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## DAILY MIRROR

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## Sarfaraz Bugti Urges Lawyers to Address Public Issues

APP

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti hailed the formation of constitutional benches as a historic initiative by the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and allied parties, urging lawyers to play a proactive role in addressing public issues and guiding communities, especially in remote areas.

Bugti emphasized his government's commitment to establishing good governance in Balochistan, noting that lawyers, as educated and aware members of society, could facilitate the implementation of governmental initiatives.

Speaking at a meeting with the People's Lawyers Forum (PLF) officials and members on Tuesday, Chief Minister Bugti discussed Balochistan's overall political and social landscape with provincial ministers Mir Sadiq Umrani, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, and Haji Ali Madad Jattak, as well as party leader Syed Iqbal Shah in attendance.

During the meeting, prayers were offered for the victims of the recent railway station bombing and for the speedy recovery of President Asif Ali Zardari.

A special committee, led by the Chief Minister, was also established to strengthen the People's Lawyers Forum's unity and effectiveness. This committee includes provincial ministers Mir Sadiq Umrani, Haji Ali Madad Jattak, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, senior party leader Syed Iqbal Shah, and four representatives from the PLF. The provincial president of PLF will serve as the committee's secretary.

In his address to the PLF members, Chief Minister Bugti stressed the importance of collective action across society, including the legal community, in the fight against terrorism. He reiterated that the battle against terrorism is not solely the responsibility of the military or security forces but one that every citizen must contribute to, highlighting the need to eliminate terrorism for the secure future of coming generations.



BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing the High-Level Climate Finance Roundtable hosted by Pakistan at COP-29 Climate Action Summit in Baku.

## Pakistan calls for 'redefining' climate finance strategy to help vulnerable nations

"Today we stand at a crucial threshold," PM Shehbaz

ONLINE

BAKU: Ahead of the 29th United Nations climate conference, also known as COP29, in Baku, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has called for "redefining" the global climate finance framework to "effectively meet the needs of vulnerable nations". The premier made these remarks while addressing the Climate Finance Roundtable Conference, which was attended by multiple global leaders, held on the sidelines of "World Leaders' Climate Action Summit" of the COP29.

While elaborating the purpose of the roundtable, PM Shehbaz briefed the participants that it was intended to foster new thinking on an old problem that was becoming complicated on all the international climate forums without yielding substantial results.

He emphasised the urgent need to build momentum for reforming international financial architecture, "forging a path where no nation is left behind in the global response to climate

change."

PM Shehbaz called climate financing an "urgent need of the hour", stating that developing countries need to deliver Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and "need an estimated \$6.8 trillion by 2030 to implement less than half of their current NDCs."

He underscored that the donor countries should fulfill their commitment to provide 0.7% of their gross national income as developing assistance and capitalise existing climate funds.

Furthermore, the prime minister said debt cannot become the "acceptable new normal" in climate financing which was why the world should focus on non-debt financing solutions enabling developing countries to fund climate initiatives without depositing an additional burden.

He explained that financing in the form of loans further enhance the debt of developing nations and potentially pushes them towards "mounting debt traps" which he referred to as "death traps".

## French envoy praises Pakistan's economic reform agenda

APP

ISLAMABAD: French Ambassador Mr. Noeholas Galey called on Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb in Islamabad today.

During the meeting, issues of mutual interest, including bilateral cooperation and collaboration in trade, commerce and socio-economic sectors, were discussed.

The Minister shared with the French Ambassador an update on the state of the economy and

the significant improvement manifested in macro-economic indicators during the last 14 months. He said the management of twin deficits, a stable currency, surging remittances and a steady rise in foreign reserves can provide Pakistan enough room to access the international capital market in coming months for enhanced institutional flows.

Muhammad Aurangzeb stressed that the wide-ranging reforms undertaken in various sectors, particularly in taxation, energy, privatization and governance, are a work in progress, for an export-led growth and encouraging Foreign Direct Investment that generates exportable surplus.

## PM, world leaders discuss environment-related issues

APP

BAKU: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held informal meetings with world leaders at the opening ceremony of the 29th Climate Action Summit Cop-29 in Baku today.

He interacted with UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and discussed cooperation on climate change and matters of mutual interest.

The Prime Minister also met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and First Lady Emine Erdogan. They discussed cooperation on globally highlighting issues of environmental pollution and climate change as well as matters of mutual interest between Turkey and Pakistan.

Besides, Shehbaz Sharif met with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Tajik President Emomali Rahmon. They discussed conservation of glaciers and water resources in Central

Asian countries and Pakistan. They also exchanged views on expanding communication links among Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister also talked to Nepalese President Ramchandra Paudel and Chief Advisor of Bangladesh's Interim Government Dr. Muhammad Yunus.

They discussed growing temperatures, the threat of rising sea levels, and forest conservation in South Asia. Additionally, they talked about enhancing bilateral relations between Pakistan and both Bangladesh and Nepal.

The Prime Minister also met his British counterpart Sir Keir Starmer and discussed enhancing Pakistan-UK cooperation.

Furthermore, he interacted with Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. They discussed strengthening Pakistan-Kazakhstan relations and expanding regional connectivity.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhel in a meeting with Provincial Secretary Lal Jan Jaffar.

## Omar Ayub, other PTI leaders released after brief detention in Rawalpindi: police

INP

RAWALPINDI: Several top PTI leaders were taken into custody on Tuesday from outside the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi for violating Section 144 but were released shortly afterwards after being issued a warning, police said.

Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure is a legal provision that empowers district administrations to prohibit an assembly of four or more people in an area for a limited period. It is usually imposed to prevent potential disturbances, maintain law and order, and curb any activities that might escalate into violence.

According to Punjab Police spokesperson, Sajjadul Hassan, "PTI workers were detained for violating Section 144 but were released after being issued a warning."

"The enforcement of the law will be ensured in any case," said the police spokesperson.

Earlier, the PTI had said that several of its leaders were arrested from outside the Adiala Jail when they went to meet their incarcerated leader, Imran Khan, terming the move "absolutely shameful."

"Absolutely shameful! Omar Ayub Khan, Shibli Faraz, Asad Qaiser, Ahmed Bhachar, Sahibzada Hamid Raza have been arrested outside Adiala Jail, for simply exercising their right to meet with Imran Khan, as permitted by law," the PTI said in a post on X.

"This should alarm anyone who values the rule of law, as it shows how basic freedoms are being trampled upon," it added.

Punjab Assembly Opposition Leader Malik Ahmed Bhachar and ally Sunni Itehad Council (SIC) MNA Sahibzada Hamid Raza were also among those arrested, the party said.

## NA Speaker urges collective effort to raise awareness about pneumonia

INP

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Tuesday highlighted the vital role of parents, teachers, media, and civil society in raising awareness about pneumonia, particularly among the general public.

In his message for World Pneumonia Day, the speaker emphasized that everyone must contribute to the effort to realize the vision of a healthy and safe Pakistan. He also stressed the importance of providing every citizen with comprehensive and accurate health information. Pakistan's cuisine

Speaker stated that parliament has consistently played a key role in developing comprehensive plans and policies to address health-related issues.

The speaker stressed the need for timely actions to prevent deadly diseases like pneumonia, which impacts a significant number of children and the elderly worldwide, including in Pakistan, every year.

He stated that all possible measures are being taken to provide modern vaccines and medical facilities in the health-care sector. Additionally, he emphasized that parliament plays a crucial role in enacting laws for health sector reforms and the elimination of life-threatening diseases.

The speaker said that eliminating this deadly disease is possible through vaccination, a balanced diet, a healthy lifestyle, the use of clean water, and other preventive measures.

## CGS Lt Gen Muhammad Avais meets Commander PLA Gen Li Qiaoming

APP

Rawalpindi: A meeting between Gen Li Qiaoming, Commander PLA Army and Lt Gen Muhammad Avais Dastgir, CGS Pakistan Army was held at PLA Army Headquarters, Beijing on 11 November 2024. Discussion was focused on evolving global and regional situation and follow up on measures for enhancing bilateral military to military cooperation. During the meeting, CGS offered heartfelt condolences on loss of Chinese lives in recent terrorist attack in Karachi and affirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to ensure enhanced security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan. The dignity from China acknowledged Pakistan Army's efforts and measures for improving the security of Chinese and assured wholehearted support to Pakistan.

## Nawaz Sharif advises India to send cricket team to Pakistan in bid to improve relations

Ex-PM also stresses the importance of fostering good relationships with other neighbouring countries

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif has urged India to send its cricket team to Pakistan, suggesting that such initiative could help improve bilateral relations if tensions persist, on Tuesday.

Nawaz was speaking to the media in London alongside his daughter, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz.

Referring to India's decision not to send its team to the Champions Trophy, he reiterated that India should visit Pakistan for matches. "If relations are strained, they need to be improved. People want to see the Indian cricket team play in Pakistan," he added. Nawaz also stressed the importance of fostering good relationships with other

neighbouring countries. He expressed his view on the current state of relations between Pakistan and the United States, stating that both countries should work towards strengthening their ties.

"Pakistan and the US should have good relations. In the past, our relations were strong, but there is a need for further improvement," he said. Nawaz further condemned the recent attack on former CJP Qazi Faez Isa's car in London, calling it a reflection of a growing culture of disrespect. "It's unfortunate that this culture of incivility is being nurtured, and the opposition party in power has promoted this behaviour," he said. He also criticised the involvement of young individuals in such actions, stating that they were instructed to chase vehicles and engage in disruptive behaviour.

## Constitutional bench to start hearing cases from Nov 14: Supreme Court

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Tuesday announced that the recently established constitutional bench will start hearing cases on November 14 and 15 on a "first in, first out basis."

Earlier, the SC constituted a three-judge committee to fix cases, issue court rosters, form benches, and decide weekly caseload for its recently established constitutional bench. The committee held a meeting today which was chaired by Justice Aminud Din Khan (head of the constitutional bench) and attended by Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail and Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, who participated through a telephone call from Karachi. The SC said in a press release, a copy

of which is available with Dawn.com, the purpose of the meeting was to discuss matters for the formation of the constitutional bench. During the meeting, the committee was briefed by the court's registrar's office regarding the pending constitutional cases, the statement said adding, "[The] committee resolved that priority shall be accorded to the oldest cases." On Nov 5, the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP), in its maiden session, had picked Justice Amin as head of the constitutional bench by a seven-to-five majority. Chaired by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Yahya Afridi, the reconstituted JCP for-m-ed a seven-member constitutional bench, including Justices Ami-nud Din Khan, Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Muha-m-mad Ali Mazhar, Ayesha A.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti Speaking at a meeting with the People's Lawyers Forum (PLF) officials and members.

## Achakzai calls for immediate transparent elections to -resolve Pakistan's crisis

INP

LORALAI: Mahmood Khan Achakzai, leader of the Pashtun Khawa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) has called for immediate and transparent elections as the only viable solution to Pakistan's ongoing political and security crisis.

Speaking on the final day of the two-day Aman Jirga (Peace Jirga) held in Loralai, Balochistan, Achakzai emphasized that the country's political system is paralyzed, and the federal government's growing intervention in provincial affairs is undermining regional autonomy.

In his address, Achakzai, a prominent Pashtun leader and head of the opposition alliance Tehreek-e-Tafaquz-e-Pakistan, asserted that the current government, which he described as being formed under Form 47, lacks legitimacy and does not reflect the will of the people.

He called for the restoration of the provincial autonomy as outlined in Pakistan's 18th Amendment, stressing that the provincial administrative powers should be returned from federal institutions to the provincial governments.

"The only way out of this crisis is through holding quick

and transparent elections," Achakzai said. He added that the growing interference by the federal government in Balochistan and other provinces is raising serious questions about the country's commitment to provincial autonomy.

Achakzai's comments come at a time when concerns about the weakening of provincial powers have intensified, particularly in the face of rising political instability and security challenges.

He also warned that Pakistan's internal issues were contributing to a broader regional crisis, particularly in Afghanistan.

According to Achakzai, if Pakistan demonstrated sincerity, many of the challenges facing Afghanistan, including terrorism and instability, could be addressed.

He estimated that 60 percent of Afghanistan's problems could be resolved through genuine cooperation and improved relations between the two countries.

The Aman Jirga, which was hosted by Nawab Ayaz Khan Jozegai and Abdul Rahim Ziaratwal, brought together leaders and activists from across the region to discuss solutions to the growing security concerns, particularly the rising tide of terrorism affecting Pakistan's Pashtun community.

terrorism affecting Pakistan's Pashtun community.

In his speech, Achakzai condemned the daily acts of terrorism and the resulting loss of innocent lives, particularly in areas like Quetta, where recent attacks have targeted civilians, including at the Quetta railway station.

"Parliament has become helpless in the face of this daily bloodshed. After each terrorist attack, the people face even greater hardship, and it is clear that the Pakhtuns, as well as all Pakistanis, need to unite and take decisive action to secure their future," Achakzai stated.

The Aman Jirga also called for a stronger unity among the Pashtun people to address the growing challenges. The event marked a significant moment of solidarity as participants expressed their collective determination to pursue peace and security through grassroots efforts, such as the Jirga, rather than relying on ineffective government policies.

Achakzai's remarks underscore the urgency felt by many leaders in the region, who believe that only through genuine democratic processes and a respect for provincial autonomy can Pakistan overcome its current political and security challenges.

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## System failure

**THE experiments continue apace, with nary a worry for their consequences. Internet users countrywide experienced yet another disruption in their digital lives this past Sunday when an "issue with the system" rendered not only various VPN services but also popular platforms useless or inaccessible for a period of five hours or so.**

This time, the problems faced by internet users were not specific: some said they could not use VPNs at all, some said they could use them on mobile data, some said they were only working on broadband, while others still said they faced no issue. At the same time, various websites, social media platforms, internet service providers and even bank payment systems were also seemingly affected by the breakdown. As usual, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority decided it would say nothing about what was going on, leaving the people speculating about what fresh changes it was making to the internet communications infrastructure. Clearly, the authorities have yet to come to terms with how rapidly Pakistan is adapting to the digital age. From the bustling metropolises to rural backwaters, smartphones have connected Pakistanis of all shades to the modern world like never before and created unprecedented economic opportunities both for the country and for those within it in the process. However, it often appears as if the relevant institutions still see the right to internet connectivity as an essential means of communication as a privilege. They often treat it with the same disdain as they do civil and political rights. They seem to believe that all digital activity should be managed with an 'on/ off switch', with which the voices of millions of users can be silenced on a whim. And because few dare to question such ideas or ask for accountability, their actions continue to cause immeasurable economic damage. Just a few months ago, a popular freelancing platform had temporarily flagged Pakistani gig workers as 'unavailable' because of their inability to ensure uninterrupted accessibility to their clients. Many industry leaders and commerce bodies also warned that continuous experimentation with the country's communications infrastructure would discourage foreign investors from setting up shop in Pakistan or outsourcing their business to local service providers. It seems that those warnings fell on deaf ears. It is also not only those who export their services who are being affected. Local e-commerce, which has mushroomed in recent years, has faced severe disturbances due to our authorities' inability to resist tinkering with the internet, and many businesses stand to lose serious money if the situation does not improve soon. Given the already decrepit state of our economy, this should be unacceptable to policymakers — more so since Pakistan plans to leverage its digital economy to boost overall growth.

By Arifa Noor

## The roads are killing us

**LAST week, the prime minister found time to inaugurate two flyovers in Islamabad. Despite the 'live coverage' on television, it wasn't a news item that attracted much attention.**

Most people were too busy discussing the judiciary, the failed attempt to sell PIA, or the smog in Lahore and the rest of Punjab, with the provincial capital topping pollution charts worldwide.

But as discussion focused on Lahore's ranking and the filth that most urban residents in Pakistan inhale all year, a greyness also descended on Islamabad. By the end of the week, winter sunshine in the capital had disappeared, as had the clear views of the Margalla Hills.

While this is relatively new for Islamabad, it is not unfamiliar. An exceptionally dry spell the previous winter had covered our lives with similar dullness. In other words, the infamous smog has reached the capital too; it will stay until there is rain. True, Islamabad can't compare with Lahore, but it's a beginning. And we know how this story ends — in many shades of grey and no sun.

But what does this have to do with the prime minister's presence at city events in Islamabad, some may wonder. Everything. For while we moan and groan about the poison the people breathe in, day in and day out, and discuss industrial pollution in cities and how the winds from India are to blame, the issue will not be addressed until we change the way we think. Cities cannot become concrete jungles of flyovers and interchanges for the comfort of cars and still ensure blue skies and clean air.

Politicians continue to be obsessed with brick-and-mortar projects, equating them with development and good governance. In this outdated worldview, roads, flyovers and interchanges are the cool kids of development projects. Modern-day Lahore is a testament to it; where concrete crept up on large parts of 'elite' Lahore — Gulberg, Liberty, Model Town, DHA. Roads were widened, signal-free corridors added, and when all else failed, flyovers were squeezed in so that cars could zip around.

In the process, the green areas were narrowed and even done away with altogether. Ask those who

remember the green belt that made up the Gulberg Boulevard before it was shrunk, planted with palm trees, and the road widened. Few people might remember, but they may have noticed that the wide road is no longer enough for the traffic, which has grown exponentially since.

Cities cannot become concrete jungles of flyovers and interchanges and still have clean air.

As Kevin Costner once told us, build and they will come. What we in Pakistan did not and do not realise is that once roads are built, the cars will come; so many that the bigger roads will not be enough either. And with the traffic comes air pollution, which is the far bigger cause of the smog than winds from India.

The same solution/problem was imported to Islamabad during the Gen Musharraf years, when the avenues were widened needlessly. Needlessly because more than a decade after Musharraf has left, traffic in the city is still not enough to warrant these wide avenues. But we continue to build more roads, widen the existing ones, and build flyovers because traffic should whizz through a city the way it does on highways and motorways.

No one complains or protests because it suits the policymakers and the rich — the same people who will petition the courts about Monal, stone-crushing, and the sanctity of the Margalla Hills but never about the concrete that is conquering the city. Roads suit those who can afford cars, and hence it is easier to pretend this is not about the environment.

Roads, frankly, are a project for the rich and by the rich. Anyone living in Islamabad will realise this if they glance sideways, while whizzing down a wide road at 80 or 100 kilometres per hour. On either side, ordinary people stand, trying to figure out when they should run across without being run over; they have to run because there is no dignified way of crossing many roads.

The motorists may also notice, if they bothered to look, the people standing patiently at one end of the flyover, hoping for someone to slow down and offer them a lift to the other end. Because that flyover takes a car just seconds to traverse but a pedestrian much longer.

By Ammar Qaseem

## Power discipline

**ELECTRICITY demand in the national grid plummeted by 17 per cent in August this year, compared to the same period last year. It is common to attribute the blame to unforeseen circumstances or incorrect forecasting, as is evident in the recent memoirs of former civil servant Salman Faruqi, who attributed the induction of a large number of IPPs in the national grid to incorrect projections of electricity demand by the government in the 1990s. While his account may carry weight, it is high time the government realised that the plummeting demand for electricity is not independent of its own behaviour.**

Flawed planning, coupled with erratic policies, has alienated consumers and investors alike, and the recent rise in rooftop net metering is an example of the public's growing distrust in the government's ability to provide reliable energy. This comes at a time when the government is planning to add 19.8 GW of additional generation capacity in the grid within the next decade. Without careful reassessment, Pakistan risks burdening itself with unnecessary electricity projects that could impose unsustainable costs for generations to come, a mistake that we have continued to make in the past and are in the process of making yet again.

The government's planning of generation capacity expansion continues to face credibility challenges despite being regularly conducted within an established regulatory framework. The Integrated Generation Capacity Expansion Plan is a comprehensive document prepared annually by the National

Transmission and Despatch Company as per the Grid Code, 2022, and approved by the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra). The IGCEP plays a crucial role in the power sector, outlining the specific power plants that will be constructed under least-cost criteria in the next 10 years. The plan notably limits the share of wind and solar technologies to 13 per cent of the total capacity by 2034, in stark violation of the Alternative and Renewable Energy policy, 2019, in which a target of 30pc wind and solar capacity by 2030 was set by the government.

Pakistan risks burdening itself with unnecessary electricity projects.

A critical evaluation carried out by Renewables First and the Policy Research Institute for Equitable Development has further shown that nearly \$10 billion can be saved in total system costs if projects that are deemed committed beyond 2027 in the latest IGCEP are re-evaluated on merit. At the same time, this re-evaluation would allow for a higher share of wind and solar technologies in the national grid — as high as 20pc (10 GW) of the total capacity by 2034 in medium-growth scenarios. Committed projects are plants that have not been built or have not entered commercial operation to date, yet their feasibility is not evaluated by the IGCEP, and they bypass the least-cost criteria under the pretext of their advanced status.

It is also important to note that the net metering quantum continues to increase in the national grid and has already crossed 2 GW. If this trend continues, no further capacity additions would be necessary in the national grid. Measures must be

taken to improve electricity demand, including incentives for shifting captive load to the grid, augmentation and rehabilitation of the transmission system, and promotion of electric vehicle-friendly policies which can massively increase electricity off-take from the grid. It is also important to give up on mega-scale projects such as Diamer Bhasha and Chashma-5, which are neither needed in the grid, nor fulfil the least-cost criteria. While it is important to set clear plans, it is also necessary to implement them. Each year, the IGCEP lays down some quantum of wind and solar to be added to the national grid. However, the government has failed to procure a single project of re-newable technology through competitive bidding in the past five years. The attempt — twice — to procure 600 MW of solar technology under the fast-track framework failed spectacularly as it did not receive a single bid from investors. This was not hard to foresee, and the government had been warned by experts but their advice went unheeded. On the contrary, recent auctions by K-Electric received winning bids of four cents and 3.1 cents per unit for solar and hybrid projects, the lowest in our history, and a clear sign that investors would rather do business with the private sector than the government. Perhaps this is also an indication of the sector's readiness to be opened for competitive bilateral trade of electricity, as envisioned under the Co-mpetitive Trading Bilateral Contracts Market, formally approved by Nepra in 2020 but still awaiting operationalisation. Will the policymakers act in a timely and prudent manner? One certainly hopes so.

## Women MPs contributed legislation to safeguard political rights of women in Pakistan: Rehmani

APP

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) Dr. Shahida Rehmani on Tuesday highlighted significant legislative strides made by women Parliamentarians to safeguard the socio-economic and political rights of women and children in Pakistan.

During a meeting with Deputy Political Counsellor Karen Bronson and Political Officer Nelson Raymond Dr. Rehmani informed the US Embassy representatives about ongoing efforts to enhance women's access to quality healthcare services, secure women's political representation in political parties, Provincial Assemblies, and the Parliament, and establish a nationwide census to effectively address the diverse needs of women and children. She highlighted key achievements of WPC.

She also said that the formation of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus in the National Assembly was a significant step towards the betterment of children and women, and hence it has been deemed a

role model and praised at regional and international levels.

The meeting underscored the pivotal role of the WPC, a cross-party and non-partisan body of Women Parliamentarians, in advocating for the rights of women and children. The discussion also emphasized WPC's contributions to legislative processes aimed at ensuring the protection and empowerment of women and children in Pakistan. The US Embassy delegation commended the monumental contributions of the WPC in ensuring the betterment of women's socio-economic and political standing. They lauded WPC's sustained efforts to improve access to essential services, including healthcare, education, and economic opportunities, for women and children.

The delegation also expressed keen interest in collaborating with the WPC in the future to promote women's and children's rights both regionally and internationally. They praised the leadership of Dr. Shahida Rehmani as Secretary of WPC, expressing confidence in her ability to advance the agenda of women's empowerment.



Federal Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi exchanging views with Chaudhary Shujaat Hussain, President of Muslim League (PML-Q) during meeting held in Lahore

## Shujaat demands naming roads after Quetta blast martyrs

INP

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Moshin Naqvi on Tuesday called on Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain at his Gulberg residence in the capital.

PML-Q president condemned the Quetta railway station attack while demanding to name roads in Islamabad after the martyrs to which Naqvi agreed.

Both leaders expressed sympathy with the bereaved families of the martyrs who lost their lives in grisly Quetta blast.

"Pakistan has rendered unprecedented sacrifices in the war against terror. Thousands of people embraced martyrdom for which they will never be forgotten", said the PML-Q chief.

During the meeting, Naqvi vowed to eliminate terrorists from Pakistan's soil, adding that people of Pakistan would always remain indebted to the sacrifices given by its martyrs.

Shujaat also lauded Pakistan Cricket Team's performance in Australia where it won the series by 2-1 against the hosts.

## Royal Moroccan Air Force chief calls on Pakistan's Chief of Naval Staff

INP

ISLAMABAD: Inspector of the Royal Moroccan Air Force, Major General Mohammed Gadih, called on the Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, at Naval Headquarters in Islamabad on Tuesday.

During the meeting, professional matters of mutual interest, including bilateral collaboration and regional maritime security, were discussed. The Naval Chief said that Pakistan and Morocco enjoy cordial relations underpinned by mutual respect, growing economic ties and cooperation at multilateral forums. Various avenues, including bilateral training and exchange of visits, were also highlighted. The visiting dignitary appreciated and acknowledged Pakistan Navy's efforts and commitment in support of collaborative maritime security.

## Gilani expresses grief over tragic Astore bus accident

APP

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Tuesday expressed profound sorrow over a tragic bus accident near Astore, which claimed multiple lives.

In his message he extended heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased, affirming his solidarity with them in this time of grief. He offered prayers for the forgiveness and elevated ranks of those who lost their lives, patience for the bereaved families, and a swift recovery for the injured. Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan, leader of the House Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, and leader of the opposition Senator Syed Shibli Faraz also issued separate condolence messages, expressing deep sadness over the incident and offering their sympathies to the affected families.

## Implementation of Balochistan RTI Act, 2021 Urged

APP

QUETTA: Pakistan Information Commission, the Information Department of Balochistan and Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) on Tuesday jointly conducted a one-day dialogue on the implementation of the Balochistan Right to Know (RTI) Act, 2021. The event brought together a diverse audience from civil society, academia, media, and government officials, who collectively advocated for the immediate establishment of the Balochistan Information Commission and the appointment of PIOs. Participants emphasized the need to follow the examples set by Federal and other provinces such as Punjab, KP, and Sindh, which have enacted RTI laws

and established functioning commissions. This initiative was supported by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation. Moonus Kayinat Zahra, Project Manager at CPDI, emphasized the importance of today's gathering to advocate for the implementation of RTI Act. She highlighted the need to identify delays and recommend actionable steps for effective implementation. Zahra noted that enacting the RTI Act would significantly reduce corruption in the province, a concern echoed in local reports and by international organizations such as Amnesty International. She urged Balochistan to follow the lead of other provinces that have established information commissions, thereby enhancing governance through the viable implementation of RTI laws ultimately reducing corruption.

Furthermore, the event featured prominent speakers including Jabbar Ali Advocate, Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui (CIC Pakistan Information Commission), Justice Ijaz Awan (Information Commission of Pakistan), Mehboob Qadir Shah (former Information Commissioner Punjab), and Agha Mahmood (head of HRCP). All panelists collectively called for the swift implementation of the Balochistan RTI Act, 2024, underscoring its importance for transparency and good governance in the province. Secretary of the Information Department Balochistan, Imran Khan announced significant progress in implementing the Balochistan RTI Act 2021 by saying that two Information Commissioners have been appointed for the Balochistan Information Commission.

## Free distribution of stationery items to children in cholistan mobile schools

Maqsood khalid

LAHORE: Punjab Education Foundation organized a prestigious event for children studying in Cholistan Mobile Schools in Toba Kotanewala, Yazman, Bahawalpur. The event was graced by special attendance of PEF Chairman Malik Shoaib Awan and PEF Managing Director Shahid Farid. The Director of the Regional Office Multan, Mazhar Abbas Khan, Focal Person Education CDA Bahawalpur Imtiaz Hussain Lashari, and other PEF officials were also present. During the

event, 2,680 students from 76 mobile schools under the Punjab Education Foundation were provided free stationery items. The items distributed included 2,680 school bags, 8,040 copies (Urdu, Math, English), 8,040 lead pencils, 2,680 erasers, 2,680 sharpeners, 2,680 drawing books, 2,680 color pencil boxes, and 2,680 geometry boxes. While addressing the event, Chairman PEF Malik Shoaib Awan and MD PEF Shahid Farid announced that all mobile schools affiliated with the Cholistan program would be upgraded from primary to elementary level.



Traffic police car lifter lifts vehicle that parked in no parking area caused obstacle in smooth flow of traffic jam, at Jinnah road in Quetta.



QUETTA: People selecting & purchasing warm cloth from roadside vendor stall after change weather in Provincial capital.



## 'PCB to seek reasons from ICC over India's refusal to tour Pakistan for Champions Trophy'

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) will send a letter to the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday to seek reasons behind India's refusal to send its team across the border for next year's ICC Champions Trophy.

It is understood that the PCB has sought guidelines from the federal government on how to move forward after receiving an email from the ICC on Sunday, communicating to the board India's refusal to tour the country for the tournament.

Sources said the PCB was preparing questionnaires for the ICC to explain the reasons behind the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) decision.

"As the BCCI has not given any reason behind its decision of not touring Pakistan, the future steps of the PCB to solve the issue can only be taken after knowing those," sources told Dawn.

PCB chief Mohsin Naqvi has already ruled out the possibility of a "hybrid model" — under which India would play their matches at a neutral venue while the remaining tournament is played in Pakistan.

The model was adopted by the PCB for the 2023 Asia Cup, but that saw Pakistan host only four matches of the tournament while the rest were held in Sri Lanka.

Amid political tensions between the two neighbours, the BCCI has stood firm by the Indian government's policy of not engaging with Pakistan in terms of bilateral cricket over the years.

However, after having played the last bilateral series against each other in 2012, Pakistan and India have competed in ICC tournaments and the Asia Cup. Pakistan, in fact, visited India to feature in the ICC World Cup last year.

The visit, if anything, heightened expectations of India returning the favour by touring Pakistan for the Champions Trophy, which is set to be held in Lahore, Karachi and Rawalpindi from Feb 19 to March 9 next year.

While addressing reporters last week, Mohsin had said that the PCB should not be expected to "carry on with their good gestures", pointing at Pakistan's flexibility toward the Indian government's stance of not sending their cricket team to the neighbouring country.

Sources said that the ICC had limited options; either to shift the tournament to another country or to take it forward without the Indian cricket team.

But with BCCI secretary Jay Shah set to take charge as the president of the ICC on December 1 and with India considered a powerful financial partner of the sport's global governing body, leaving out the Indian cricket team is not a realistic option for the ICC.

"Yes, the ICC could shift the tournament out of Pakistan, while offering the PCB some compensation amount as it did in 2009, by shifting the Champions Trophy from Pakistan to South Africa in the backdrop of the terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team in Lahore the same year," sources said.

A key PCB official on the condition of anonymity told Dawn that it was ironic that the ICC was not a powerful body as compared to the International Olympic Committee and the FIFA, which have successfully not allowed politics to affect scheduling of matches in global tournaments.



ENGLAND captain Jos Buttler smashes a six as West Indies wicket-keeper Nicholas Pooran looks on during the second T20 International at the Kensington Oval.

## Buttler blast powers England to victory over West Indies in second T20

SPORTS DESK

BRIDGETOWN: Jos Buttler's rampaging 83 powered England to an emphatic seven-wicket victory over the West Indies in the second match of their T20 International series at the Kensington Oval in Barbados.

Responding to the home side's total of 158 for eight, the visiting captain took the match by the scruff of the neck in belting eight fours and six sixes off only 45 balls to turn a potentially challenging target into a romp.

The tourists reached 161 for three off just 14.4 overs to take a 2-0 lead heading into the final three matches of the duel in St. Lucia starting next Thursday.

Coming to the crease off just the second ball of the innings after Phil Salt, the century-making match-winner of Saturday's first match, had fallen first ball to spinner Akeal Hosein.

Buttler wasted little time in setting about a West Indies bowling attack missing suspended pacer Alzarri Joseph, injured fast-bowling all-rounder Andre Russell and fielding debutant seamer Terrance Hinds who endured a baptism of fire against a rampant Buttler.

A second T20 International hundred looked his for the taking but after being badly dropped by Sherfane Rutherford at extra-cover off Romario Shepherd in the 13th over, the England skipper fell next ball as another attempted heave over the top found his West Indies counterpart, Rovman Powell at long-off.

Buttler inevitably dominated a second-wicket stand of 129 with Will Jacks, who contributed 38 off 29 balls with five fours and one six.

"It was scrappy for the first couple of balls but when I got going I really enjoyed it. It was great to be back out there," said Buttler on receiving the "Man of the Match" award.

Jacks was the first of two wickets for Shepherd, taken at second attempt at long-off by Matthew Forde, who had earlier played his part together with the rest of the West Indies lower-order to give the innings useful late impetus after they were put in to bat on a surface freshened by steady rain throughout the early morning.

Powell top-scored with 43 off 41 balls (two fours, two sixes) but his demise in the 16th over left the innings in trouble at 102 for six. Shepherd's 22 off 12 balls breathed some late life into the home side's effort with the support of the tail.

Liam Livingstone was the best of the bowlers with two for 16 and was there at the end to seal victory with an unbeaten 23 off 11 balls.

However nothing could take the shine off Buttler's assault which leaves the tourists well-poised to avenge a 2-1 loss to the West Indies in the preceding One-Day International series.

SCOREBOARD  
WEST INDIES:  
B. King c Livingstone b Mahmood 1  
E. Lewis c Salt b Archer 8  
N. Pooran st Salt b Livingstone 14  
R. Chase lbw b Mahmood 13  
R. Powell b Mousley 43  
S. Rutherford lbw b Livingstone 1  
R. Shepherd c Jacks b Mousley 22  
G. Motie c Overton b Rashid 9  
M. Forde not out 13  
T. Hinds not out 5  
EXTRAS (B-4, LB-6, W-19) 29  
TOTAL (for eight wks, 20 overs) 158  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6 (King), 2-20 (Lewis), 3-35 (Chase), 4-70 (Pooran), 5-80 (Rutherford), 6-102 (Powell), 7-126 (Motie), 8-143 (Shepherd)

## After defeating Australia, Rizwan says target is to win Champions Trophy

SPORTS DESK

PERTH: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) released an exclusive dressing room video capturing the team's celebratory moments against Australia and words from key figures, including Head Coach Jason Gillespie, Assistant Coach Azhar Mehmood, and captain Mohammad Rizwan. Rizwan delivered a strong all-around performance that showcased exceptional skill, particularly in bowling.

Skipper outlined his vision for the future, setting high goals for Pakistan cricket. "Our target is to win the Champions Trophy," he declared, with an eye on future tournaments. Additionally, he hinted at an even broader ambition, expressing interest in a potential Olympics opportunity if it arises: "If there is an opportunity in the Olympics, I will make the Olympics a goal."

In preparation for upcoming challenges, Rizwan noted that he's actively engaging with each player to discuss improvement strategies. As for the T20 series, he made their aim clear: "Our target is to whitewash Australia," a bold statement that underscores Pakistan's growing confidence.

Head Coach Jason Gillespie praised the players for their unity and consistency across all aspects of the game, emphasizing the outstanding effort put into bowling, which was crucial to their success. "The team performed well in all areas, especially in bowling," Gillespie noted, attributing the series win to a collective determination.

Assistant Coach Azhar Mehmood echoed this sentiment, commending the team for playing as a cohesive unit and displaying an unwavering commitment to victory. "The entire team played as one and showed great determination," Mehmood stated, applauding their resilience and focus throughout the series.

Captain Mohammad Rizwan expressed pride in the team's efforts and credited their success to the strong bond shared from "top to bottom." He emphasized their growth, saying, "No one expected us to play so well." Rizwan also highlighted the series as a potential learning experience for other teams, suggesting Pakistan's performance set a new benchmark.

# DAILY MIRROR

## Ahsan calls for emergency measures to tackle increasing pollution, smog in twin cities

APP

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday expressed serious concerns over the growing environmental pollution and smog in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, stressing the need to tackle these issues on an emergency basis.

He described the causes and worsening impact of the smog as a 'consequence' of human behavior, which now necessitated urgent action.

Chairing a meeting on the escalating smog and air pollution in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, he said "Without a change in public behavior, smog and air pollution will lead to severe consequences for both health and the economy, posing a risk not only to public health but also to the country's GDP growth rate."

Among others, the meeting was attended by senior officials from the World Bank (WB), the Punjab Planning and Development Department, the

National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF), the Ministry of Environment, the Country Director of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Nadia Rehman, Member of the Planning Commission for Environment and Climate Change, representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, civil society, the NDMA and environmental protection agencies from all provinces.

During the meeting, Ahsan Iqbal called for a unified national approach to combat this challenge.

He said environmental protection was a key component of the government's Five-E framework, which includes various measures to address these issues.

He pointed out that while there was no shortage of knowledge on the matter, the real problem was the lack of implementation, stressing that all relevant institutions must take joint actions to tackle the issue effectively.

The minister further identified cross-border pollution, vehicle emissions, crop burning and urban development as primary contributors to smog.

"The negative effects of smog on public health and daily life underline the need for a public awareness campaign so that every citizen becomes mindful of their environment and personal practices," he added.

The meeting underscored the importance of a coordinated strategy among federal and provincial institutions, academia, and other stakeholders. Ahsan Iqbal stressed the urgent need to develop a comprehensive action plan emphasizing effective implementation.

The minister also highlighted that even pristine areas like Gilgit-Baltistan were now being affected by air pollution, warning that the consequences would be severe if environmental pollution were not controlled.

He cautioned that failing to act promptly could lead to serious outcomes in the future.

Ahsan Iqbal called upon all institutions to collaborate to address this issue and promote environmental awareness at the public level. "This collective effort is essential to building a healthy and clean future," he remarked.



United Nations (UN) Secretary General, Antonio Guterres and Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan received Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Prime Minister upon his arrival at the inaugural session of COP-29 Climate Action Summit held in Baku.

### Three Killed in Kalat Firing Incident

APP

KALAT: Three persons were killed in a firing incident that occurred near Narmek area of Kalat, Balochistan, tv channels quoting local administration reported on Tuesday.

According to details, unknown assailants opened fire and killed three real brothers on the spot.

Police after receiving reports rushed to the site for shifting the bodies to nearby hospital. Police also started search operation to trace the culprits behind this killing incident. However, no success was made so far till the filling of this report.

### Fawad Chaudhary apologizes in ECP contempt case

APP

ISLAMABAD: Former Federal Minister, Fawad Chaudhary apologized to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) after facing accusations of making contemptuous remarks against the commission during a media interaction on January 24, 2023. Pakistan's cuisine

A three-member bench, headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja, heard the contempt case filed against former Information Minister Fawad Chaudhary by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

The former minister stated that he had already apologized in two cases but was still facing charges in the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC). In response, the CEC instructed him to submit a written explanation.

Fawad Chaudhary argued that the issue of contempt should be considered resolved once an apology is offered, but the ECP's Balochistan member pointed out,

"If issues are resolved in this manner, contempt will continue to occur."

The Election Commission later adjourned the hearing of the contempt case against Fawad Chaudhary until December 10.

### Ali Zafar predicts Imran's early release, emphasizes need for protests

INP

ISLAMABAD: Barrister Ali Zafar, a central leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), expressed confidence that Imran Khan, the party's leader and former prime minister, would be released from jail soon.

Speaking to a private TV channel program, Zafar highlighted that legally, Khan's cases had effectively come to an end, and there was no legitimate reason for his continued detention.

According to Zafar, the remaining hurdles were political, not legal, and he argued that Khan's release was a matter of when, not if.

Zafar explained that with the conclusion of the legal proceedings, including the constitutional and criminal cases against Khan, there was no reason to keep him in jail.

"If we remove the political issues, there's no reason why Imran Khan can't be released tomorrow," he said.

Zafar further clarified that while constitutional cases related to political matters would be taken to the constitutional court, the criminal cases, which he termed "baseless," would be addressed by

the Supreme Court, and he was optimistic that the verdicts would be overturned.

The PTI leader acknowledged that public frustration had been growing due to the delay in

announcing a protest date. He noted that the absence of a clear plan had left some supporters disappointed. However, Zafar reassured the public that the legal battle for Khan's release needed to be coupled with street protests, emphasizing that "a legal battle must be accompanied by street protests."

He underscored that the key to Khan's freedom lay in the participation of the people in these protests, urging them not to lose hope.

In contrast, PML-N's Tariq Fazal Chaudhry responded to Zafar's remarks by stressing that the legal route was the proper avenue for Khan's release, not public protests or foreign influence. Chaudhry pointed out that the courts and the rule of law were the only legitimate means for securing Khan's freedom. He also dismissed any suggestion that external factors, such as former U.S. President Donald Trump, could play a role in Khan's release, calling it an unrealistic expectation.

### 100 major corruption cases dismissed by parliament through NAB amendments: IHC judge

INP

ISLAMABAD: During a hearing on the National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) jurisdiction, Islamabad High Court (IHC) Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani made critical remarks, stating that Parliament had dismissed high-value corruption cases worth billions of rupees.

Justice Kayani expressed concern that over a hundred significant corruption cases have been closed, with accused individuals leaving the country, emphasizing that by the time Parliament realises the consequences, it may be too late.

In his remarks, Justice Kayani questioned NAB's current capacity and authority, advising the bureau to first confirm its jurisdiction before beginning corruption inquiries. He added, "Now even a toothless NAB can be enjoyed by the NAB officials and the citizens."

The controversy surrounding NAB's role stems from amendments introduced

in 2022 by the then Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)-led government. The revisions to the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO) 1999 reduced the terms of the NAB chairman and prosecutor general to three years, limited NAB's jurisdiction to cases exceeding Rs500 million, and transferred pending investigations to other authorities.

In response, Imran Khan moved the Supreme Court, arguing that the changes were designed to shield influential individuals from accountability and legitimise corruption. After 53 hearings, the Supreme Court upheld Imran's challenge, reversing the dismissal of corruption cases against public officials. However, in October 2023, an SC bench intervened, delaying final verdicts in these cases. On September 7, 2024, former Prime Minister Imran Khan termed the NAB amendments "catastrophic" for Pakistan, criticising Parliament for passing bills aimed at shielding their wealth.

### Arrested facilitator of 2023 Peshawar Police Lines blast was 'our own policeman': KP IG

INP

PESHAWAR: A suspect who was allegedly involved in the 2023 blast at Peshawar Police Lines mosque, that claimed 84 lives, was arrested a day earlier and has been identified as police constable Muhammad Wali, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General of Police (IG) Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur revealed in a press briefing on Tuesday.

On Jan 30, 2023, a powerful explosion ripped through a mosque in Peshawar's Red Zone area where between 300 and 400 people — mostly police officers — had gathered for prayers.

The banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) had claimed responsibility for the attack. It later distanced itself from the blast but sources earlier indicated that it might have been the handiwork of some local faction of the outlawed group.

Addressing the press conference in Peshawar today, IG Gandapur said the "remaining missing link" was related to who had facilitated Qari, the alleged suicide bomber.

"As a result of that effort, [...] we arrested this person along with two suicide jackets from near Jameel Chowk on Peshawar's Ring Road on 11/11, meaning yesterday," the IG stated, referring to the facilitator.

### 14 die, 12 missing as a wedding bus falls into river in Gilgit

INP

GILGIT: At least 14 people died and 12 went missing as a bus carrying wedding guests fell into a river near a river near Thalchi Bridge in Gilgit on Tuesday. The bus was moving from Astor to Rawalpindi when it had the tragedy. Speeding is cited as the reason for the accident.

Police and rescuers reached the spot. A total of bodies were recovered till the filling of this report.

Top officials from the district admin and police also made it to the scene. Five local divers took part in the search operation.

Three teams of Rescue 1122 will continue the search by tomorrow at different areas.

Pak Navy divers are likely to join the search operations.

The Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan expressed grief over the accident, a GB government spokesperson said.

### Women's role imperative for country development: Rana Mashhood

APP

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan has said that Pakistan's future is in the hands of the youth and women's role is imperative in the country's development. Pakistan's cuisine

He expressed these views while addressing the launching ceremony of the "Women Empowerment Monitoring Program" held at the Higher Education Commission (HEC) on Tuesday.

Mashhood said that to empower women laws have been made to ensure their inheritance share and prevent violence.

He said that the positive economic indicators show the remarkable achievements of the present government in every sector and the country is moving in the right direction.

The Chairman PMYP added that the

country under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was advancing towards the path of development and growth in the exports of textiles and information technology, increase in the stock exchange index, and growth in other sectors reflected the result-oriented policies of the government.

He informed that as much as Rs 186 billion had been given to youth under the Prime Minister

Youth Loan programme so far while efforts were underway to increase the women's share to 25 per cent from the existing 11 per cent.

Mashhood said that more opportunities were being provided to women under the PMYP in the fields of vocational, technical education, hospitality service and nursing.

Chairman HEC Dr Mukhtar Ahmed, Vice Chancellors of various universities and others also addressed the event.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan Chairing a meeting.

### Tarar calls on Country Representative UNODC

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Azam Nazeer Tarar met with Troels Vester, the Country Representative for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Pakistan to discuss expanded collaboration on justice reforms and emerging areas such as environmental crimes. Pakistan's cuisine

Both the parties' shared commitment to advancing legal and environmental initiatives in Pakistan.

A key focus of the discussion was the Case Assignment and Management System (CAMS), a collaborative project between the Ministry of Law and Justice and UNODC. CAMS aims to transition case management from traditional methods to a digital system, enhancing real-time case tracking and improving the efficiency and performance of legal professionals. To date, the Ministry has completed training for six batches of focal persons across federal ministries.

CAMS is currently undergoing testing and a security audit by the National Telecommunication and Information Security Board (NTISB). UNODC has provided critical infrastructure support, including servers and computers, and remains actively involved in addressing technical issues. In addition to CAMS, Mr. Vester identified potential new areas for collaboration, including climate change and environmental crime prevention. Mr. Tarar highlighted the importance of strengthening the capacity of prosecutors and welcomed UNODC's support in this area.

Mr. Vester proposed a joint initiative to identify factors contributing to low conviction rates in Pakistan and explore models for improvement. The Minister also briefed Mr. Vester on recent amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code and discussed possible UNODC support for these reforms, with Mr. Vester expressing interest in engaging the judiciary to ensure comprehensive collaboration.

### COP29: Pay up or face climate-led disaster for humanit: warns UN chief

MONITORING DESK

BAKU: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told world leaders at the COP29 summit on Tuesday to "pay up" to prevent climate-led humanitarian disasters, and said time was running out to limit a destructive rise in global temperatures.

Nearly 200 nations have gathered at the annual UN climate summit in Baku, focused this year on raising hundreds of billions of dollars to fund a global transition to cleaner energy sources and limit the climate damage caused by carbon emissions.

But on the day of the summit designed to bring together world leaders and generate political momentum for the marathon negotiations, many of the leading players were not present to hear Guterres' message.

After victory for Donald Trump, a climate change denier, in the US presidential election, President Joe Biden will not attend. Chinese President Xi Jinping has sent a deputy and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is not attending because of political developments in Brussels.

"On climate finance, the world must pay up, or humanity will pay the price," Guterres said in a speech. "The sound you hear is the ticking clock. We are in

the final countdown to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius and time is on our side."

This year is set to be the hottest on record. Scientists say evidence shows global warming and its impacts are unfolding faster than expected and the world may already have hit 1.5 degree Celsius (2.7 F) of warming above the average pre-industrial temperature - a critical threshold beyond which it is at risk of irreversible and extreme climate change. As COP29 began, unusual east coast U.S. wildfires that triggered air quality warnings for New York continued to grow. In Spain, survivors are coming to terms with the worst floods in the country's modern history and the Spanish government has announced billions of euros for reconstruction.

'ECONOMY KILLER'  
The summit opened on Monday with a technical deal seen as critical to launching a UN-backed global carbon market that would fund billions of dollars of projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

That success was marred by a row over the summit priorities - a procedural tug-of-war that pitched European and small island countries against the Arab group of nations on how prominent the future of fossil fuels should be on the agenda.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, holding a meeting with Ambassador of France to Pakistan Nicolas Galey, at the Finance Division. The meeting was also attended by the Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik, and Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Rashid Mahmood Langrial..