Delhi home, which set the stage to topple the opposition government in the state. Home Minister Amit Shah and Fadnavis were reportedly present at the meeting as it hatched the alleged plot.

The brief point is that Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena was split with money power, and with the involvement of Modi's hand-picked governor. The Indian supreme court censured the governor but allowed the usurpers to stay in power. Too many skeletons lurk in the cupboard that could adversely impact Modi's grip on power should the ruling coalition lose Maharashtra. The stakes are truly high.

A less discussed aspect of Maharashtra's political scum is that the faction of the Shiv Sena headed by Bal Thackeray's son Uddhav Thackeray has

moved away from its belligerent communalism to befriend Muslims and other minorities. They in turn help his coalition gather useful seats. Uddhav Thackeray's agreeable stance helped his coalition with the Congress and Nationalist Congress Party project a secular alliance that was ruling with a comfortable majority. Then Thackeray was overthrown through the split in the Shiv Sena in which Adani is said to have been involved.

The breakaway faction led by the BJP-backed chief minister Eknath Shinde has continued to need communal baiting to skim votes from the polarised churning. The BJP, with its unsurpassed talent to divide and contrive support, is led in the state by Fadnavis. In the endeavour to split the Hindu vote and to disrupt Uddhav Thackeray's chances of a likely win, the BJP has roped in support from Raj Thackeray, an alienated cousin of Uddhav Thackeray. Although initially it was Uddhav Thackeray's cadre that would target Pakistan, Pakistani musicians and actors visiting

India, it is now Raj Thackeray who muddies the water for a handshake with Pakistan. It was Raj Thackeray's group, which wouldn't allow Pakistani movie Maula Jatt's release in India.

Communal dog whistling has not deterred hardened optimists, however, from seeing post-poll Maharashtra as a different kettle of fish. It was because of the high-stake elections in the state, the view goes, that the Indian cricket squad was held back from announcing its participation in the Championship Trophy in Pakistan next year.

Helping the optimists along are unverified comments ascribed to India's foreign minister when he visited Islamabad last month.

Apparently, he had said something to his hosts about the likelihood of India playing in Pakistan. If the optimistic surmise proves to be well placed, then it could create just the grounds for Indian flags to flutter in Pakistan, without recourse to communal malice. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Politicians and their clothes

### Arifa Noor

Politicians and their clothes can never be separated from politics. It is the side plot which moves along with the main story — scene to scene, act to act — from Gandhi and his homespun clothes to Mohammad Ali Jinnah whose transition to the Quaid-i-Azam was accompanied by the adoption of the sherwani and karakuli hat, over his famed Savile Row suits.

In the recent US election, Kamala Harris' clothes and jewellery came in for scrutiny as did Melania Trump's expensive elegance. The discussion of any woman's appearance in the political sphere brings up the inevitable reference to Angela Merkel, who stuck to her signature uniform look.

But where the general assumption is that attire is an individual choice it is not necessarily true. Especially in our part of the world, where leaders themselves embody the political party they lead. In fact, it can safely be said that politicians' appearance also reflects the larger political culture of

the party they head.

Consider the PPP, Pakistan's first truly popular party. Even those who did not witness those times have heard about the awami suit popularised by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto or the shalwar kameez he donned, exchanging it for his stylish Western suits that he was obviously comfortable with in his previous avatar. Such is the power of politics and optics.

His daughter continued the trend. From her clothes to decisions about her personal life — it was all motivated by the political life Benazir Bhutto had chosen to lead as the head of a 'popular party'. For instance, when she got married, the manner in which it was celebrated — in some ways — was a political statement — the biggest event was held in Lyari in Karachi, with details in the press of how she decided to wear very little jewellery and opted for glass bangles instead of gold ones. (Similar perhaps was the Gandhi family where both Indira and Sonia married in the sari woven by Jawaharlal Nehru in jail.)

Despite her iconic

appearance when she took oath, or the gharara she wore to the White House, Benazir Bhutto's sartorial choices over the years became known for lack of style rather than the earlier elegance she had displayed. Perhaps it was a conscious choice for a young woman who knew she had to live her life out in public. Contrast this with her mother Nusrat Bhutto, who too was in politics but continued to be elegantly dressed. But then, it was Benazir who carried the burden of being the people's leader, and not her mother.

Benazir in her trademark jacket with shalwar kameez, her hair scraped back in a topknot has always been a source of comfort for many working women. If one of the most powerful women in Pakistan didn't have time to look her best before running to the National Assembly, it was surely fine for so many of us to have unkempt hair as work takes over. But I digress.

The political culture of a popular party doesn't allow for much of a personal life, even in death. The Bhuttos' burial

place is a mazar open to all. When the family visits it and images are released, they might as well be at any shrine in Pakistan but for the family's pictures in the background.

In some ways, the PTI is and has adopted a similar culture. Imran Khan, the party head, like ZAB, was equally comfortable in his Western suits, ever present at black-tie events in London and beyond. But these images are part of a life he claims to have left behind. His public persona as the head of a party is more awami — the white shalwar kameez, the tasbeeh wrapped around his hand.

Even when he visited abroad as prime minister, he stuck to traditional wear.

The only Western clothes he now appears in are casual tracksuits, which too, are perhaps part of a carefully curated image because he and his supporters never tire of reminding us that as a fast bowler, Khan was relentless.

That all this is not sheer coincidence is more apparent when one looks

at PTI leaders around him. Most of them also wear shalwar kameez all the time. A PTI member tells a story of a jalsa where a young politician climbed up to the container and was told off by Imran Khan and sent back because he was wearing jeans and a shirt. There are no days off in politics, especially popular politics.

This awami culture of optics has not really been a part of the PML-N, which began life as a patronage-based party. Nawaz Sharif never cultivated this image of an awami leader, which is different from implying that he doesn't care for the people or lacks empathy.

The expensive scarves and watches which have been pictured are a case in point. When he took oath as PM for the third time, it was the PPP which pointed out the expensive watch he wore.

Since then, it is the PTI which has been his fashion critic. Perhaps this more than anything else has influenced the sartorial choices of Maryam Nawaz, who is

often criticised for her expensive image.

Interestingly, Shehbaz Sharif, while he was chief minister, did try to cultivate a more awami image with his safari suits but has abandoned them since becoming PM. This absence of populism is also marked by the Sharif family's decision to keep its private life separate. The only change recently was the release of images of Maryam Nawaz's son's wedding — but even here, there was no effort at any political symbolism.

However, this is obviously an issue the PML-N will be compelled to address in changing times, even if it is far from a populist party.

In the era of social media and a strengthening middle class, politicians of all shades will be subjected to a scrutiny not possible earlier.

There will also be pressure to conform to this rather urban and middle-class notion of political leaders appearing to be a 'people's person' rather than someone set above the citizens.

## Promotion criteria

### Parvez Rahim

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

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

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

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

There was great emphasis on the performance of every employee. Supervisors were required to conduct periodical reviews of their subordinate's performance within the year so that the latter was not taken by surprise at year-end. In the event of a vacant position at a higher level, the se-

nior management would try to find a suitable candidate from within the organisation, instead of hiring from outside. It was believed that a manager hired at a senior position might disrupt the organisation's prevailing systems through a rash action, without adequate knowledge of its culture and traditions.

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

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

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

In the corporate world, success of companies depends on an effective and credible perfor-

mance evaluation system, based on which the employees are promoted. According to Leapsome, a platform for performance management and employee engagement, "A well-made promotion decision has the potential to boost morale and inspire trust in employees. A poorly made promotion decision ... can lead to disengagement and resentment among team members."

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

Fourth, the time an employee spends with the organisation — or more categorically, "employee achievements made against the time served" — and his experience in a certain role is a useful yardstick. And last, "Giving feedback to employees builds trust, motivates them to improve, and shows that you care about their growth". Candidates value genuine and realistic feedback.

Deserving promotions will help companies retain their best talent, besides cutting down on costs, and will impact other team members in a positive way. -- Courtesy Dawn

### Gaitee Ara Siddiqi

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Technology simplifies life but presents challenges to ensuring children's safety: Murad Shah

KARACHI (APP): Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah emphasized the importance of observing the World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse, which is marked annually on November 19.

"This year's theme, 'Emerging Technologies: Opportunities and Threats to Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse,' highlights the critical need to raise awareness about the risks posed by technology while also exploring its potential to keep children safe," CM said. Murad Shah said that the day aims to educate children and parents on how to prevent

exploitation. "We must eradicate cruelty and brutality from our society through education, awareness, and understanding," he said.

Talking about technological advancements, the CM said that they have simplified many aspects of life, but they also present new challenges to ensuring children's safety. He added that modern technologies can serve as effective tools for protecting children if appropriate laws and measures are implemented.

Mr Shah urged parents and teachers to educate children on the responsible use of technology.



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

## Sindh Governor, Oman CG discuss matters of importance, IDEAS 2024

KARACHI (APP): A six-member delegation led by the Consul General of Oman Eng. Sami Abdullah Khanjari called on Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tesuri at Governor House on Tuesday.

They discussed Pakistan-Oman bilateral relations, investment, increase in trade, IDEAS 2024 and other issues of importance.

The Governor of Sindh invited Omani investors to invest in the

province. He said that the attractive sectors of the province were excellent for investment.

Tessori said that he was keen to increase trade with Oman.

The Consul General of Oman said that Oman was willing to invest in various sectors of the province. He said that Oman always prioritized Pakistan's strong economy and defense. He said that IDEAS 2024 was a clear expression of Pakistan's capability.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari Tuesday announced that electric buses would roll out in the province by December's end, a major step to combat smog and boost eco-friendly transportation.

The government's long-term plan, led by the Chief Minister, would further reduce pollution and switch to environmentally friendly transportation solutions.

Azma Bokhari, in an exclusive talk with a private news channel, unveiled Punjab's ambitious plan to

revolutionize public transportation in Lahore, adding, "We are committed to providing eco-friendly transportation solutions to our citizens."

"The 300 electric buses will not only reduce environmental pollution but also provide a comfortable and efficient commute experience," Bokhari explained.

She also expressed her gratitude to Allah and praised the environment department for effectively managing the smog situation in Punjab and revealed, "The Punjab government is planning to transition to green technology soon."

## KP Law Minister inspects developmental works in Chorlaki, Kohat

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Aftab Alam Afridi Advocate has said that the provincial government has accelerated work to spread a net of developmental works in Kohat.

He expressed these views while reviewing the ongoing developmental works during his visit to Chorlaki along-with the Chairman Tehsil Gumbat Sajid Iqbal. Elites of the area and locals were also present on this occasion.

Meanwhile, the provincial minister also visited the Knowledge Park and during inspection of

the ongoing work, he directed the authorities concerned to ensure timely completion of the project without compromising on the quality of work.

Aftab Alam said, the decisions related to public interest will be made in the open court instead of closed rooms and personal likes and dislikes. He added that a separate developmental plan will be devised for each area keeping in view its needs.

The Minister said that local committees have been activated to keep a check on developmental projects and they have been given clear instructions that wherever any deficiency,



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



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

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

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has approved the first 'Chief Minister Dialysis Program Card' in the history of Pakistan and funds for the treatment of each dialysis patient have been increased up to Rs 1 million.

Over Rs. 8.5 million for dialysis and Rs. 1.5 million for tests are being allocated for each patient suffering from kidney disease.

The CM while presiding over a special meeting to review progress

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

The CM directed the Punjab Healthcare Commission to ensure implementation of SOPs in dialysis centres. She directed the Punjab Healthcare Commission to

benefiting from free dialysis facility. Free medicines from Punjab are being provided to Sindh, Balochistan and other areas. It was agreed to set KPIs to determine performance of the health department. A progress report on the Nawaz Sharif Cancer Hospital was presented.

The CM directed to appoint the head of the Nawaz Sharif Cancer Hospital. A report on the ongoing projects of PIC-2 and Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cardiology, Sargodha.

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



KARACHI: Visitors inspect military armunitions during the International Defence Exhibition and seminar (IDEAS), in the Provincial Capital.

## ANF recovers over 210 kg drugs in nine operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting nine operations across the country managed to recover over 210 kg drugs worth Rs 140 million and arrested 11 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Tuesday.

He informed that in an operation, 800 grams hashish and 200 grams ice were recovered from an accused arrested near a university in Sialkot.

The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions.

In another operation, 2.5 kg ice was recovered from the trolley bag of a passenger going to Bahrain at Lahore Airport.

52 kg heroin and 9 kg ice hidden in a vacant house in Kali Attaullah area of Chaman were recovered.

## PHC dismisses NAB notice against KP CM

PESHAWAR (APP): A two-member bench of the Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Tuesday dismissed a notice issued by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur.

The bench comprising Chief Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Waqar Ahmed conducted a hearing on the petition of Ali Amin. During the proceedings, the petitioner's lawyer argued that NAB could only investigate cases involving amounts exceeding Rs 500 million, while the case in question concerned Rs 304 million. The NAB prosecutor informed the

court that the inquiry against Gandapur was still ongoing and that the notice issued to him had now expired.

The prosecutor also clarified that no new notice had been issued to the petitioner and stated that the amount under investigation might exceed Rs 500 million.

Chief Justice PHC Ishtiaq Ibrahim questioned NAB's jurisdiction under the revised laws, noting that only cases involving amounts above Rs 500 million fall within its purview. The court concluded that since no new NAB notice was pending against the petitioner, therefore there was no basis to continue the case.

## Nine held for carrying illegal arms

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested nine illegal arms holders and recovered arms and ammunition from their possession during a crackdown. According to police spokesman, Sadiqabad, Naseerabad, Race Course, Wah Cantt, Mandra, Jatli and Chakri police rounded up nine illegal arm holders namely Ijaz, Abbas, Suleman, Ubaidullah, Waheed, Imran, Zia Mehboob, Sajid and Basharat and recovered eight pistols 30 bore, a 9mm pistol and ammunition from their possession.

## Sharjeel inaugurates People's bus service's command, control centre

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Senior Minister for Information, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon on Tuesday inaugurated Command and Control Center of People's Bus Service.

The Command and Control Center has been established at the office D-43 Block 2, Clifton, of the Sindh Mass Transit Authority. The Command and Control Center will monitor, facilitate, and live-track the operations related to the People's Bus Service.

Talking to the media on the occasion of the inauguration ceremony, Sindh Senior Minister

Sharjeel Inam Memon said that the Command and Control Center will provide proper monitoring and timely necessary instructions to the People's Bus Service running across Sindh.

This command and control system would monitor the convenience of the passengers of the People's Bus Service and will monitor the conduct of the staff. If there is any complaint or the fare is being charged excessively, you can complain. If any item of a passenger gets stolen or missing, it will also be captured on camera, a communique said.

## Population welfare dept holds session

SARGODHA (APP): The population welfare department organized an interactive session with journalists under the ADP Scheme "Chief Minister Population Management and Family Planning Programme" at the Press Club on Tuesday.

The main objective of conducting the session was to share knowledge, experience and challenges related to population growth and welfare with the journalist community for collective efforts of all sections of the society.

The chief guest of the ceremony was Additional Deputy Commissioner General Umar Farooq while Station In Charge APP Makhdoom Shah Latif, Chairman Mass Communication and Media Sciences Department Dr Mudassar, District Population Welfare Officer Malik Aftab Awan, Deputy Technical Population Department Dr Saira Shafi and a good number of journalists were also present. Addressing the participants, ADCG Umar Farooq said,

Man killed, four injured in firing incident

SARGODHA (APP): A man was killed, while four people including a woman sustained bullet injuries in a firing incident at district court here on Tuesday.

According to Rescue 1122 sources, a family belong to Chak no 73 SB came at the district court for hearing of a case when their opponents attack on them with a sharp-edged weapon and a pistol.

Muhammad Ijaz died on the spot, while Muhammad Nawaz, Shamim Bibi, Umar Daraz and Ammad Riaz sustained injuries. Upon receiving information, a heavy police contingent along with the rescue 1122 team rushed to the spot and shifted the victims to the Dr Faisal Masood Teaching hospital. As per initial investigation, the incident was stated to be a result of old enmity, said police. DPO Dr. Asad Ijaz Malhi took notice of the incident and said that all aspects were being investigated and strict legal action will be taken against the accused involved.

## PFA discards 1,000 litres of adulterated milk

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) during its crackdown on adulterated milk, conducted inspections across the city, here on Tuesday.

In a significant operation on Railway road, opposite the cemetery in Muzaffargarh, the PFA teams inspected a milk shop and discarded 1,000 liters of adulterated milk on the spot.

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

LAHORE: A delegation of Punjab University students called on Governor Punjab/Chancellor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore. Office bearers of various student societies of Punjab University were included in the delegation. During the meeting, People's Party Punjab Leader, Faisal Mir, PSF Punjab Information Secretary, Sibte Hasan, Member Punjab Executive, Ahsan Rizvi and former President PSF Lahore Mansoor Kataria were also present. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the youth are the

future of the country. He said that the most important purpose of education is to develop tolerance in oneself. Governor Punjab said that concrete steps are being taken to improve the quality of education in universities. Governor Punjab emphasized that students should pay special attention to research and innovation. Governor Punjab said he has always been in favor of union elections.

He further stated that students unions should be revived. He said that student unions develop leadership skills and political awareness.



KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister for Information, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon talking to media after inaugurating monitoring cell of people's bus service kay at Clifton.

## CM KP reviews progress of public complaints portal

PESHAWAR (APP): An important meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (CM-KP) Ali Amin Gandapur to review the status of public complaints resolution through the public complaints portal (lkhtiyar Awam Ka).

The CM was briefed by the relevant officials on the progress made so far in addressing the complaints registered on the portal.

The meeting was informed that a total of 6,242 complaints have been registered on the portal so far.

Out of these, 2,559

complaints have been resolved, while 3,683 complaints are still being processed. As many as 1,200 citizens have received relief through the portal, and 757 citizens have received partial relief.

The participants were informed that 13,384 citizens have registered on the portal, with nearly 300 women actively using the service. District Peshawar has reported the highest number of complaints, with 1,458 complaints, followed by Mardan 405, Bannu 363, Dera Ismail Khan 335, and Abbottabad 344. Complaints related to municipal services topped the list with 1,966

complaints, followed by issues in education 1,040, public agenda implementation 876, corruption 602, and law and order 539.

The CM emphasized that complaints must be resolved within three to seven days.

He expressed dissatisfaction over delays in resolving certain complaints and warned the relevant authorities of strict action against any negligence.

He announced that unresolved complaints would be reopened at the Chief Minister's Secretariat level for immediate review.

## Man killed, four injured in firing incident

SARGODHA (APP): A man was killed, while four people including a woman sustained bullet injuries in a firing incident at district court here on Tuesday.

According to Rescue 1122 sources, a family belong to Chak no 73 SB came at the district court for hearing of a case when their opponents attack on them with a sharp-edged weapon and a pistol.

Muhammad Ijaz died on the spot, while Muhammad Nawaz, Shamim Bibi, Umar Daraz and Ammad Riaz sustained injuries. Upon receiving information, a heavy police contingent along with the rescue 1122 team rushed to the spot and shifted the victims to the Dr Faisal Masood Teaching hospital. As per initial investigation, the incident was stated to be a result of old enmity, said police. DPO Dr. Asad Ijaz Malhi took notice of the incident and said that all aspects were being investigated and strict legal action will be taken against the accused involved.

## Bushra Bibi will not lead protest: Shibli

PESHAWAR (Online): PTI leader Senator Shibli Faraz has said Bushra Bibi will not lead protest as she does not want to come in the politics.

There is no tussle between Bushra Bibi and Ali Amin Gandapur, he said this while talking to media men here Tuesday.

He held all the cases being made against us are fake and they are aimed at pressurizing us. The difference between political worker and terrorist has been ended.

Law and order situation in KP is worse, he said adding police and all forces are after PTI. In this situation who will

control law and order situation. We are political people and not the terrorists. They are suppressing PTI since the last and two years but we cannot be coerced.

Imposing section 144 in Islamabad is not job of political government, he said adding it is job of cowards.

The petitions regarding details of cases against Shibli Faraz came up for hearing before Peshawar High Court (PHC).

Hearing was conducted by Chief Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Waqar Ahmad.

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## Sindh gov't launches 'Child Protection Management Information System'

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh government's Department of Social Welfare, UNICEF, and other key stakeholders have officially launched 'Child Protection Management Information System (CPIMS)' here on Tuesday.

This significant milestone was celebrated in conjunction with World Children's Day, aiming to initiate a new movement for the protection and promotion of children's rights and welfare.

The launching ceremony was graced by the Minister for Social Welfare, Mir Tariq Ali Talpur, Secretary of Social Welfare Pervaz Ahmed Sehar, Deputy Head of Mission at the British Deputy High Commission

Martin Dawson, and UNICEF Islamabad's Chief of Child Protection Ms. Susan Andrew.

While addressing the event, Mir Tariq Ali Talpur highlighted the importance of children's rights, stating, "Children are the future of our society, and protecting their rights is our top priority."

Emphasizing the significance of CPIMS, the Minister said: "This system will not only streamline the management of child protection cases but will also strengthen decision-making processes. It will help us identify areas and children requiring more focused attention."

He further added, "The Sindh government has always taken serious steps to protect children's rights."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



KARACHI: The Governor State Bank of Pakistan Jameel Ahmed distributing awards to women entrepreneurs during an event held to mark Women Entrepreneurship Day at SBP Museum Karachi.

## WB Country Director meets Chairman FBR

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Country Director of World Bank Najy Benhassine on Tuesday met with Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Rashid Mahmood Langrial and his team to discuss the alignment of initiatives under Pakistan Raises Revenue Project with the FBR Transformation Plan.

The meeting was also attended by Lead Country Economist Tobias Akhtar Haque, Public Sector Specialist Irum Touqeer and Senior Operations Officer Eva Liselotte Lescauwat, said a news release.

The Chairman FBR briefed on the vision of the government for the

transformation of FBR and stressed that the purpose of reforms was revenue growth while facilitating compliance.

He highlighted the key reform areas to plug in the gap in tax compliance including digitalization initiatives, capacity building of HR, anti-smuggling initiatives and more broad-based tax administration reforms.

Chairman FBR requested the World Bank team for support for the reform initiatives including establishment of the digital enforcement stations, digitalization of supply chain and feasibility studies required for the cited initiatives.

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

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

commute. The training sessions will cover a comprehensive range of topics, from essential bike handling techniques to advanced road safety protocols. Moreover, the collaboration aims to cultivate a proactive safety mindset amongst PTCL employees, enhancing their awareness and reducing on-road risks. Furthermore, the



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

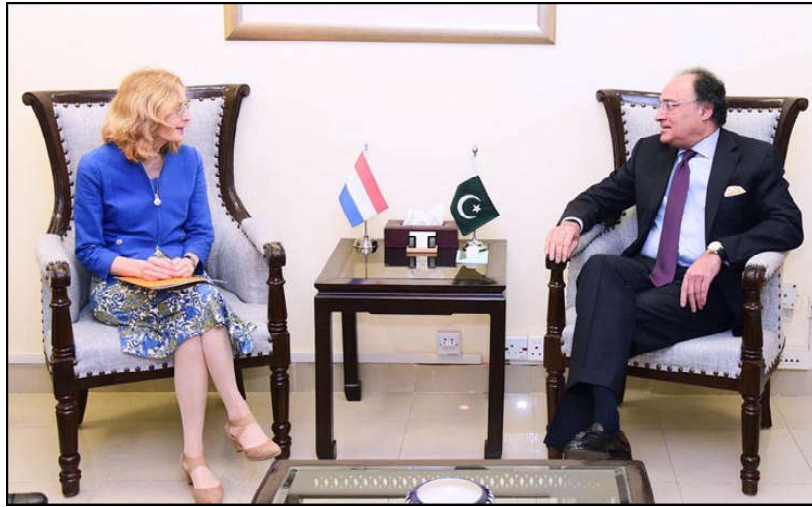
The signing ceremony, held at the Atlas Honda Limited office in Lahore, with Taimoor Khan, Group VP HSE & Sustainability PTCL & Ufone 4G and Zafar Iqbal, GM After Sales, Atlas Honda signing the MoU. The partnership introduces "Training of Trainers" (TOT) sessions, led by certified trainers from Atlas Honda, aimed at instilling essential safety skills amongst PTCL's field staff, who rely on motorcycles for their daily

MOU with Atlas Honda also exemplifies PTCL Group's commitment to its ever-growing employee well-being program by fostering sustainable activities that benefit employees and contribute to community welfare at large.

PTCL employees participating in the TOT program will carry forward the message of safe riding, amplifying the initiative's positive impact. The event concluded with both parties expressing enthusiasm for the potential of this partnership to make roads safer for everyone.



FAISALABAD: Farmers using a harvester machine to harvest rice in the fields on the outskirts of the city.



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

## Tanveer reiterates govt resolve for uplift of women entrepreneurs

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

He expressed this resolve during a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) Soerat Aman Rana on the occasion of International Women's Entrepreneurship Day. Secretary Industries

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

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

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

Likewise, the 34% gender finance gap and the 3.2% share of SME lending directed to women-led enterprises point to significant room for financial inclusion, he said and informed that SMEDA was relentlessly working to bridge these gaps, empowering women entrepreneurs to realize their full potential and become key drivers of Pakistan's economic future.

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

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

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

She said Pakistan wanted to further enhance

ties with Qatar in the field of IT and Telecommunication, according to a news release.

Shaza Fatima said Pakistan aspired to work with Qatar in the cybersecurity field.

The signing of MoUs between the institutes of two countries in the field of technology is vital, she said, adding that IT companies of both countries can do joint ventures.

She said the exchange of students and startups between the two countries will strengthen relations.

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

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

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also went up by Rs.3,086 to Rs.234,482 from Rs.231,396 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold increased to Rs.214,942 from Rs.212,113.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.3250 and Rs.2,786 respectively.



LAHORE: Workers are busy in preparing warm jackets at their workplace due to cold weather, in the Provincial Capital.

## PSX reaches historic level of 95,856 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with witnessed bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 861.00 points, a positive change of 0.91 percent, closing all time high at 95,856.67 points as compared to 94,995.67 points on the last trading day.

A total of 830,931,008 shares were traded during the day as compared to 765,206,618 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 30.019 billion against Rs. 23.924 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 460 companies transacted their shares in the stock market,

249 of them recorded gains and 156 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 55 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Hascol Petrol with 60,058,856 shares at Rs 10.24 per share, K-Electric Limited with 44,488,839 shares at Rs 5.24 per share and Cnergyvico PK with 42,303,494 shares at Rs.4.64 per share.

Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.120.10 per share price, closing at Rs 8,004.60, whereas the runner-up was Abbott Laboratories (Pakistan) Limited with Rs 70.20 rise in its per share price to Rs 1,070.86.

## Foods exports surge by 21.73% to \$2.365b

ISLAMABAD (APP): The food exports from Pakistan increased by 21.73 percent during the first four months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

Food exports during July-October (2024-25) were recorded at \$ 2,365.114 million as compared to the exports of

\$ 1,942.915 million in July-October (2023-24), according to latest PBS data.

The food products that contributed in the positive growth in food trade included rice, the exports of which increased by 52.53 percent, from \$ 710.789 million last year to \$ 1,084.193 million during the ongoing fiscal year.

Likewise, the exports of fruits increased by 7.02 percent.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Pakistan on Tuesday called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb to discuss matters of mutual interest and explore ways for further strengthening the existing ties between Pakistan and The Netherlands.

According to press release issued by finance ministry, during the meeting, various aspects of the longstanding friendship and bilateral cooperation between the two countries were discussed.

They identified priority areas like mining, IT, oil and gas, agriculture, dairy, and farm production for further business collaborations.

On the occasion, the minister highlighted the government's economic plan and reform agenda for promoting economic growth and ensuring fiscal sustainability.

He mentioned the

economic gains achieved over the last 14 months and reiterated the government's resolve to stay the course to move the economy on the path to sustained, export-led growth.

He also highlighted the challenges faced by Pakistan on climate front, and its efforts for climate financing and building capacity to ensure climate resiliency through sustainable solutions.

Ambassador de Vries reciprocated the sentiments on strengthening bilateral ties and further expanding cooperation in various fields, including sports.

She mentioned the Dutch cricket team was scheduled to visit Pakistan early next year to play matches and learn from Pakistan's cricketing prowess.

She also appreciated the ongoing structural reforms in major economic and financial sectors and assured her country's support for Pakistan's trade and commerce with EU.



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

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

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

He stated that financial and technological assistance would be provided to address key challenges in the sector, where possible.

The ambassador noted that innovations in artificial intelligence and battery storage facilities were helping reduce

electricity costs. He acknowledged the important role of Germany's private sector in Pakistan's energy projects.

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

The minister shared Pakistan's target of having 88% renewable energy in the national mix by 2034. He explained that the country was working to create a competitive energy market which would allow more participants in electricity trading to reduce electricity prices in Pakistan.

Sardar Awais Leghari highlighted the investment opportunities available in Pakistan's power sector. He encouraged German investors to take advantage of these opportunities.

## Governor SBP underscores the need to support women entrepreneurs

KARACHI (APP): The Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Jameel Ahmad, Tuesday, emphasized the importance of supporting women entrepreneurs for pacifying economic growth in the country, noting that women currently make up less than 10 percent of total borrowers and hold only 26% of bank accounts.

The governor SBP, while addressing the main event of Women Entrepreneurship Day here at SBP Museum, also reaffirmed commitment to enhancing women's participation in the economic landscape. The

event brought together various stakeholders, including international and local partner institutes, banks, civil society, and successful women entrepreneurs.

Jameel Ahmad, in his keynote address, highlighted the critical role of women-owned businesses in driving innovation, economic growth, and community development and also acknowledged the structural and cultural challenges women entrepreneurs face, such as limited access to finance, markets, and mentorship.

Despite these challenges, the



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, was graciously welcomed by Hutchison Port's Group Managing Director, Mr. Eric Ip, in Hong Kong on 19 November 2024. On this occasion, Mr. Eric Ip presented the Minister with a commemorative souvenir as a token of mutual collaboration and goodwill.

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

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Ukraine used US ATACMS missiles to strike Russian territory on Tuesday, taking advantage of newly granted permission from the outgoing Biden administration on the war's 1,000<sup>th</sup> day.

Russia said its forces shot down five of six of the missiles, which were fired at a military facility in the Bryansk region. Debris of one hit the facility, starting a fire that was swiftly put out and caused no casualties or damage, it said.

Ukraine said it had struck a Russian arms depot around 110 kilometres inside Russia in an attack that caused secondary explosions. The Ukrainian military did not publicly specify what weapons it had used, but a Ukrainian official source and a US official later confirmed it had used ATACMS.

President Joe Biden gave approval just this

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

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

**Monitoring Desk**

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin issued a warning to the United States on Tuesday, lowering the threshold for a nuclear strike just days after the administration of Joe Biden reportedly allowed Ukraine to fire American missiles deep into Russia.

The updated doctrine, formally known as "The basics of state policy in the field of nuclear deterrence", outlines the threats that would make Russia, the world's biggest nuclear power, contemplate using such weapons.

Russia would consider a nuclear strike if it, or its ally Belarus, faced aggression "with the use of conventional weapons that created a critical threat to their sovereignty and [or] their territorial integrity", the new doctrine said.

The previous doctrine, set out in a 2020 decree, said Russia may use nuclear weapons in case of a nuclear attack by an enemy or a conventional attack that threatened the existence of the state.



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

## Negotiators seek to break COP29 impasse after G20 'marching orders'

**Monitoring Desk**  
BAKU: Negotiators sought on Tuesday to break a deadlock at UN climate talks after G20 leaders backed the need for "trillions" of dollars for poorer countries but left key sticking points unresolved.

Ministers at the COP29 conference in Azerbaijan had been eagerly waiting for the G20 meeting in Rio de Janeiro to issue a declaration that might jump-start the stalled negotiations. While the lack of a phrase calling for "transitioning away from fossil fuels" disappointed activists, the statement on climate finance was cautiously welcomed at the sports stadium hosting the

talks. "G20 delegations now have their marching orders for here in Baku," UN climate chief Simon Stiell said in a statement.

"We urgently need all nations to bypass the posturing and move swiftly towards common ground, across all issues," he said.

Rich nations are being urged to significantly raise their pledge of \$100 billion a year in financing for poorer countries to take action against climate change.

But efforts to finalise the deal in Baku are hampered by disputes over how much the deal should entail, who should pay it, and what types of financing should be included.

## Myanmar advocates urge US to place sanctions on bank used by junta

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: Washington should impose sanctions on a Myanmar bank being used to circumvent existing US restrictions, advocates said, urging the outgoing Biden administration to cut off a key source of foreign currency for the country's military junta.

Dozens of Myanmar civil society groups wrote to the departments of State and the Treasury on Monday calling for the US to block the state-owned Myanma Economic Bank from using the dollar-based financial system and encourage other governments to do the same, according to a letter shared with Reuters.

"The military junta

depends on foreign banks, jet fuel suppliers, and arms dealers to sustain its crimes against humanity," said Simon Billenness, executive director of the International Campaign for the Rohingya, one of the groups that signed the letter. Myanmar's military overthrew the country's elected leaders in 2021 and then launched a bloody crackdown on protests, sparking a civil war that has displaced more than 3.1 million people, according to the UN.

"An opportunity exists to disrupt the military junta's international support networks at a time when the military is at its weakest point since the coup began in 2021," Billenness said.



Vehicles burn as demonstrators stand during a protest against the recent killings, in Imphal West, in the northeastern state of Manipur India.

## Trump plans to use military for mass deportation

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: President-elect Donald Trump confirmed on Monday that he plans to declare a national emergency on border security and use the US military to carry out a mass deportation of undocumented migrants.

Immigration was a top issue in the election campaign, and Trump has promised to deport millions and stabilise the border with Mexico after record numbers of migrants crossed illegally during President Joe Biden's administration.

On his social media platform Truth Social, Trump amplified a recent post by a conservative activist that said the president-elect was "prepared to declare a national emergency and will use military assets to reverse the Biden invasion through a mass deportation programme."

## India to send 5,000 extra troops to quell Manipur unrest

**Monitoring Desk**  
MANIPUR: India will deploy an extra 5,000 paramilitary troops to quell unrest in Manipur, authorities said on Tuesday, a week after 16 people were killed in fresh clashes in the troubled state.

Manipur in India's northeast has been rocked by regular clashes for more than 18 months between the predominantly Hindu Meitei majority and the mainly Christian Kuki community, dividing the state into ethnic enclaves.

Ten Kuki militants were killed when they attempted to assault police last week.



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

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

**Monitoring Desk**  
RIO DE JANEIRO: Chinese President Xi Jinping urged G20 leaders to support efforts to de-escalate the war in Ukraine and reach a "political solution," state media reported.

His remarks at the G20 summit in Brazil come shortly after Ukraine received a US green light to launch long-range missiles provided by Washington against targets inside Russia.

"The G20 should support the United Nations and its Security Council in playing a greater role, and support all efforts conducive to the peaceful settlement of crises," Xi said,

according to Chinese state broadcaster CCTV.

He called for leaders to avoid "spillovers" from battlefields and escalation of fighting, and to help "cool the Ukraine crisis and seek a political solution."

War in Ukraine continues to rage since Russia's invasion in 2022.

China presents itself as a neutral party in the war and says it is not sending lethal assistance to either side, unlike the United States and other Western nations.

But it remains a close political and economic ally of Russia. NATO members have branded Beijing a "decisive enabler" of the war,

## UK and India to resume stalled free trade talks

**Monitoring Desk**  
RIO DE JANEIRO: Britain and India will resume stalled talks to agree a free-trade deal, the two countries said after their leaders met at the G20 summit in Brazil.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who took power in London in July, hailed his meeting with Indian counterpart Narendra Modi as "very productive" and vowed that a trade pact with Delhi would boost UK growth.

"A new trade deal will support jobs and prosperity in the UK — and represent a step forward in our mission to deliver growth and opportunity across the country," he posted on X late Monday.

Hours earlier, Starmer's office confirmed the two countries would relaunch the talks "in the new year" as Britain sought "a new strategic partnership with India".

That will include "deepening cooperation in areas like security, education, technology, and climate change," Downing Street said in a statement summarising the meeting of the two leaders.

Hours earlier, Starmer's office confirmed the two countries would relaunch the talks "in the new year" as Britain sought "a new strategic partnership with India".

## Iran, Israel among rivals to showcase their arms at Vietnam defence expo

**Monitoring Desk**  
HANOI: Companies from Iran, Israel, China, Russia and the United States will showcase military equipment at an arms expo in Hanoi in December, Vietnam's defence ministry said on Tuesday, a rare case of geopolitical rivals exhibiting their wares together.

Communist-run Vietnam has for years been seeking to diversify its military supplies to reduce its decade-long reliance on Russia, and has discussed

potential procurement deals with multiple countries trying to leverage its flexible diplomacy of good relations with great powers.

At the defence expo to be held in the capital Hanoi on Dec. 19-22, nearly 200 companies from 27 countries have already reserved booths, the ministry said in a statement, including firms from China and Iran, which had not attended Vietnam's first international military fair in 2022.

## Indian news agency sues OpenAI for unsanctioned content use in AI training

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: Indian news agency ANI has sued OpenAI in a New Delhi court, accusing the ChatGPT creator of using its published content without permission to help train the artificial intelligence chatbot to provide information to users.

ANI is the latest news organisation globally to take OpenAI to court following lawsuits in the US by newspapers including the New York Times and the Chicago Tribune.

The first hearing in the case took place in a New Delhi High Court on Tuesday, where the judge issued a notice to OpenAI to provide a detailed response to ANI's accusations.

ANI did not immediately respond to a request seeking comment.

ANI also accused OpenAI's services of attributing fabricated news stories to the publication, according to its court submission dated Monday, a copy of which was reviewed by Reuters.

Asked about the ANI lawsuit, a spokesperson for OpenAI said in a statement: "We build our AI models using publicly available data, in a manner protected by fair use and related principles, and supported by long-standing and widely accepted legal precedents."

## Lebanon says Israeli strike on central Beirut kills five

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: Lebanon's health ministry said Israel struck a densely packed Beirut neighbourhood on Monday, killing five people, in the third attack in two days on the city's central districts.

"The Israeli enemy strike on Zuqag al-Blat in Beirut killed five people and injured 24," a ministry statement said, giving an updated death toll.

The official National News Agency (NNA) said an apartment near a Shiite Muslim place of worship had been targeted.

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

**Monitoring Desk**  
VIENNA: Iran has offered not to expand its stock of uranium enriched to up to 60% purity, near the roughly 90% of weapons grade, and made preparations to do that, the UN nuclear watchdog said in confidential reports to member states on Tuesday.

During International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi's trip to Iran last week, "the possibility of Iran not further expanding its stockpile of uranium enriched up to 60% U-235 was discussed".

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

**Monitoring Desk**

RIO DE JANEIRO: US President Joe Biden pledged a \$4 billion US contribution to the World Bank's International Development Association fund for the world's poorest countries, a senior Biden administration official said on Monday.

Biden announced the three-year US pledge during a closed session of the Group of 20 summit in Rio de Janeiro, the official told reporters, adding that the US Treasury was leading negotiations at the World Bank for the IDA replenishment.

The new US pledge is a record and substantially exceeds the \$3.5bn Washington committed in the previous IDA fund replenishment round in December 2021.

It is unclear if US President-elect Donald Trump, who has proposed cutting foreign aid in the past, will honour Biden's pledge as he and billionaire Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk seek to slash US spending through a new government efficiency panel.

An appropriation by the US Congress to fund the commitment would not likely take place until after Trump takes office in January.

A spokesperson for Trump's transition team did not respond to a request for comment on the matter.

Earlier in Rio de Janeiro, US Deputy National Security Adviser Jonathan Finer told reporters that Biden would announce a "historic" pledge to the IDA replenishment.

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

**Monitoring Desk**

BEIRUT: US special envoy Amos Hochstein arrived in the Lebanese capital on Tuesday for talks with officials on a truce plan, which Lebanon has largely endorsed, to halt the Israel-Hezbollah war.

The United States and France have spearheaded efforts for a ceasefire in the war, which escalated after nearly a year of deadly exchanges of fire between Hezbollah and Israeli troops.

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

Since the clashes began with Hezbollah attacks on Israel, more than 3,510 people in Lebanon have been killed, according to authorities there, with most fatalities recorded since late September.

With the Lebanese government reviewing a US truce proposal, an official who has been following the talks closely said Monday that it had "a very positive view" on the plan.

"We are finalising our last remarks about the US wording of the draft," the official said.

Another government official said Lebanon was "waiting for US special envoy Amos Hochstein to arrive so we can review certain outstanding points with him".

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday that Israel would continue to conduct military operations against Hezbollah even if a ceasefire is reached.

"The most important thing is not (the deal that) will be laid on paper," Netanyahu told parliament.

"We will be forced to ensure our security in the north (of Israel) and to systematically carry out operations against Hezbollah's attacks... even after a ceasefire," to keep the group from rebuilding, he said.

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

**Monitoring Desk**

HONG KONG: Hong Kong's High Court on Tuesday jailed 45 pro-democracy activists for up to 10 years following a landmark national security trial that has damaged the city's once feisty democracy movement and drawn criticism from the US and other countries.

A total of 47 pro-democracy activists were arrested and charged in 2021 with conspiracy to commit subversion under a Beijing-imposed national security law which carried sentences of up to life in prison.

Benny Tai, a former legal scholar identified in the judgement as a "mastermind" of the activists' plans, was sentenced to 10 years in jail, the longest sentence so far under the 2020 national security law.

The charges related to

the organising of an unofficial "primary election" in 2020 to select the best candidates for an upcoming legislative election. The activists were accused by prosecutors of plotting to paralyse the government by engaging in potentially disruptive acts had they been elected.

Some Western governments have criticised the trial, with the US describing it as "politically motivated" and saying the democrats should be released as they had been legally and peacefully participating in political activities. The Chinese and Hong Kong governments say the national security laws were necessary to restore order after mass pro-democracy protests in 2019, and the democrats have been treated in accordance with local laws.

## French farmers escalate protests against an EU-Mercosur trade deal and fear unfair competition

**Monitoring Desk**

BEAUVAIS: French farmers escalated protests Monday against the European Union-Mercosur trade agreement under negotiation, citing fears of unfair competition. Backed by their government, they argue the deal would threaten their livelihoods by allowing a surge of South American agricultural imports produced under less stringent environmental standards.

In Beauvais in northern France, dozens of farmers with about 50 tractors disrupted traffic before walling up a government office tasked with enforcing environmental standards. The protesters dumped manure and tires in front of the building and moved to the local prefecture, where they set up a noisy camp with firecrackers.

"The government slept on its agriculture, so we won't let them sleep," said Régis Desrumaux, 54, head of the FDESA Oise farmer's union. "Last year, we protested for the same reasons: too much paperwork, overly strict norms, not enough help from the state. Now, with unfair competition from South

American products boosted with hormones and GMOs, it's the final straw."

Armelie Fraiture, a 25-year-old who took over her family's 300-cow farm in the Beauvais region earlier in the year, expressed concerns about the prospect of South American beef products hitting the French market.

Elsewhere, protesters burned vine stems in Bordeaux and blocked the "Europe Bridge" in Strasbourg. The FNSEA, one of France's main farming unions, reported over 85 demonstrations nationwide Monday.

Proponents of the agreement argue that it would significantly boost economic ties between Europe and South America by eliminating tariffs on European exports, notably for machinery, chemicals and cars, thereby enhancing market access and creating lucrative opportunities for European businesses.

The EU and the Mercosur trade bloc, composed of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and Bolivia, reached an initial agreement in 2019, but negotiations stumbled due to opposition from farmers and some European governments, particularly France.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

## NA Speaker says Durable peace cannot be achieved without resolution of Kashmir, Palestine dispute

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

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

Ayaz Sadiq expressed concern over the grave human rights violations in these regions, stating that without addressing these issues, regional stability would remain elusive. The Speaker stressed that Parliament of Pakistan represents all political parties and the incumbent Parliament has active opposition that plays a constructive

role on matters of national importance.

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

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

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

He emphasized that close interaction and cooperation between the parliaments of both countries could play a pivotal role in bolstering bilateral relations.

The Speaker mentioned that Pakistan has rendered immense sacrifices in the global war on terror

and it has always strived for regional peace.

He also highlighted initiatives of the Parliament, namely the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Secretariat established in 2014, which actively works toward achieving sustainable development goals in Pakistan.

Additionally, he mentioned the establishment of a parliamentary caucus to protect the rights of women and children, playing a vital role in addressing discrimination against women and promoting gender equality.

Furthermore, the Speaker underscored Pakistan's minimal contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions while being one of the most affected countries by climate change. He called for greater international collaboration to address this pressing challenge.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa, Raheela Hameed Durrani and MPA Zarak Khan Mandokhail meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

## World Bank Country Director meets former Senate Chairman Sadiq

QUETTA (Online): The World Bank's Country Director, Najy Benhassine, met with former Senate Chairman and Member of the Provincial Assembly, Sadiq Sanjrani, at his residence on Tuesday.

The meeting focused on the ongoing development projects in Balochistan being supported by the World Bank. During the discussion, Sadiq Sanjrani emphasized

the importance of international institutions in the development of any country. He lauded the World Bank's significant contributions to the social and developmental sectors of Balochistan.

The two also discussed challenges posed by climate change and other matters of mutual interest. Following the meeting, Sadiq Sanjrani hosted a luncheon in honor of the World Bank's Country Director.

## Yousuf Ch says Imran nods yes for talks with powers

ISLAMABAD (Online): Khalid Yousuf Chaudhry counsel for PTI founder has said Imran Khan has nodded yes for talks during his meeting with Ali Amin Gandapur and Barrister Gohar.

Talking to a private TV channel Khalid Yousuf Chaudhry said Ali Amin Gandapur and Barrister Gohar had come to Imran Khan to seek permission that if contact is made then talks will be held on what matters.

PTI founder said talks will be held with the powers that be. PTI founder has allowed us to talk on PTI demands, they indicated.

PTI founder has said November 24 protest will end when all the demands are accepted.

Chaudhry said PTI founder has accorded permission to hold talks. Earlier he had forbidden from holding talks.



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

## \$ 77 million 'Recharge Pakistan' initiative unveiled to mitigate flood risk

BAKU (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam said that managing exacerbating flood risk in Pakistan through ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) as a transformative approach is the most viable and effective way to turn devastating floods boon for the socio-economic well-being and ecosystems of the country.

"While Pakistan continues to face escalating climate risks including devastating floods, adopting and promoting EbA strategies in managing the growing flood risks and its adverse impacts on infrastructure, lives and livelihoods of the people is crucial to protect

vulnerable communities, restore degraded ecosystems and build climate resilience across the country," the PM's climate aide made these remarks as keynote speaker at a high-level event 'Recharge Pakistan as Life to Indus' held here in Baku on Tuesday at Pakistan Pavilion on the sidelines of the COP29 global climate conference in Baku.

She highlighted that floods have long continued to pose growing risks to Pakistan's landscapes, infrastructure, communities and their livelihoods with catastrophic events such as the 2022 floods, which displacing millions and causing loss of billions of rupees

in economic damages.

"We must realise that traditional flood water management or defence mechanisms alone can no more provide long-term solutions to the floods, which are becoming increasingly frequent and intense, Romina Khurshid Alam cautioned and suggested.

"However, mainstreaming ecosystem-based adaptation techniques is a viable adaptation and risk mitigation solution, that can help leverage the natural processes of ecosystems to mitigate flooding risks while delivering co-benefits for biodiversity, livelihoods, and climate resilience."

## Kalsoom meets Nassar to address educational issues

QUETTA: Kalsoom Niaz Baloch, Provincial Women Secretary of National Party and member of the Balochistan Assembly, met with Education Secretary Saleh Nasser, accompanied by a delegation.

The meeting focused on resolving issues plaguing educational institutions in the province, with Baloch emphasizing the need for collective efforts to address these problems.

Secretary Saleh Nasser assured that every possible effort would be made to resolve the issues. The delegation included National Party's Provincial Law Secretary Advocate Jalil Langau, Provincial Education Secretary Sadiya Badini, Media Salma Qureshi, and Wasim Baloch. This development comes amidst the ongoing 9th session of the Balochistan Assembly, summoned on November 19, 2024.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Food Haji Noor Muhammad Dumar listening problems of people in his office.

## ECC considers proposal submitted by Ministry of Energy

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) on Tuesday considered a proposal submitted by the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) regarding a winter demand initiative for the industrial and domestic sector.

The ECC considered proposal submitted by the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) regarding a winter demand initiative for the industrial, domestic (ToU and non-ToU) consumers exceeding 200 units, commercial and general services consumers of discos and K-Electric to enable optimum use of system generation capacity besides reducing gas demand due to shifting of favourable demand towards electricity, said a press release.

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chaired a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet held at Finance Division.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmed

Khan Leghari, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan (virtual), Economic Affairs, Ahmad Khan Cheema (virtual), Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik, federal secretaries, and senior officers from concerned ministries and departments.

The ECC considered proposal submitted by the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) regarding a winter demand initiative for the industrial, domestic (ToU and non-ToU) consumers exceeding 200 units, commercial and general services consumers of discos and K-Electric to enable optimum use of system generation capacity besides reducing gas demand due to shifting of favourable demand towards electricity.

It was proposed that under the initiative, a tariff of 26.07 Rs/kWh shall be charged to all eligible consumers on the respective incremental consumption, above the benchmark consumption in the corresponding months.

## NA committee summons Naqvi in person

ISLAMABAD (Online): National Assembly (NA) standing committee on inter-provincial coordination while expressing annoyance over provision of documents by Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) late has issued notice to chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi and summoned him in person. Chairman Committee Sana Ullah Masti Khel said PCB is not a sacred cow. If he is interior minister, he will be interior minister on his seat. He should come here and give reply.

NA committee met under its chairman Sana Ullah Masti Khel expressed concern over providing documents by PCB late. PCB was directed to provide the relevant documents to standing committee within three days.

## New polio case reported in KP, raising disease toll to 50 in country

PESHAWAR (APP): The Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health in Islamabad has confirmed the detection of another wild poliovirus (WPV1) case. According to a press release issued here by Emergency Operation Center (EOC) KP on Tuesday, the lab confirmed the case from girl-child from Tank district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), bringing the number of cases this year to 50. Genetic sequencing of the virus isolated from collected samples indicates it is genetically linked to WPV1 detected in the same district in July. "This is the second polio case from Tank and 50th polio case from Pakistan this year," the press release added.



QUETTA: Director General NADRA Kashif Iqbal meeting with Parliamentary Secretary Haji Wali Muhammad Noorzai.

## Mirwaiz calls for dialogue to resolve Kashmir dispute, reviving cross-LOC trade

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior All Parties Hurriyat Conference leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has emphasized that dialogue was the only viable path to resolving the Kashmir dispute.

He urged India to revisit initiatives such as cross-LOC trade and bus services, describing them as vital confidence-building measures between Pakistan and India.

According to Kashmir Media Service, speaking to the media in Lal Chowk, Srinagar, Mirwaiz stressed, "The policy of repression can not resolve conflicts and reiterated that dialogue is only way forward."

Highlighting the limitations of local governments in resolving political issues like Kashmir, he called for sincere engagement by the Indian government in ad-

ressing the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The local government can address issues of basic amenities, but for the political aspect of the Kashmir issue, New Delhi must change its perspective. People here want an end to uncertainty and bloodshed," Mirwaiz said.

Welcoming the relative calm along the Line of Control over the past few years, Mirwaiz urged India and Pakistan to capitalize on this momentum by re-opening trade routes and improving connectivity.

"Such initiatives have benefited many families in the past and must be revisited. These steps are beyond the purview of the local government and rest with the central authorities," he noted.

## PHC extends interim bail of Bushra, orders for not arresting her till Dec 23

PESHAWAR (Online): Peshawar High Court (PHC) while extending interim bail of Bushra Bibi wife of PTI founder Imran Khan has ordered for not arresting her till December 23 in any case.

Bushra Bibi could not appear in the court being unwell.

The petition filed by Bushra Bibi in connection with details of cases and interim bail came up for hearing before two members bench of PHC comprising Chief Justice (CJ) PHC Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Waqar Ahmad Tuesday.

During hearing of the case, Alam Khan Adenzai, counsel filed exemption plea for one day from attendance in the court in respect of Bushra Bibi stating that she is ill and she cannot appear in the court.

The court while accepting exemption plea for one day in respect of Bushra Bibi remarked exemption plea on next hearing will not be accepted.

The court extended the interim bail of Bushra Bibi besides ordering that she be not arrested in any case till December 23.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday urged Asian Development Bank (ADB) to establish database management systems for Courts and Police stations. A delegation from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Pakistan Mission, led by Senior Director Tariq Niazi, called on the Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, said a press release issued here.

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

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

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

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



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Safaraz Ahmed Bugti visiting stalls at Sciences and Art Exhibition in Jinnah Elite School.

## Pakistan, ADB sign \$500 mln for climate resilience

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Tuesday signed a US\$500 million loan agreement for the Climate and Disaster Resilience Enhancement Program (CDREP).

The agreement was signed after the approval of Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahmad Cheema, according to a press release issued by the Economic Affairs Division (EAD).

Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Dr. Kazim Niaz and ADB Country Director, Ms. Emma Fan signed the Loan Agreement. The ceremony was attended by senior officials from the government and ADB.

Cheema, while giving consent regarding the agreement, said that signing the

agreement underscores Pakistan's commitment to prioritize climate change initiatives and scaling up disaster risk financing using a risk-layered approach. Secretary Economic Affairs and ADB Country Director said that this program was designed as a programmatic approach and aims to strengthen Pakistan's capacity for climate change adaptation and disaster risk management, addressing the country's vulnerabilities to natural disasters and climate impacts.

The core objective of the program is to enhance institutional frameworks for disaster risk management by improving disaster risk mapping, response coordination, and gender-sensitive public investments.



QUETTA: Minister IT Gilgit Balistan Surriya Zaman meeting with Advisor of Chief Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Meena Majeed Baloch.

## Whole story will come to open within 72 hours: Faisal Vawda

ISLAMABAD (Online): Senator Faisal Vawda has said water is going to turn into bubble on November 24 and no release is going to be made.

PTI leaders are enjoying perks by bargaining over PTI founder. Inside the talks are running. The whole story will come to open within 72 hours, he said this while talking to media men here Tuesday.

He held PTI wala's give call of protest every other day. They have also given call for protest on November 24 and now we have to see they selected this day for what purpose. Their all drama is meant for the release of PTI founder.

Ali Amin Gandapur himself is sitting in the feet after asking the people to wear shroud.

Criticizing US Con-

gressmen he said interference is being made in internal affairs of Pakistan from outside. You say to yourself super power but you are zero power. You are not seeing human rights violation in Aafia Siddiqui case. You are not seeing human rights violations in Kashmir. Tell us human rights violations are being committed where in Pakistan.

Gandapur should tell whose message he brought to Imran Khan. They don't want release of PTI founder.

PTI all leadership is sitting in KP. Threats for mounting federation with using all resources of KP are being hurled.

No talks of establishment are being held with PTI. The party has been divided into factions. All MPAs have turned against them in Punjab.



QUETTA: MPAs Shahnaz Umrani, Shahida Rauf and Safia Falazar Rehman talking with Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly Ghazla Gola after Assembly session.