

# QUETTA VOICE

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File Photo: Lt General (R) Faiz Hameed

## Hand Grenade Attack in Quetta's Pashunabad Leaves Seven Injured

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: A hand grenade attack on the Chab Bawri Chowk area of Pashunabad, Quetta, has left seven people injured, according to local sources. The attack, carried out by unidentified motorcycleists, took place late Monday evening.

The injured individuals were immediately rushed to the Trauma Center at Civil Hospital, Quetta, where they are currently receiving medical treatment. The hospital staff confirmed that the patients are in stable condition but remain under close observation.

The names of the injured have been released by hospital authorities. The victims are identified as Khan, Mujeeb, Manan, Hazrat Allah, Abdul Malik, Sami Allah, and Imran. Security forces have cordoned off the area and launched an investigation into the attack. Authorities have yet to determine the motive behind the incident or identify the assailants.

Quetta has experienced similar incidents in the past, and this attack has once again raised concerns about the security situation in the city. Local residents have expressed their fears and called for stronger measures to prevent such attacks in the future. Further updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

### Security man martyred in North Waziristan, injured officer passes away

PESHAWAR: ISLAMABAD: A security official embraced martyrdom and four others, including an officer, were injured during exchanges of fire with militants at two locations in North Waziristan on Sunday, police sources said.

Meanwhile, a young army officer, Lt Uzair Mehmood Malik, who was critically wounded during an intense gun battle with militants in the Tiral Valley of Khyber district on Friday, passed away at Peshawar's Combined Military Hospital (CMH) on Sunday, where he was being treated. He was laid to rest at his native graveyard in Attock district. The first incident in North Waziristan occurred in Razmak tehsil, where militants targeted a security official who later succumbed to his injuries.

## Lt Gen (R) Faiz Hameed Arrested and Faces Court Martial in Top City Case

Daood Ahmed:

ISLAMABAD: Complying with the orders of Supreme Court of Pakistan, a detailed court of inquiry, was undertaken by Pakistan Army, to ascertain correctness of complaints in Top City Case made against Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (Retd), the military's media wing said. Consequently, appropriate disciplinary action has been initiated against Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (Retd), under provisions of Pakistan Army Act, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) stated. In addition, multiple instances of violation of Pakistan Army Act post retirement have also been established. The process of Field General Court Martial has been initiated and Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (Retd) has been taken into military custody. Former intelligence chief Faiz Hameed has been taken into military custody and the process for his court martial has

been initiated in connection with the Top City housing scheme scandal, the army's media wing said on Monday. The development is a first in the country's history where a court martial has been initiated against a former spy master. "Complying with the orders of Supreme Court of Pakistan, a detailed court of inquiry was undertaken by Pakistan Army, to ascertain correctness of complaints in Top City case made against Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (Retd). Said a press release issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). It added: "Consequently, appropriate disciplinary action has been initiated against Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (Retd), under provisions of Pakistan Army Act." "In addition, multiple instances of violation of Pakistan Army Act post-retirement have also been

established. The process of Field General Court Martial has been initiated and Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (Retd) has been taken into military custody," the ISPR further said. The military had reportedly formed an inquiry committee in April to investigate allegations of misuse of authority against the former head of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). Media reports had said the committee was formed in the light of directives of the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Defence. In its written order issued on November 14, the apex court had said that allegations of an "extremely serious nature" against ex-spy master retired Lt Gen Faiz Hameed.



## Balochistan High Court Orders NADRA to Verify Votes in PB-40 Quetta-3 Constituency

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: In a significant development, the Election Tribunal No. 1 of the Balochistan High Court, presided over by Mr. Justice Abdullah Baloch, has ordered the verification of all votes cast in Constituency PB-40 Quetta-3. The decision came as part of the ongoing Election Case involving Qadir Ali Nail versus Samad Khan Gurgej and others. In his ruling, Mr. Justice Abdullah Baloch emphasized the importance of ensuring that the election was conducted fairly and

transparently. He stated that, after carefully examining the claims and evidence presented by both parties, the Tribunal concluded that it was necessary to verify the authenticity of the votes through NADRA's fingerprint database. This measure, according to the judge, is essential to determine whether the election results were legitimate or if any rigging occurred. As per the Tribunal's order, all votes and Form 45 from Constituency PB-40 Quetta-3 will be certi-

fied by NADRA. This verification process is expected to shed light on the true nature of the election results and bring clarity to the concerns raised by the plaintiff, Qadir Ali Nail. In a noteworthy aspect of the ruling, the Tribunal also directed Qadir Ali Nail to bear the full cost of the verification process. This decision underscores the seriousness with which the Tribunal is treating the allegations and its commitment to ensuring a transparent electoral process.

## Gunmen Attack Trailer and Levies Force Vehicle in Separate Incidents in Balochistan

Asif Kareem Khetran:

BARKHAN: In a series of alarming incidents, unknown armed individuals targeted a company trailer and a vehicle belonging to the Barkhan Levies Force, causing significant damage and theft. In the first incident, the assailants opened fire on a trailer transporting machinery for a local

company. The attack occurred while the vehicle was en route, leading to the puncturing of its tires. Several bullets struck the trailer's glass and body, but fortunately, the driver and cleaner managed to escape unharmed. Authorities are investigating the motive behind the attack, though no suspects have been identified at this time. In a separate but equally concerning incident, a vehicle belonging to the Barkhan Levies Force came under fire. The attackers shattered the windows of the vehicle and managed to



seize government-issued weapons and valuable documents before fleeing the scene. The Levies Force personnel, who were in the midst of preparing for the upcoming 14th August Independence Day celebrations, were the apparent target of this attack. According to a Levies Force spokesman, the soldiers involved in the incident were not injured, but the theft of weapons and documents is a serious concern. Investigations are currently ongoing, with authorities working to trace the culprits and recover the stolen items.

These incidents have raised security concerns in the region, particularly with the Independence Day celebrations approaching. Local authorities have increased security measures to prevent further attacks and ensure the safety of residents and officials.

## Education Minister's Delivery Unit Launched to Overhaul Education in Balochistan

Education Desk:

QUETTA: In a significant move to elevate the education system in Balochistan, the provincial government has established the Education Minister's Delivery Unit (MEDU). This specialized team is tasked with improving the quality and delivery of education across the region, addressing Balochistan's unique challenges, and accelerating educational reforms.

As part of the initiative, officials from the Pak Alliance for Maths and Science (PAMS), including Salman Asif and Omar Orakzai, recently held a meeting with Balochistan Education Minister Rabila Hameed Khan Durrani and Secretary Education Saleh Muhammad Nasir. This meeting underscored the collaborative efforts being made to ensure the success of the MEDU. The MEDU will play a pivotal role in tracking and advising the implementation of various educational policies and programs. One of its primary objectives is to develop and deliver a comprehensive roadmap for education in Balochistan. This roadmap will guide the province through critical reforms aimed at enhancing educational outcomes.

A key function of the MEDU is to review high-priority programs and provide regular updates on the Prime Minister's 14-

point Education Emergency Task List. This list outlines urgent educational priorities that require immediate attention and action. The MEDU's efforts will ensure that these priorities are addressed effectively and efficiently.

In addition to policy implementation, the MEDU will liaise with all relevant stakeholders, including government bodies, educational institutions, and non-governmental organizations. This collaborative approach is intended to foster a cohesive strategy for education reform in Balochistan. The Balochistan government, through the Secretary of Education, has accepted secretarial and technical support from PAMS. The organization will provide the necessary expertise to assist the MEDU in achieving its goals. The partnership between the government and PAMS underscores the commitment to leveraging specialized knowledge and resources to improve education in the province.

As the MEDU begins its work, it will focus on creating solutions tailored to the unique needs of Balochistan. By addressing the specific challenges faced by the province, the MEDU aims to deliver tangible improvements in the education sector, ensuring that all children in Balochistan have access to quality education.



## Bushra Bibi's bail in 12 cases of May 9 rejected bail pleas

## Challenges and Reforms in Balochistan's Higher Education

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## Pakistani exhibitors tap into potential at inaugural Lhasa Imports Expo

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## Pakistani exhibitors tap into potential at inaugural Lhasa Imports Expo

BEDING (INP): Lhasa, the capital of the Xizang Autonomous Region, China, was abuzz with excitement as it hosted the first-ever Lhasa Shoton Imports Expo on the recent week.

The event featured 246 enterprises from 31 countries and regions, marking it the largest expo of imported goods in the region in over a decade.

Among the diverse range of participants showcasing over 1,000 types of goods, Pakistani exhibitors stood out with four handicraft enterprises presenting

their exquisite creations to a captivated crowd, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

Pakistani stalls decorated with intricate jade pieces, ornate copperware and other handcrafted items attracted significant attention from local residents and international visitors.

Faisal Rasheed, a seasoned participant in Xizang's exhibitions, expressed his enthusiasm for the event. "I love types of goods, Pakistani exhibitors stood out with four handicraft enterprises presenting

achieved sales of 300,000 yuan.

"This time, I have brought millions of yuan worth of goods and I am very confident about our sales prospects. The Xizang market has a unique appreciation for quality craftsmanship, and our Pakistani handicrafts resonate well with their aesthetic sensibilities," Kamil Muhammad, a first-time visitor to Xizang and representative of another Pakistani handicraft enterprise, shared similar sentiments. "I'm grateful to the organizer for inviting us to this exhibition," he

said. "It's a wonderful opportunity to introduce Pakistani handicrafts to the people of Xizang. I hope this platform will not only enhance the visibility of our craftsmanship but also foster a deeper appreciation for our rich cultural heritage." With over 600 international merchants in attendance, the event fostered a vibrant atmosphere of networking and collaboration, providing a unique platform for exhibitors to showcase their products and explore new markets.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Jamiat Ulama-e-Pakistan (JUP) Secretary General Owais Noorani.

## Police back on Bangladesh capital's streets as strike ends

DHAKA (INP): Bangladesh police resumed patrols of the capital Dhaka, ending a weeklong strike that left a law and order vacuum following the abrupt ouster of autocratic ex-premier Sheikh Hasina.

Officers vanished from the streets of the sprawling megacity of 20 million people last week after Hasina's resignation and flight abroad ended her 15-year rule. Police were loathed for spearheading a lethal crackdown on the weeks of protests that forced her departure, with 42 officers among the more than

450 people killed.

Police had vowed not to resume work until their safety on duty was guaranteed, but they agreed to return after late-night talks with the new interim government, helmed by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus.

"The police association ended its strike last night," the force's national spokesman Enamul Haque Sagor told. "Police officers have returned to work today," he added. "You can see them managing traffic in Dhaka's streets." Student-led protests against Hasina's government

had been largely peaceful until police attempted to violently disperse them.

Around 450 of the country's 600 police stations were targeted in arson and vandalism attacks over the past month, according to the national police union.

Some began reopening late last week under guard by the army, an institution held in higher esteem for largely refusing to participate in the crackdown. In the police's absence, the students who led the protests that toppled Hasina volunteered to restore law and order after

looting and reprisal attacks in the hours after her departure. They acted as traffic wardens, formed overnight watch patrols and guarded Hindu temples and other places of worship, quickly settling the unrest.

Yunus's "council of advisors", the de facto cabinet now administering the country, said it had noted with "grave concern" some attacks on Hindus and other minorities. In its first official statement on Sunday night, the cabinet said it would work to "find ways to resolve such heinous attacks".

## Helicopter crashes into hotel roof in northeast Australia

SYDNEY (INP): A helicopter crashed into the top of a Hilton hotel in northeastern Australia on Monday, killing the pilot and igniting a fiery explosion on the building's roof.

Hundreds of patrons were evacuated from the DoubleTree by Hilton in the tropical tourist hub of Cairns after the twin-engine helicopter crashed around 1:50 am local time.

Mangled pieces of the helicopter's propeller landed in the hotel's pool, an emergency services official said.

Witness Amanda Kay said her assistance dog woke her up before the crash, which she watched from her balcony nearby.

"There was a light chopper and it was flying super low, with no

clearance lights on," she told reporters.

"There was this huge explosion because it had crashed into the building. It was a big bang."

Police said the pilot, who was the sole passenger in the helicopter, died at the scene.

Two people who were staying in a room close to where the helicopter crashed around 1:50 am local time.

Images showed a bright plume of fire blazing on the hotel's roof.

"They just flew into that building," a female voice says in a video shared on social media that captured the aftermath. "Madness, man," she adds as sirens blare in the background.

"Shivers. People were living. People were living. People were living. People were living."

Queensland Ambulance supervisor Caitlin Denning said the aircraft's propellers had "dislodged".

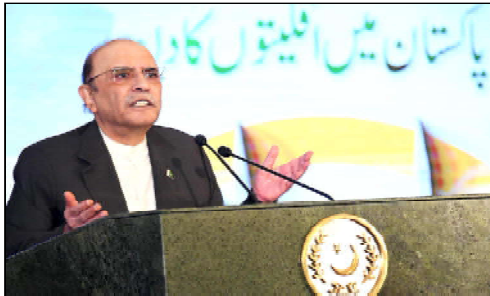
"Our job now is to look at the facts that we can gather over the next couple of days, and to establish the sequence of events," he told reporters.

"We want to understand... what the helicopter was doing at the time, and the nature of the flight."

A team of government experts from the Australian Transport Safety Bureau have been dispatched to the crash site. The safety bureau appealed for witnesses to come forward if they had "photos or video footage of the aircraft at any phase of the flight" or if they "heard the helicopter prior to impact".



ISLAMABAD: Mohammad Yahya, United Nations Residence Coordinator in Pakistan calls on Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari addressing a ceremony in connection with Minorities' Day in Pakistan, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Two migrants lose lives in channel crossing to Britain

LONDON (INP): Two migrants died in the Channel off the northern coast of France trying to reach Britain by boat, French maritime authorities said.

The new drownings near the French city of Calais mean nine people have lost their lives attempting the dangerous sea crossing this month alone, and 25 since the start of the year.

A boat was signalled as being in distress on Sunday morning, the maritime authorities said.

The vessel in trouble 10 kilometres (6 miles) north of Calais had 56 migrants on board, said Jacques Billant, prefect of the Pas-de-Calais department.

Among the 54 surviving passengers, and another 50 people from

another boat who were rescued, five were receiving medical care, he said.

In 2023, 12 migrants had died at sea trying to reach what they hoped would be a better life in Britain, according to the French authorities.

The death toll this year has already surpassed that, with 25 migrants who have lost their lives since January, Billant said.

He said those crossing the sea often did so "without a lifeline", on "very poor quality" boats that were not inflated enough and often without a solid bottom... or decent engine".

"This border kills in the greatest of silences," it said.

As of August 8, 17,639 people had

crossed the sea on so-called "small boats" to Britain this year, according to an AFP tally of British government figures.

That is very close to the figure for the same period in 2022, a year of record crossings.

After the Labour party's victory in the British general election in July, Prime Minister Keir Starmer and France's President Emmanuel Macron pledged to strengthen "cooperation" in handling the surge in undocumented migrant numbers.

Starmer has cancelled a plan by the former Conservative government to send irregular migrants to a holding camp in Rwanda. French authorities seek to stop migrants taking to the water but do not intervene once they are afloat except for rescue purposes, citing safety concerns.

Meanwhile, both governments are seeking to crack down on the people-smuggling gangs who organise the crossings and are paid thousands of euros by each migrant for the risky trip.

Billant said more than 350 people have been arrested and 15 "smuggler networks" dismantled since the start of the year.

The new migrant deaths come as the United Kingdom has been rocked by anti-migrant unrest, following a knife attack on July 29 that killed three children and was falsely linked to social media to a Muslim immigrant. Thousands of anti-racism demonstrators rallied across the United Kingdom on Saturday against the riots that targeted mosques and hotels linked to immigration.

## Fire breaks out at cooling tower of Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant

MOSCOW (INP): Kyiv and Moscow traded blame on after a fire broke out at a cooling tower of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, under control of Russian forces.

Ukraine, Russia and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said there had been no detected spike in radiation levels or any impact on nuclear safety.

A Moscow-installed official Vladimir Rogov, said the blaze at a cooling tower has been "completely extinguished" in a telegram post Monday.

He and Yevgeny Balitsky, the Moscow-installed governor of

Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia region, blamed "Ukrainian armed forces" for the incident.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a social media post that "Russian occupiers have started a fire" at the plant, accusing them of trying to "blackmail" Kyiv.

Currently, radiation levels are within the norm," he added. Balitsky and the facility's press service also reported the "radiation background" around the plant, said.

"IAEA experts witnessed strong dark smoke coming from ZNPP's northern area following multiple explosions heard in the evening," the IAEA agency said in a post on social media platform X.

It said the plant had reported to them an "alleged drone attack today on one of the cooling towers". In a later statement, the IAEA said it had requested that its team get "immediate access to the cooling tower to assess the damage".

Kyiv has accused Russia of purposefully starting the fire. "Russia must be held accountable for this. Only Ukrainian control over the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant can guarantee a return to normalcy and complete safety," Zelenskyy said.

Ukraine's interior minister Shvets said the agency said in a post on social media platform X that "intensively monitoring" radiation levels from nearby meteorological stations.

All six of its reactors are currently in cold shutdown, the plant's press service said after the incident.

"There is no threat of a steam explosion or any other consequences," Balitsky said. A video published by Zelenskyy showed black smoke billowing out of one of the station's cooling towers as red flames licked around the Zaporizhzhia nuclear

## District Chairman Panjur And DC Panjur Injured In Mastung Attack

From Our Correspondent:

MASTUNG: District Chairman of Balochistan, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, Deputy Commissioner Panjur Zakir Baloch were targeted in an armed attack in Mastung district on Monday evening.

The injured were taken to the hospital for medical treatment. Police and levies reached the spot and started an investigation into the incident.

Chairman Abdul Malik is the brother of the National Party (NP) member of the

former Chief Minister of Balochistan, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, alongside District Secretary

General Jan Muhammad Buledi, denounced the act as an unacceptable attempt to undermine the region's nationalist and patriotic leadership.

"This is a clear and deliberate effort to worsen the situation in Balochistan under a well-thought-out plan," stated Dr. Baloch.

Both leaders emphasized that such incidents of terrorism will not be tolerated and called for immediate action to bring the perpetrators to justice.

The attack, seen as a direct challenge to

the stability of Balochistan, has prompted calls for

hanced security measures for public officials in the province.

procurement of goods through electronic or manual bid submission, is a mandatory requirement for all bidders to get registered at electronic procurement system of BPPRA/GOB. The Executive Engineer, Quetta invites bids from eligible bidders for execution of following works for the year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2010 (Percentage Rates).

Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and Bid Security 2% S.No Name of Works E/Coat 41,112,000

1. SEPAQUE CONTROL OF HANNA LAKE DISTRICT QUETTA. Procurement shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Procurement in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Bidder must have completed 2 Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 13,571,400 PKR. Amount of subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-5 and above (Up to Rs. million) Relevant Category And Specialized Code is (CE/41) Irrigation & Flood Control System, CE/41(a) (same only). Under taking on judicial stamp paper that the firm was never black listed by any Government (Semi Government Organization). Bidder must provide Work Order of 2 Lcr of Items (Gravity Drain) with the Minimum Cost of 49,000 Million (Completed). Gross Contract Rs. 1000 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 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed. 1,000 PKR/Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 28 August, 2024 during office hours on working days. Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest 28 August, 2024 at 11:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM Address: Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Quetta

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION QUETTA

PRO No.514/12-08-2024

Central President and

### Dengue larvae found at 604 locations, 14 new cases reported in ICT

ISLAMABAD (INP): Dengue larvae has been found at 604 locations and 14 new cases were reported across Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) as administration continues efforts to control the spread of disease.

This was revealed during an important meeting held under the chair of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Usman Ashraf on Monday to review the situation.

According to spokesman of ICT administration, the city officials discussed the ongoing dengue situation and reviewed the reported cases during the recent meeting.

ADC Usman Ashraf di-

rected the officials of district administration for intensified their efforts to control dengue larvae and its breeding in the federal capital.

The meeting focused on the measures needed to tackle the spread of dengue, particularly through the control of mosquito larvae.

The officials of the district administration informed that action has been taken against several business centers and under-construction sites where larvae were found. This crackdown also led to the arrest of several individuals for not complying with dengue Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

The officials briefed the

ADC that in the past week, 604 locations were inspected for dengue larvae. Out of these, 174 larvae were detected in rural areas and 430 in urban areas.

The measures have committed to intensifying efforts against the breeding of dengue mosquitoes, with ADC Ashraf directing that dengue SOPs be strictly enforced across the city.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioners and officials from the Health Departments, who are now working to ensure that preventive measures are implemented effectively in both rural and urban areas.



ISLAMABAD: Henny Fokel De Vries, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherland called on Minister for Defence, Defence Production and Aviation Khawaja Muhammad Asif.

### LHC decision annulled; SC restores ECP's decision regarding recount in NA-154, NA-81, NA-79

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court (SC) has declared null and void a decision of the Lahore High Court, and reinstated a decision given by the Election Commission of Pakistan after a recount regarding three constituencies of the National Assembly.

A three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa pronounced a reserved verdict regarding the recount in three constituencies of the National Assembly.

The bench also included Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Aqeel Ahmad Abbasi.

The Supreme Court allowed the appeals of PML-N leaders related to a recount of votes from various polling stations in NA-154, NA-81 and NA-79. The PML-N leaders declared successful in the recount were reinstated.

The Supreme Court

passed the decision by a majority of two to one, as CJP Isa and Justice Afghan accepted the PML-N leaders' appeals against the LHC decision, while Justice Aqeel Abbasi disagreed with the decision.

The apex court stated that the election commission is a constitutional institution and deserves respect, but the high court judges made unnecessary remarks about the head and members of the election commission. The decision of the Lahore High Court cannot be upheld, it remarked.

It should be noted that on April 25, the Lahore High Court had invalidated the election commission's notices to two PTI-backed independent members on their requests for recount in their National Assembly constituencies.

In the general elections, three independent candidates affiliated with PTI Rana Faraz

Noon from NA-154, Bilal Ejaz from NA-81 Gujranwala, and Ehsanullah Wark from NA-79 Gujranwala—were initially declared successful.

However, PML-N candidates Abdul Rehman Kanju, Azhar Qayum Nagra, and Zulfiqar Ahmed requested a recount from the ECP. Following the recount, the ECP declared Nagra the winner, with a margin of 3,100 votes, though at least 10,000 of Nagra's votes were invalidated during the recount. The independent candidates challenged the ECP's decision in the LHC, the court annulled the commission's ruling and reinstated the original winners. PML-N members then appealed the LHC's decision to the SC. The apex court, in a majority decision, reinstated the ECP's ruling and approved the appeals of the PML-N candidates.

### Finance Minister briefs PepsiCo CEOs about Pakistan's economic progress

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday briefed the CEOs of PepsiCo for different countries about economic progress of Pakistan.

A meeting of the finance minister with PepsiCo's CEO for Africa, ME & SA Mr. Eugene Willemssen accompanied by CEO Pakistan and Afghanistan Mr. Muhammad Khosa was held at Finance Division.

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb welcomed Mr. Willemssen and provided an update on Pakistan's economic progress besides highlighting recent improvements, including increased foreign

exchange reserves, decreased inflation, and stable currency.

He attributed these positive indicators to the successful completion of the nine-month stand-by arrangement (SBA) with the IMF and mentioned that a staff-level agreement (SLA) has been reached to ensure continued economic stability.

The finance minister also spoke about ongoing reforms in the energy sector, state-owned enterprises (SOEs), and taxation, emphasizing the government's initiative to incorporate undertaxed and untaxed entities into the tax net.

He appreciated the highlighting recent improvements, including increased foreign

and overall economic growth.

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb while talking about the digitization in FBR, discussed the integrating RASTA (the digital payment system) and NADRA (the national database and registration authority) to further improve efficiency.

CEO PepsiCo for Africa Mr. Willemssen expressed appreciation for Pakistan's positive economic indicators and noted the growth in the financial sector.

The meeting underscored the commitment of both parties to foster continued economic development and explore collaborative opportunities in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with PepsiCo's CEO for Africa, ME & SA Eugene Willemssen accompanied by CEO Pakistan and Afghanistan Mr. Muhammad Khosa.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with students at the International Youth Day ceremony.

### President, PM vow to foster supportive environment for youth

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif have vowed to foster supportive environment for youth.

In their messages on International Youth Day, they said the youth of Pakistan are the most valuable asset as they are the dreamers and leaders of tomorrow.

The President said it is Government's duty to provide them with the opportunities and resources they need to fulfill their potential and build a prosperous and progressive Pakistan.

Asif Ali Zardari said the Prime Minister's Youth Programme stands as a testament to

government's commitment to empowering youth.

He said as President, he is proud of the accomplishments of our young people. He urged every young Pakistani to seize the opportunities available to them, to dream big, and to work tirelessly for the betterment of the country.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in his message, said Pakistan's over sixty percent of population is under the age of thirty. Shehbaz Sharif said young people can become agent for positive change in their communities through education, entrepreneurship and social activism.

The Prime Minister said

the Youth Loan and Agricultural Scheme, which was introduced in 2013, is yielding significant results and approximately one hundred eighty-six billion rupees have been distributed to over two hundred and eighty thousand young entrepreneurs.

Shehbaz Sharif said the government aims to broaden the scope of this initiative, with plans to allocate an additional one hundred billion rupees during the current financial year, empowering around three hundred thousand young entrepreneurs across the country.

This year's theme of the Day is: From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development.

### Empowering youth to transform Pakistan into developed country govt's top priority: PM

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has said that empowering youth to transform Pakistan into a thriving and developed nation is top priority of the incumbent government for which it will allocate ample resources for them.

Addressing an event organized by the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP), in connection with the International Day of Youth here on Monday, he recalled his service as Chief Minister of Punjab under the leadership of President Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and pledged to provide opportunities for the youth to change the country's destiny as prime minister.

Premier Shehbaz Sharif acknowledged that youth of Pakistan have the potential to elevate the nation to new heights, if given access to modern education and resources.

Expressing his vision of equipping talented youth with modern education, Information Technology, and Artificial Intelligence to spark a revolution in the country, similar to the progress seen in China, he highlighted his previous efforts in

providing modern facilities to students at Danish Schools.

The prime minister also lamented that, despite having abundant resources and 77 years of independence, the country remains heavily burdened by debt.

He noted that extreme poverty prevents many from affording basic needs, such as arranging marriages for their daughters, while the country's elite class enjoys significant privileges.

He stated that this year, the federal government will provide one million smartphones, tablets, and laptops to top-performing students across the country, including those from Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, and remote areas of Balochistan. Additionally, each province has its separate programs to support students, he added.

Additionally, PM Shehbaz Sharif announced that he will personally fund the education of 1,000 agricultural graduates in China, aiming to equip them with modern technology to boost rice production. Huawei was also committed to sending 200,000 youth for IT training

and advanced education, he said adding that he will unveil a comprehensive development plan for the country on August 14.

He stated that nothing was impossible in this world and emphasized the need to progress by learning from past mistakes. He assured that the country's hockey will be revived. Praising javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem, he noted that Nadeem had won a gold medal for the country after a drought of over 40 years.

At the beginning of the event, the prime minister officially launched several key initiatives, including the Commonwealth Youth Alliance Secretariat in Islamabad, the Digital Learning Portal, the PM Green Youth Movement, and the AI for Youth Programme, which offers Intel-certified skills to young people. Other initiatives included Smart Youth, Smart Pakistan, and the distribution of one million tablets and mobile phones to high-achieving intermediate students. He also announced the registration of the National Volunteer Corps.

Later, PM Shehbaz Sharif presented awards to successful young entrepreneurs.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a meeting with Minister for State of Japan Toshiko Abe.

### Bushra Bibi's bail in 12 cases of May 9 rejected bail pleas

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Anti-Terrorism Court of Rawalpindi has rejected the interim bail pleas of Bushra Bibi, the wife of former prime minister Imran Khan.

Khan, in connection with 12 cases related to the May 9, 2023 incidents, was arrested.

The court, presided over by Judge Malik Ijaz Asif, has ordered the police to complete their investigation of these cases within the next seven days.

The hearing, which took place at Adiala Jail, saw Bushra Bibi's interim bail applications

dismissed as the court emphasized the necessity of investigating the numerous charges against her.

"When a suspect is arrested in so many cases, an investigation is necessary," the court remarked and adjourned the hearing of all related cases until August 22.

The May 9 cases, which involve over 500 suspected individuals, have led to significant legal proceedings. The presence of all 500 suspects was marked. Several high-profile fig-

ures, including Imran Khan, Sheikh Rashid, Shibli Faraz, Ghulam Sarwar, Sadagat Abbasi, Shireen Mazari, and Azam Swati, were also present during the hearing at the specially arranged courtroom within Adiala Jail. PTI Founder Imran Khan was also produced in the courtroom set up in Adiala Jail.

The cases stem from the tragic events of May 9, which resulted in widespread unrest and led to a series of arrests and legal actions.