

# QUETTA VOICE

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## Villagers kill a crocodile for eating their goat in Sindh

## PM meets troops in Noshki: Foreign elements behind Balochistan unrest

**Staff Reporter**  
QUETTA: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday said that foreign elements were behind prevailing unrest in Balochistan. The Premier and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa arrived in Balochistan's Noshki to spend day with troops who bravely repulsed terrorist attacks the other day.

Rangers, "Nation stand by you", he said the troops in Noshki who saved the country and nation. "Your bravery and sacrifices are unprecedented", Imran Khan said. "Your bravery and sacrifices are unprecedented", Imran Khan said. He said the masses, government, and security forces have joined hands to foil the conspiracies of the enemy "Terrorists cannot succeed", he stated. Imran Khan recalled that the sacrifices and bravery of security forces defeated the terrorists throughout the country in 2007-8. He said for the first time his government has launched record development projects in Balochistan to bring it at par with other parts of the country. Work to start on Chaman-Karachi highway, PM

He said the present government has launched the biggest project i.e. Karachi to Chaman highway to reduce the suffering of the people and ease the flow. He said that Balochistan covers half of the country in terms of area but at the same time, the province's population was less. "We have decided to spend on the people of Balochistan, FATA, and Gilgit Baltistan", he announced. Regarding inflation, Imran Khan stated that it was an international issue and the prices also skyrocketed in US and UK. Despite this, around 100 corporations earned Rs.950 billion. "I requested them to increase the salaries of those working with them", he said. The PM's visit has come a few days after the security forces killed 20 terrorists and 12 security personnel were also martyred during an exchange of fire.



## Education for all vital for country's development, prosperity: Asad Qaiser



Prime Minister, Imran Khan and Chief of Army Staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa interacting with troops in Balochistan's Noshki; Photo provided by DG/PR



## Schools ordered shut in southern India as hijab ban protests intensify

Authorities in southern India ordered schools to shut on Tuesday as protests intensified over a ban on hijab that has outraged Muslim students. The stand-off in Karnataka state has galvanised fears among the minority community about what they say is increasing persecution under the Hindu nationalist government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Fresh demonstrations on Tuesday saw officers fire tear gas to disperse a crowd at one government-run campus, while a heavy police presence was seen at schools in nearby towns. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai appealed for calm after announcing all high schools in the state would be closed for three days. "I appeal to all the students, teachers and management of schools and colleges [...] to maintain peace and harmony," he said.

Students at a government-run high school were told not to wear hijabs last month, an edict that soon spread to other educational institutions in the state. Campuses have seen escalating confrontations between Muslim students condemning the ban and Hindu pupils that say their classmates have disrupted their education. "All of a sudden they are saying you are not supposed to wear hijab" why did they start now? asked Ayesha, a teenage student at the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial College in the coastal city of Udupi. Ayesha said a teacher had lashed her away from her chemistry exam for wearing the garment. "We are not against any religion. We are not protesting against anyone. It is just for our own rights," she told AFP fellow student Anuradha, standing nearby among a crowd of Hindu boys wearing saffron shawls, said the dispute had unfairly prevented the school from holding an event.

## Villagers kill a crocodile for eating their goat in Sindh

**News Desk**  
As an act of revenge, angry villagers killed a crocodile for eating their goat in the Mirpurkhas district of Sindh province. This was a rare incident that happened in Pakistan's Sindh province. The residents of Mureed Khan Marii village located at Khan Road, some 10km from the city, claimed that the crocodile had attacked a goat in their village. "It [reptile] has killed our goat," said a villager. "We have killed it with an axe," he added. In a video circulating on social media, the villagers can be seen transporting the reptile tied with a rope to another location. "We will hand over the body to a landlord and will get some reward," the man added.

## Cabinet meeting cancelled as PM set to visit Balochistan: Fawad Ch

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said that the federal cabinet's meeting has been cancelled because Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa will spend the day with troops in Balochistan. The federal minister in a tweet said that the PM and COAS will spend a day with the fearless army personnel who are determined to keep our country safe. They are the reason of pride for Pakistan because they are determined to keep our lives for the protection of the nation INP.

## RSLF to conduct joint Mechanized Training with Pak Army at Multan Garrison: ISPR

RAWALPINDI: A contingent of Royal Saudi Land Forces on Tuesday arrived for Joint Mechanized Training in Multan Garrison, Inter Services Public Relations said. According to the military media wing, the two-month joint training was aimed to enhance and strengthen the existing military cooperation between Pakistan Army and Royal Saudi Land Forces (RSLF). The opening ceremony of Pk-Saudi Joint Mechanized Training was held at Multan Garrison with General Officer-in-Chief and Major General Zafar Iqbal Marwat as Chief Guest. Participating troops of both the countries were part of the opening ceremony. The joint training is aimed at strengthening and sharing of knowledge through a comprehensive training programme. Drills and procedures will be practiced and tactical exercises conducted to refine the same. ISPR said INP.

## Blast in Dera Murad Jamali kills one and injured two people

**Aziz Marri**  
A blast in Balochistan's Dera Murad Jamali town has killed one person and injured another two on Tuesday evening. Police sources said the unknown miscreants lobbed a hand grenade at a Bus Stand. A man identified as Dilbar Ali was killed and two were injured. Rescue workers shifted the injured to the blast to district headquarters hospital. Neseerabad for medical treatment. Police and personnel of other law enforcement agencies reached the spot and started an investigation into the incident.

## NAB Chairman seeks unbiased criticism

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Justice retired Javed Iqbal said Tuesday that performance of country's top anti-graft body must be analyzed without any discrimination. Addressing a ceremony in Islamabad, the NAB chief said institutions like PILDAI, Amnesty International (AI), and Gallup were talking high of NAB's efficiency. He said his team was working for improvements in anti-corruption body and tangible change would be brought with the passage of time. "TAI restrictions on Pakistan have some political causes" he said, maintaining that the sons unaware of tradition of these restrictions. NAB Chairman said that corrupt elements looted common man in the name of housing societies. Talking about a specific case, Justice retired Javed Iqbal said more than two billion rupees were recovered from person named 'Lucky Ali'. "When he (Ali) was called-up, he suggested a 'mid-way' chairman. NAB told participants he said that amount in this specific case will be returned back to affected. ONLINE.

## Opposition parties are united in Parliament: Shahid Khaqan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Navar (PML-N) senior leader and former Prime Minister (PM) Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Tuesday said that opposition parties are united inside the Parliament. Talking to media persons, the PML-N leader said that Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) willingly joined its way. If PPP wants to renege opposition parties' alliance Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) then it needs to regain the trust, he added. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi further said that we will bring no-confidence motion after completing numbers. Earlier, the ex-PM said that National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and accountability courts are unaware of amendment ordinance despite passage of four years. He also criticized the so-called justice in the country, asking whether the anti-graft watchdog was established only for housing schemes. The Pakistan Tehreek Insaf (PTI) leaders have mortgaged State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) before International Monetary Fund (IMF), he added. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi further said that IMF will now directly dictate SBP INP.

## PPP to hold long march to oust the PTI's incompetent gov: Shazia Marri

ISLAMABAD: Central Information Secretary PPP-P and member of the National Assembly Shazia Atria Marri has said that the PPP will hold long march starting from Karachi on February 27, to oust the Imran Khan's incompetent government. Pakistan Peoples Party's Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will lead long march against unprecedented inflation and unemployment during the PTI led government, she added. In a statement issued here on Tuesday, Shazia Marri said that Prime Minister Imran Khan has mortgaged the country at the others hands while federal government has kept the Parliament unaware about the terms and conditions under which heavy loans are being taken from international loan banks. She further stated that parliament has been ignored and disrespected in order to taking any decision for the country while Imran Khan is celebrating by plugging country and the nation in foreign loans. The poor people can't afford to feed their children twice a day due to high inflation rates and Imran Khan is destroying the country's agriculture sector under a short-term and un-planned strategy, the PPP leader added. INP.

## Education for all vital for country's development, prosperity: Asad Qaiser

**Says WAPDA's initiative under decades of Dams to help Pakistan achieve water anomaly**  
ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser underlining the importance of water conservation and education for all for the sustainable future of the country has said that the WAPDA initiative under a decade of Dams would help Pakistan to achieve water anomaly. He was addressing a ceremony organized in connection with Tarbella Five extension project. The British High Commissioner in Pakistan Christian Turner was the Special invitee. Asad Qaiser called for maintaining close liaison with all stakeholders for the uplift of the country. He also sought close liaison of Pakistani Educational institutions and British institutions for supporting education and especially women education in the country. The Speaker also apprised the British High Commissioner about the University of Swabi and the cooperation of KORT. Meanwhile, Speaker Asad Qaiser, Chairman WAPDA, British High Commissioner also inaugurated tree plantation drive 2022 to celebrate the tree Tarbella Dam Project. Later, Chairman WAPDA briefed the visitors about the Tarbella Five extension project which would enhance the power generation capacity of the dam up to 9000 megawatts. He said Tarbella five extension would increase storage capacity as the project is under progress under WAPDA. A decade of Dams. Chairman WAPDA briefed the participants that all dams like Dagu Dammer and Basha would enhance storage and Power Generation capacity. He also briefed about 300 megawatts projects of solar power plant on Tarbella for which PC-1 has been prepared. Tarbella, KP. Information Minister Kamran Bangash, Chaudhary Akhtar Chief Executive Officer KORT, Director British Council, and senior officers of district administration and WAPDA attended the meeting. INP.

## Finance minister, World Bank country director held meeting

Islamabad: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Shaheer Tahir held a meeting with World Bank Country Director Nayab Benhassine and his team at Finance Division, on Tuesday. Secretary Finance and senior officers attended the meeting. The meeting reviewed the progress on the ongoing World Bank's projects and programmes in Pakistan. The meeting also focused on Resident Institutions Strengthening Program (RISE-II) and discussed some prior actions to be met for the timely completion of the programme. In his remarks, Shaheer Tahir appreciated the World Bank for being a source of support in pursuing reform agenda and implementing various development projects for the country. He further said that Pakistan values the financial and technical support provided by the World Bank for the institutional reforms and economic development of the country. ONLINE.

## Army Chief arrives in Noshki to spend day with troops after terror attack

**News Desk**  
QUETTA: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa has arrived in Noshki, Balochistan, on Tuesday to spend a day with troops after the terror attack. Twelve security personnel were martyred in Noshki and Panjgur in terrorist attacks a few days back. However, 20 terrorists were killed during an exchange of fire by the security forces. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement that the army chief will spend the day with troops and also meet those who repulsed the attack on February 2. During his visit, Gen Bajwa will be briefed about the security



situation in the area as well as operational preparedness of the formation to counter-terrorist activities. Prime Minister Imran Khan will also visit the district, according to Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry. In his statement, the ISPR said the army chief and the prime minister will both be given a comprehensive briefing later in the day. They will also meet local tribal elders, it added. Earlier today, the information minister shared that the weekly meeting of the federal cabinet had been cancelled because of the premier's Balochistan visit. Paying tribute to the armed forces, he said, "Soldiers whose determination is higher than the mountains and passion deeper than the sea are our pride and respect. These sons of Pakistan are ready to sacrifice for the motherland."



# Multivariate Aspects of Climate Change in Pakistan

Syed Mansoor Ahmed

## Balochistan needs inclusive development

Balochistan, the country's resource-rich province is lagging behind all other provinces in terms of key social indicators including education, health, sanitation, clean drinking water etc. Mismanagement, injudicious distribution of development funds coupled with a lack of political commitments are the underlying reasons behind backwardness of the province.

Track record shows, successive governments have always launched politically motivated development schemes to please their influential supporters. Constituency individual and political schemes always dominated the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) in every year's financial budget. Nexus among the Chief Minister's Secretariat, the Planning Development and Finance Department continue to deprive the constituencies of other lawmakers.

Opposition lawmakers' constituencies remained ignored during last three-years of former chief minister, Jam Kamal Khan's government. Despite agitation in and outside the assembly, the opposition lawmakers were not able to force government to allocate funds for their constituencies.

This is irony of fate that the mandate of the lawmakers is to frame laws since the assemblies are called legislative assemblies. But legislators are least bothered about the legislation rather they take keen interest in construction of roads, buildings etc. That's why, provincial governments prefer not to hold local bodies elections rather decentralization of development projects.

Development deficit of Balochistan is likely to be Rs. 100b. Balochistan government announced to have allocated Rs. 172 bs for the PSDP during the financial year 2021-22. However, currently the government has more than Rs. 40bs as per the statement of the ruling party's Spokesman Sardar Abdul Rehman Khattar. The province has already spent Rs. 40bs and it has more than 40bs for the remaining year. It means the deficit is close to Rs. 100bs.

Chief Minister Muddus Dizejo needs to put his house in order and introduce a strict financial policy to ensure completion of development projects. The government should ensure inclusive development and end the practice of exclusive development so that this backward province could come at par with other parts of the country. Action should match words now.

Climate change stems unbeatable challenges in the future. According to the World Bank report, Pakistan stands 6th in affected by climate change. The awful and deadly floods of 2010, and 2011, extremely dry weather in a rainy area, and fluctuation in actual climate pattern is alarming and despairing signs among all the dwellers of the town.

Climate Change and Agriculture in Pakistan is a semi-arid country. The focal and dependent source of water is from the snow-covered Himalayas and the Karakoram Northern Area, Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, and the Satlej rivers flow through this area. Within the water calculus, the country's entire agriculture is dependent on water flow from the Indus river.

Glacial flood outburst also poses a serious threat to the country's climate in the Karakoram range. The sole aim was reaching and understanding the possible nodes of surge-



type glaciers, which are characterized by unsteady movements and frequent frontal advances of glaciers. As a result, it causes natural hazards by obstructing river channels, forming ice-dammed lakes, which will ultimately cause GLOFs and pose threats downstream of the water after melting.

Recent, global warming and subsequent climate change have increased the constant state of fear and the risk of massive outburst flooding in the respective mountainous region. The comprehensive field evidence, local testimonies by the natives, modern applications of remote sensing, and cross-correlation techniques provides the approved understanding of glacier surges and ice-clam formation discussed the scale future threat. Glaciers in Pakistan is also noted,

historically, in the Karakoram Range 39 glaciers are responsible for ice-dam formation. On the other hand, 36 glaciers build ice barriers in the running rivers due to frontal advance, near to the densely populated areas of the Karakoram region. By constant observation of the prevailing and growing threat of climate change, it is saving the endless future threat only due to the GLOFs.

For instance, the Indus River System (IRS) is the jaguar vein of irrigators in Pakistan. It is providing water for almost 90% of the food product in Pakistan. The ice-dam formation due to the GLOFs will slow down the water flowing pace downstream. And that will cause a deep impasse among the units for water distribution formula. In the end, it will ultimately surface the challenge of food insecurity in Pakistan.

The Karakoram Range, more importantly, is the home of the One Belt One Road Initiative (OBOR) by giving with a potential corridor

through the Karakoram Highway from Khujirtab to the seaport at Gwadar in Balochistan (CPEC) on the Indian Ocean. Therefore, the smooth running of the traffic on the roads is the keynote for progress of economic development. While the ice barriers in rivers due to frontal advance could inundate the highways, it is saving the Karakoram Highway. The dislocation and dissolution of roads will give birth to never-ending challenges due to the factor of GLOFs.

In the same run, these lakes and GLOFs attracted the political, and scientific attention because of the repeated outburst of floods. So, it needs the least bit of a well-situated collective effective efforts to bring down the scale of the future threat without causing infinite misery in Pakistan.

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## Siberian cranes disappearing from the sky

ZHOOR: The long-necked bird crane is not only famous for its heart-touching voice and beautiful wings but also considered to be the symbol of beauty, an omen of a happy life, and good fortune. Besides this, the bird has also a poetic metaphor in classical literature, known as the 'ambassador of peace' twice a year, in the Zhoor valley (Balochistan) that shares border with neighboring Afghanistan and the tribal region South Waziristan. The migration of the cranes heralds the arrival of spring. Thousands of cranes congregate near the Zhoor River flows from the north of the city into the Gomul River. The riverbank is an important stopover on the cranes' long migration route from Siberia's icy forests. It is a spectacular nature show during each passing season, the cranes are increasingly endangered by illegal hunting and trapping.

Siberian cranes fly over 4,000 miles from Siberia to India.

Official data shows that the Siberian cranes fly over 4,000 miles from Siberia to neighboring India. Their perilous journey starts from Siberia in September-October when biting-cold weather compels the birds to find milder

temperatures. Knowing no boundaries, the birds fly across the rivers, mountains, and deserts to reach their destination in India. The great birds fly via Karakoram, Tajikistan, Iran, Afghanistan, Hindu Kush, and the Karakoram including some parts of Balochistan to the border of Myanmar and Rajasthan in India via the Indus and Punjab watersheds. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the causes behind the rapid decline of cranes but it is the ruthless trapping, killing, and hunting by humans that brought the extinction of cranes on the verge of extinction. Muhammad Akbar has been associated with the crane hunting. One of the four cranes species that passes through Balochistan during annual migration is called the Demoselle Crane. As soon as the migration season approaches, a large number of the hunting parties set up their camps along the Zhoor River. Although the district administration in Zhoor imposes sectorial ban on crane hunting, the influential hunting parties mostly from Lakki Marwat, Banna, and other

parts of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa province backed by some local people make the official restrictions and obstacles are meaningless. The eyes of cranes are very delicate and they are easily affected by the light. Hussain Alam having 23 cranes at home, is residing on the riverbank at Zhoor, he said that the eyes of cranes are very delicate and they are easily affected by the light. When bearing the voice of cranes migrating in the air, he said cranes are scared and also their out-cry noise and try to fly with the help of their out wings. Each pair of cranes is sold for one thousand to one and 150 thousand rupees. Last year in Zhoor, a hunter caught 11 cranes alive during the migration season and sold them for Rs. 3.5 million/Aq. He said: "In March 2018, UNODC and WFP-Pakistan signed an agreement to work together to curb the illegal wildlife trade in the country. Hunting of the guest birds is a violation of the Wildlife Protection Ordinance 1975 Balochistan and there is another law entitled 'The Balochistan (Wildlife Protection, Conservation, and Management) Act 2014', under which all crane species are protected. Pakistan is also a

signatory to the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species. Moreover, Pakistan is also a signatory of the Ramsar Convention, an international agreement on the protection and conservation of wetlands included in the Ramsar sites are in Balochistan. The Ramsar site is said to be home to about 20,000 migratory cranes. The Ramsar sites are also in decline. Tahir Rashid Director at the World Wildlife Fund (WWF Balochistan-Sindh) said that there are currently 15 species of cranes in the world and most of Asia. The first four types of cranes used to come to Pakistan face illegal hunting, degradation of natural habitat, and drying water basins.

Hunting is a violation of the Wildlife Protection Ordinance 1975 Balochistan. The centuries-old migration through Pakistan is still an amazing phenomenon. With each passing season, the flocks of cranes lose their numbers and strength. Hunting is a violation of the Wildlife Protection Ordinance 1975 Balochistan. The Balochistan (Wildlife Protection, Conservation, and Management) Act 2014 (Act No. XV of 2014) under which all crane species are protected. The bill specifically lists fines on violation through crane hunting, ranging from 10,000 rupees to 30,000 rupees or two months imprisonment, or

both according to the value of the wild animal or plant species. In Balochistan, struggling for the preservation of olive forests and protection of wildlife in the province and the number of cranes migrating to the valley has dwindled with the passage of time as little has been done to preserve and protect the cranes from being hunted. Wildlife trade was the most pressing threat to wild animals across the globe including Pakistan. The United Nations Office on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice has recognized the illegal wildlife trade as the third largest transnational crime after drugs and human trafficking. Wildlife conservationists are urging the government and non-governmental organizations to prioritize this issue at the national level and take coordinated measures to conserve endangered species. Wildlife protection officers and district administrative officers are taking no action against these crane hunters. The other take bribes or lack good administration. He lamented, Gil Nawaz is resi-

dent of the Lakki Marwat area, told that the hunters use a pair of famous cranes as a cage as decoys, separating the males from the females. The separated pair is taken to the hunting spot early, before the arrival of the migratory flocks.

The migrating cranes swoop down close to the already captured pair. Soon after, the decoys start crying and the cranes fly overhead and are deceived by the decoy cranes. The migrating cranes swoop down close to the already captured pair. When the hunters throw a swirling iron weight tied to a thread over the flock to entangle the cranes' necks, wings and feet. Sometimes hunters shoot down the birds with firearms. The hunters also use such voice recording of the cranes' honking to lure migrating flocks. He

explained Barja Hatteldi, Head of the Avian Species Team at Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, said that hunting in general, and cranes in particular, is a complicated issue in Pakistan. Irresponsibility and involvement of influential persons are considered to be the major impediments in the process of the law. A strong multi-stakeholder platform needs to be brought on board with the various political, social and military stakeholders to develop a cranes conservation agenda. Otherwise, the hunting of cranes will remain rampant in the future as well. He suggested,

Middle Balochistan has a Wildlife Protection Act 2014 to protect the wildlife due to ineffective implementation of the Act and relentless poaching in the province. The number of cranes is declining every year. On the other hand, the officials at the provincial government and Wildlife department claim that the illegal trade in wildlife trade with an iron hand, as protecting wildlife from all sorts of threats is the best strategy. The Wildlife Protection Act 2014 recommends that the district administration and Wildlife department should utilize all their available resources to provide the legal communities with incentives to curtail crane hunting and trapping through public awareness of the ecological system.

The investigation is part of a series of environmental crime in Asia, supported by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime. The project is funded by the Foundation, and Overseas Investigative Environmental Journalism.

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## Four existential threats

Shahzad Chaudhry

Far from the maddening inflation and the resulting poverty that has touched all segments of the society there are some issues that continue to bedevil Pakistan's future. Unless resolved these will soon outweigh our collective capacity to navigate out of the enveloping morass. Four of those in the political/security domain pose an existential challenge to our collective wisdom. Pakistan's Afghan problem including the TTP will continue to haunt medium to long term stability. The world has a mind on Afghanistan and we are fighting a rear-guard battle to somehow avoid a devastating consequence. Afghanistan has been thrown in our throats as world's largest refugee camp of 35 million people who await being fed and helped — we were fearing adding a million more to the three million that call Pakistan home. Similarities in ethnic

stock and our recurring proclivity to influence what happens in the neighboring state means we will also carry a part of the burden. What it means to our political, security, economic and social milieu is best exhibited by what has occurred since we first got involved with Afghan issues. The Godzilla is out and about to envelop us. Imagine the task of feeding the 35 million with wheat, sugar and dollars and the pressure on our social structures whether education, health or simply law and order. We are already knee-deep in each of these strands of a state of flux. Which way will it be seen but the recognition granted to it by accepting its political bona fides will now be difficult to walk out of once the die is cast. Whatever, it shall be tumultuous and consequently and entirely incongruous to a stable future. The days ahead are fraught with uncertainty. The confl-

ence of these forces exercises its own dynamic in an already unstable environment. Thwarting these will further our strife while submitting before them will weaken the state and bestow unmatched capacity to these forces to alter our socio-cultural character. We are in for a ride of our lifetimes. The unrest in the coastal belt of Balochistan including Gwadar and in Khairan and Awaran is another aggregation of disquiet among a robust segment of the society which has challenged the state over time on rights issues furthering our strife. The requisite attention of the political and administrative authorities in the province. Recent agitation in Gwadar has conflated multiple fault-lines bringing to the fore the disconnect between the power wielders and the people on basic matters of day-to-day lives. People seem to have been neglected even as the state sought broad-

## True crime in Murree

Imran Jan

I find watching true crime series a bit disturbing. It doesn't change the underlying truth that movement filled film is the depiction of someone's worst moments. One person's misery becomes another person's couch-time TV watching. The sad story of the people stranded in Murree's snow last week is nothing short of a tragedy. We are now seeing that some Murree locals have been arrested because they would have prevented the entry of such mind numbing numbers of vehicles entering Murree during that snow. Different news reports mentioned over 100,000 and 150,000 vehicles entering Murree during that snow.

When people take actions, they put their and others' lives in danger, that is crossing the line where freedom must enjoy a trust with a heavy government hand. The rascals would label it victim blaming but deep down everyone knows that the utter lack of civic sense did play a role in this tragedy. When civic sense dies, the rights must be turned along too. You cannot have your cake and eat it too. Then comes the criminals who shed crocodile tears in their unbridled pursuit of the unbridled goal the protection of their stolen wealth and amnesty for that act of

theft. They have stolen money, not only from those whose death they so hate but from those whose lives are harder. They have been responsible for the deaths of countless due to starvation and desperation because of their mega corruption. A young boy was crushed to death in the miscalculation of Nawaz Sharif some years ago. Nobody would ever know that the name of that poor boy was Raisa. You had if you remember the name of this murdered police officer who had caught Aywan Ali red handed while those who were involved in this tragedy were laughing. It is criminal, unjust and disgusting. But these are the lesser incidents with no morals are pursued of the unbridled to be selfless and decent would be negligent on our part.



# Gen Nadeem Raza installed Sindh Regiment's 2nd Col-in-Chief

KARACHI General Nadeem Raza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) was installed as the 13th Colonel in Chief of the Sindh Regiment and Lt General Sahr Shamsud Din Mirza, Corps Commander Rawalpindi was installed as the 13th Colonel Commandant of the Sindh Regiment in a ceremony held at Sindh Regiment Centre, Hyderabad.

Lt General Muhammad Saeed, Corps Commander Karachi and Lieutenant General Sahr Shamsud Din Mirza, Corps Commander Rawalpindi presented the badges of 'New Colonel in Chief' of Sindh Regiment to General Nadeem Raza, Chairman JCSC and Pakistan General Muhammad Saeed, Corps Commander Karachi.

General Nadeem Raza, Chairman JCSC and Lt General Muhammad Saeed, Corps Commander Karachi presented the badges of 'New Colonel in Chief' of Sindh Regiment to General Nadeem Raza, Chairman JCSC and Lt General Muhammad Saeed, Corps Commander Karachi.



RAWALPINDI: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Chairman Justice (R) Javed Iqbal addressing the handing over cheques to affectees of housing societies ceremony at NAB headquarter.

# Chinese company launched a technical course for students of Kohistan region

ISLAMABAD: Dasu Hydro-power Project (DHP) has announced a short-term technical and vocational course for the youth of Upper Kohistan, one of the backward areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday.

The objective of the course is to equip young people with technical and professional skills, enabling them to find work in the local job market. With the sponsorship from DHP, the young people will attend three-month classes at APTI's Technopark, Indus River (INR) NLC Manara and APTI NLC Dina located in Punjab.

Upper Kohistan, can apply for the course. Basic qualification of matriculation or even matric. During the course, the youth can learn computer applications, graphic designing and auto CAD in Information Technology, Plumbing, aluminum fabrication and welding in Construction Technology. Building, electrical, solar system, technician under Electrical Technology, Auto mechanics and automobile electricians under Automobile Technology while tailoring in Services. The participants will be given opportunities to learn the skills of LTV and HTV driving as well as Dump Truck Driver. Those already holding

# Pak-China Joint Statement sets the tone for a new era of bilateral cooperation: Report

ISLAMABAD: Joint statement issued at the end of PM Inayatullah Khan's visit to Beijing has set the tone for a new era of development and cooperation.

Prime Minister Inayat Khan's participation in the Winter Olympic Games is a mark of strength in iron brotherhood and solidarity with China, significantly when the world is marred with polarization, war and rising conflicts amongst states.

Three dialogues have been held at the level of the political, economic and social sides, Pakistan and China also have robust defense cooperation and China recognizes Pakistan's heroic fight against terrorism.

# IHC summons report over human rights abuses in jails

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice Ahsan Muneer Khan has issued a summons to the IHC on Tuesday to submit a report on responsibility of rights abuses in prisons.

The court summoned a report on the matter from the Ministry of Human Rights and Social Welfare. It was stated that there was limit of 2,100 prisoners in Adiala Jail but 7,500 were housed there.

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# Partly cloudy, cold weather expected in most plain areas of country

ISLAMABAD: Mainly partly cloudy and cold weather is expected in most plain areas of the country during the next 24 hours.

However, rain with thunderstorm with snow over the hills is expected in northeast Balochistan, Punjab and Kashmir, while scattered light rain or drizzle with snow over hills in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

Dense fog is likely to prevail in plain areas of Punjab in morning. Temperature of some major cities recorded as follows: Islamabad six; Lahore eleven degree centigrade, Karachi eighteen; Peshawar nine; Quetta, Gilgit and Murree zero and Muzaffargarh six degree centigrade.

# Villagers kill another leopard in Azad Kashmir

ISLAMABAD: Yet another leopard was killed in a village in Azad Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday.

The injured female leopard was shifted to Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) chairperson Rina S. Khan Satti said.

In a series of tweets, she said a mob of 200 villagers killed the wild cat in Jhelum Valley's Hattian Bala.

# China-India Joint Statement sets the tone for a new era of bilateral cooperation: Report

BEIJING: Joint statement issued at the end of PM Inayatullah Khan's visit to Beijing has set the tone for a new era of development and cooperation.

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# Pakistan administers highest vaccine doses in 24 hours

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has administered record over two million doses of coronavirus vaccine in the last 24 hours.

Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Faisal Sultan on Tuesday in a tweet appreciated the efforts of the concerned people and said that highest daily vaccine doses were administered on the previous day in Pakistan.

According to NCOC, so far, 11,408,710 people have received their first dose of coronavirus vaccine (including 1,949,889 in last 24 hours). 87,052,870 citizens have been fully vaccinated while 852,298 received their second dose in last 24 hours.

# Pakistani students excited to resume their studies in China

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani students who returned home due to the Corona pandemic, welcomed the Chinese Government's decision to facilitate their return to resume their classes in Chinese educational institutions.

It is a fantastic feeling. I feel it's the first festival. Adam Ali, who represents Pakistani students in China told 'Quetta Pro'. 'We are grateful to the Governments of Pakistan and China for discussing our issue at such a high level', he added.

About 25,000 students are enrolled in various Chinese educational institutions. More than 6,000 of them have been stuck at home since March 2020 as the China suspended the entry of foreign students to contain the spread of Covid-19.

# China-IIRMR holds 'Digital Poster Competition' on Olympics 2022

ISLAMABAD: With the cooperation of China, Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR) is organizing 'Digital Poster Competition' in connection with Beijing Winter Olympics 2022 on Tuesday.

Chinese Consulate General Lahore and Chinese Media Group Urdu Service (CMG) comprising China Global Television (CGTN), China Central Television (CCTV), China National Radio (CNR), and China Radio International (CRI) are in collaboration with IIRMR in holding the digital poster competition, set to conclude on February 18, welcome all individuals to participate from the age group of 15 to 40 belonging to all four provinces, AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan in Pakistan.

IIRMR offers Pakistan society to celebrate the Beijing Winter Olympic Games together with the Chinese people in a way of participation.

# Opposition struggling for survival after being defeated on all fronts: Shahzad Waseem

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the House in Senate Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem has said that the Opposition was struggling for its political survival after being defeated by government on all fronts.

The treasury benches on Tuesday late in the opposition's move to adjourn the House in the pretext of lack of quorum in the Senate.

Speaking in the House, Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem said that the Opposition has always faced defeat in public meetings as well. He appreciated upright Senators like Dilawar Khan who fulfilled their national responsibilities with due diligence.

The Leader of House said those days, the opposition was doing the politics of 'Khatay' (the food parties) in luxurious places, and ironically presents itself for accountability during the question-hour, but it is the government's responsibility during the proceedings of the Parliament and the opposition should have realized it.

He said now it is proven that all the corrupt elements were making alliances. 'We want them together so that the public can see their real faces.

In one side, there is the politics of status quo and on the other, the politics of progressiveness.

# Malir court orders transfer of Nazim Jokhio case to ATC

KARACHI: A Malir court on Tuesday ordered transfer of the infamous Nazim Jokhio case to an anti-terrorism court (ATC) for trial.

Judicial Magistrate Afzal Hussain announced the reserved verdict on the case against two PPP lawmakers and 12 other suspects in the case.

The magistrate accepted an application moved by the complainant under Section 190 of the criminal procedure code (CrP) requesting the court to add the charge of terrorism in the FIR.

The counsel for the complainant argued that the offence was an act of terrorism, seeking directives for the investigation officer to include Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 in the FIR.

The investigation officer (IO) filed the chargesheet against Nazim Jokhio and 12 others in Dec. He had earlier alleged that Awais, MNA Jam Abdul Karim, and their henchmen tortured him to death for filming and stopping their guests from illegal hunting of houbara bustards (IB).

Nazim Jokhio's body was recovered from the PPP lawmaker Jam Awais's farmhouse in Dec. He had earlier alleged that Awais, MNA Jam Abdul Karim, and their henchmen tortured him to death for filming and stopping their guests from illegal hunting of houbara bustards (IB).

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Chinese Consul General Karachi Li Bijian said that the 24th Winter Olympic Games has started on Feb. 4, the date when the spring begins according to the 24 solar terms. 'Happy to know that the Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR) is organizing a Digital Poster Competition on the theme of Together for a Shared Future. We will make calls from Pakistan from age group between 15 to 40 shall actively participate and together cheer for the success of each athlete. May the competition a complete success. China Media Group Urdu Service (CMG) head, Zhao Qiao (Ms Mehvish) said that co-hosting with IIRMR for holding Digital Poster Competition is a matter of great joy in connection with Beijing Winter Olympics attended by Pakistan PM Inayatullah Khan as a state guest for the first time. 'We must do our utmost to encourage maximum participation of people in the 'Digital Poster Competition' as such steps reflect respect and depth in Pak-China relations. We shall add Lahore Overseas Chinese Association (LOCA) president Luo Jianxun named the Digital Poster Competition a promising activity engaging creative minds to sensitize INP.

# KARACHI: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Youth Affairs, Usman Dar and leader of opposition, Haleem Adil Shaikh addressing press conference at Sindh Assembly.





# Professional education being promoted for socio-economic development: President Alvi

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that all necessary measures are being taken to promote professional and skill-based education in the country that would help provide employment to youth besides putting the country on the path to socio-economic development.

This was stated by him while talking to a delegation of Professional Education Foundation (PEF), led by its Chairman Hafeez-ul-Haq that called on him at the Awan-e-Sadr on Tuesday.

The President highlighting the importance of higher education, said that the government was focusing on educational development and had announced 50,000 scholarships to encourage deserving students to get higher education.

It was my top priority to facilitate and encourage the differently-abled students to continue their studies and empower them financially, he told the delegation.

President Alvi said that in order to support and encourage persons with disabilities, the Higher Education Commission had formulated a policy that exempted the students with disabilities from tuition and hostel fees.

He also underlined the need for increasing the virtual component of education which was cost-effective and easily accessible.

The chairman PEF briefed the president about the contribution of the Foundation in the promotion of professional education.

He informed that PEF offered scholarships and interest-free loans to those brilliant students who had obtained admissions in professional colleges/universities on merit but could not afford to pay their fees.

Hafeez-ul-Haq said that 1700 students had done their graduation with the financial support of PEF.

The Chairman PEF further informed that the Foundation had paid the education cost of 1900 students in 2020-21 who were studying in the medical, engineering and other professional colleges/universities.

President Alvi appreciated the efforts and contribution of PEF which had been doing a splendid job by supporting the deserving students to continue their education. He said that in order to support and encourage persons with disabilities, the Higher Education Commission had formulated a policy that exempted the students with disabilities from tuition and hostel fees.

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**BALUCHISTAN:** Prime Minister Imran Khan interacting with Tribal Elders in Nushki, Balochistan.

## Opposition stages walkout from Senate on quorum

ISLAMABAD: The opposition walked out of the Senate after pointing to quorum prompting the leader of the house to fly their gesture.

The upper house on Tuesday once again could not maintain its decorum and erupted into uproar and the opposition members left the session after pointing to quorum.

Leader of the House Shehbaz Waseem raged that the opposition always ran away from the house.

Earlier, the Ministry of National Health Services submitted its written reply to the upper house confessing that the number of AIDS patients was increasing in Pakistan. The re-use of syringes and non-availability of AIDS testing and treatment and unscrupled blood bags were main causes behind the rise in AIDS patients.

Senator Mushtaq said that Pakistan was included in the 11 dangerous countries of the world where AIDS was spreading quickly. So far, 0.240 million people are suffering from AIDS in Pakistan, he added. INP

## Preparations for long march against PTI's federal govt in full swing. Sadiq Memon

THATTA: President Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Sadiq Memon has said that preparations for the long march of PPP against incompetence and flawed policies of PTI's federal government are in full swing. He said that hopefully the people of Pakistan will participate in this long march and the leadership of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and express their disgust with the federal government.

The PPP divisional secretary in Thatta on Tuesday said while presiding over a meeting on preparations for the long march here at Thatta on Tuesday. The meeting was attended by senior PPP leader Nisar Khoro, Senator Aqeez Khan and local PPP leaders and workers in large numbers.

On the occasion, Sadiq Ali Memon and Nisar Khoro said that the long march of Pakistan Peoples Party starting from February 27 would prove to be the highest long march in the political history of the country and would prove to be the last nail in the coffin of PTI politics.

They said that the people had rejected the PTI government because the incompetence and flawed policies of the federal government had ruined the lives of the people. The life of the common man had become a torment at the hands of inflation. INP

## CMEC sets up Agriculture and Technology Transferring Center in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: To offer cooperation in agriculture mechanisation for the improvement of crops yield and to transfer quality Chinese machinery to the Engineering Corporation (CMEC) is interested in setting up an Agriculture, Science and Technology Transferring Center in Pakistan.

This was stated by Khalid Mansoor, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on CPEC Affairs, according to Greater Press on Tuesday.

"The center will be established on a G2G aid basis with an estimated amount of US\$ 50 million," he said adding Chinese companies with research and expertise in agriculture are coming to the country for joint ventures (JVs) with Pakistani farmers.

The center will train Pakistani farmers in agriculture mechanisation, he said. "There will be demonstrations and training of the farmers."

About the recent visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China, Mansoor said that Chinese company Zhenjiang Group is establishing a factory inside M-3 in Pakistan.

The center will show interest in a JV in Pakistan, Faqir Fertilizer Company (FFC), the largest fertilizer company of Pakistan, and Zhenjiang Group have signed an MoU for a JV in pesticides, cattle and poultry feed and cottage farming.

"They will coordinate and would work jointly," he added. The Chinese company is also interested in soybean and makhli farming in Pakistan, they will export the products to China. "It will be an export-oriented venture," he said.

Khalid Mansoor informed that the Royal Group of China would invest in Pakistan. The firm is to set up "foot and mouth disease-free" farms of buffaloes. According to him, with an investment of US\$ 50 million, Royal Group wanted to start four large farms with 8000 animals with processing milk units.

"It will also bring value-added products including meat powder, cheese, and package milk," said Mr Mansoor.

According to him, Royal Group is expected to enter into a JV with FFC. The firm is to set up a G2G aid basis with an estimated amount of US\$ 50 million," he said adding Chinese companies with research and expertise in agriculture are coming to the country for joint ventures (JVs) with Pakistani farmers.

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## Proclaimed offender arrested after 13 years

LAHORE: Anti-corruption Establishment Punjab (ACE) has arrested a proclaimed offender named Tariq Hussain after 13 years since his arrest warrants had been issued in 2009.

The accused hailed from Jham Wala tehsil Wazirabad and an ex-employee of Excise and Taxation office Ghakhar. ACE Director ACE Gujranwala in registered FIR No 171/09 in Ghakhar Mandi Police Station arrested the accused under section 420/467/468/471 of Pakistan Penal code.

The accused had prepared fake and forged documents of the property and helped the illegal occupants to get the possession of seven shops that belonged to the complainant Qasim Farhanda.

In another case registered in Police Station Rawalpindi, ACE arrested the accused including Jameel Khan and Jamal Khan from National Town, Rawalpindi. An FIR No 182/02 under section 420 PPC & 32/37 PCA was registered against Jameel Khan & Jamal Khan and others as a result of enquiry conducted by ACE on the complaint of Kamran Chaubhan.

The accused persons in connivance with the officials of Municipal Corporation Rawalpindi, constructed illegal commercial building in violation of building plan and caused Rs.4.4m loss to Government Exchequer. After completion of investigation Judicial Action was approved against them. INP

## Marble industry offers a lot of potential for investors: Qasim Naveed

KARACHI: Special Assistant to CM Sindh on Investment Department and Public Private Partnership Projects, Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar has said that the marble industry provides a lot of potential and if proper attention is paid towards this industry, number of new job opportunities can be generated and can bring prosperity to the province as well.

He stated, this while presiding over a meeting here in his office on Tuesday. Secretary Investment Department, Bilal Ahmed, CEO SEZMC and other stakeholders also attended the meeting.

Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar emphasized the importance of the Marble City Project and asked the officers to expedite work on it as it was one of the important projects, initiated by Sindh Government to boost Sindh economy and to attract the investors and Industrialists to invest in this sector.

He said, "There are number of growth opportunities with multiple challenges, however with team work, we will overcome the challenges."

SACM Qasim Naveed Qamar committed to protect the investment and to attract local and foreign investors to invest in the projects, launched under public and private sector tie up. This while presiding over a meeting here in his office on Tuesday.

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## CM Buzdar directs to start Elevated Expressway project without delay

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sarfaraz Usman Buzdar has directed to start the Elevated Expressway project without delay. He stated that it will provide easy access to the commuters to reach the markets.

He issued the directives while chairing a meeting on Elevated Expressway project held at his office on Tuesday during which progress on different ongoing development projects and laws policies of the province was reviewed.

Sardar Usman Buzdar said that the Elevated Expressway project was of key importance as it would also reduce the traffic congestion on Canal and Multan roads, he noted.

Such projects are necessary for the growing population as Elevated Expressway would reduce the congestion on busy roads by 65%, he said and asked that the ongoing Lahore projects should be completed within the stipulated time. Sardar Usman Buzdar said that the Elevated Expressway project was of key importance as it would also reduce the traffic congestion on Canal and Multan roads, he noted.

DG LDJ, Ahmad Aziz Tahir, briefed about the important issues of the project. Provincial Housing Minister Asad Khokhar, Chairman P&D, secretaries of housing, finance and local government departments, Principal Secretary to CM and others attended the meeting. INP

## Pakistan desires peaceful solution to Kashmir dispute: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan on Tuesday said Pakistan wants a peaceful solution to the long-standing Kashmir dispute and hoped for early resumption of the Pak-India dialogue.

This he said during an interview with the Chinese CGTN. Terming the Kashmir issue a source of contention between Pakistan and India, PM Imran underlined the need for a political resolution of the conflict through dialogue. Expressing deep concern on the worsening situation in Afghanistan, he called on the international community to pay attention to the plight of forty million Afghan people. The PM said both Afghan and China are agreed that Afghanistan will be a top priority in the country of nations. He said that Afghan people had been facing such like situation for four decades, adding that Pakistan sustained maximum losses in the war on terror. Imran Khan said that the PTI government not only saved the country from economic depression but also gave significant relief to the masses. He also thanked concerned policies.

He said we are trying to introduce the Chinese Model in Pakistan for poverty alleviation. PM initially thanked the Chinese government for providing coronavirus vaccines as Pakistan succeeded in containing the spread of the virus by utilizing the Chinese experience. He said that the first phase of the CPEC consisted of connectivity and now we are entering the second phase of the project. INP

## IHC suspends ECP's decision of disqualifying Umar Amin Gandapur of contesting City Mayor elections

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday suspended the decision of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) disqualifying Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Umar Amin Khan Gandapur for contesting the Dera Ismail Khan City Mayor elections.

PTI candidate for City Mayor DI Khan, Umar Amin Khan Gandapur has filed a writ petition in the High Court challenging the decision of Election Commission of Pakistan debaring him from contesting the elections of DI Khan's City Mayor which are due to be held in the next 4 days.

Senior Advocate Syed Ali Zafar, representing Umar Amin Gandapur, submitted before the Islamabad High Court that the petitioner was running his election campaign by duly abiding by the code of conduct and enabling provisions of the Election laws. He argued that his client's rights under Section 234 of the Election laws have been violated for stopping him from contesting the elections.

He said that Section 234 provides that a monitoring team will be constituted by ECP in a region where elections are to be held. This team will monitor election campaign of contesting candidates to see that they are not violating the provisions of Election Laws and Rules. In case a violation is noted, then the team will hold summary proceedings and, at best, can impose a fine upon a candidate. If the candidate repeats the same violation again, then the team is required under the law to refer the matter to ECP for initiation INP

## DISCOs directed to create awareness about net metering: Hamad

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Energy Hamad Azhar has said that all the power distribution companies (DISCOs) have been directed to create awareness about net metering on solar powered tube wells and pumps at the earliest.

He said that the government is working to reduce the electricity bill of tube wells. INP

## Naval Chief discusses professional issues, matters of mutual interests with Iraqi Navy Commander

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Anwar Khan Nizami who is on official visit to Iraq on Tuesday held separate meetings with Commander Iraqi Navy Admiral Amir Abdour Maaury on Defence Minister Jumana Inad Sadoon Khattab.

According to a press release received here, the Naval Chief upon his arrival at Naval Headquarters Basra, was received by Commander Iraqi Navy Admiral Amir Abdour Maaury and was presented Guard of Honour.

During the meeting of Admiral Anwar Nizami with Commander Iraqi Navy, regional maritime security and professional matters of mutual interest including bilateral naval collaboration came under discussion.

The Naval Chief highlighted Pakistan Navy's efforts for ensuring maritime security in the region including Regional Maritime Security Patrols and participation in Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). The Admirals also visited Naval Base Um Qasr and Iraqi Naval Academy where a briefing was given to the Naval Chief.

After during official visit, Defence Minister Jumana Inad Sadoon Khattab, professional matters of mutual interest including bilateral defence collaboration were discussed.

Admiral Anwar Khan Nizami underscored the importance of enhancing interactions between the armed forces of both countries through exercises and training exchange programmes.

The Iraqi Defence Minister while acknowledging the significance of strong bilateral military cooperation in diverse realms, stressed on enhancing collaborations in expanded military domains. The visit of the Naval Chief was expected to further augment and expand defence ties between the two countries in general and navies in particular. INP

## Role of religious scholars of key importance in promoting inter-faith harmony: Ejaz Alam

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Human Rights Ejaz Alam Augustine said that the role of religious scholars from all religions of key importance in promoting interfaith in the province and hoped that they would continue to cultivate love and affection in the same manner.

He said that every religion teaches peace and does not allow hatred, some hostile elements try to promote hatred but due to unity and harmony among them all their tricks are failing.

These views were expressed by the provincial minister while addressing a seminar on Interfaith and Kashmir issue held at Jamia Bait-ul-Jamr organized by the National Peace Committee for Interfaith Harmony on Tuesday.

On this occasion, senior leader of PTI and Senator Chaudhry Jazir Ahmed, Mufti Syed Asim Hussain, Prof. Syed Mahmood Ghazawi, Allama Muhammad Asim, Father James Channan, Hafiz Asim Makhdoom, Makhdoom Akbar Asghar Ali Chishti Qibla Qasim Ali Qasim, Chaudhry Saghar Abbasi work and all other schools of thoughts were present.

Ejaz Alam further stated that the growing barbarism in Kashmir is a question mark why the world powers are keeping silent on it while the humiliation of humanity is going to worsen. He said that the protest would continue till the independence of Kashmir as the hearts of all Pakistanis beat with their oppressed Kashmiri brothers. All the speakers emphasized the need for unity and solidarity among themselves and with the martyrs of the security forces while strongly condemning the recent terrorist attacks. INP



**ISLAMABAD:** Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Shaukat Tarin presiding over the National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC) meeting held at Finance Division.

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## In democratic state, journalist guarantor of reforms at govt, institutional level: Hasaan

LAHORE: Special Assistant to Chief Minister Punjab on Information and Spokesperson to the Punjab Government, Reshmi Hasaan has said that in a democratic state, journalism is the guarantor of reforms at government as well as institutional level.

He said that the government is working towards creating a conducive environment for the media fraternity to create any hindrances being faced by these front line warriors on priority basis.

While addressing media representatives at "Meet The Press" after a meeting with newly elected leadership of the Press Club here yesterday, on this occasion, he said that the current government is working on short and medium term solutions being faced by the workers of the media industry as well as pursuing a comprehensive reforms agenda on provincial level. While reiterating the government's resolve to expedite the development work of F-block,