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Pakistan facing big threat of TTP, ISIS-K from Afghan soil: FM Jilani

Pakistan desired peaceful and cooperative neighborly ties with India. Unfortunately Pakistan positive outreach and peace overtures were met with negativity

NEW YORK (APP): Foreign Minister Jilani Abbas Jilani on Wednesday said that Pakistan was facing the biggest concern at present with an enhanced threat from the terrorist organizations, including the Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP) and ISIS-K (Islamic State - Khorasan Province).

The foreign minister expressed concern over the outfits' ability to use the Afghan soil to launch attacks on Pakistan.

He was speaking on Pakistan's foreign policy and its quest for peace, stability, and shared prosperity at an event of Asia Society, held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly session in New York.

Jilani said Pakistan remained closely engaged with the interim government of Afghanistan on the issue.

Highlighting Pakistan's commitment to fighting and defeating the terrorists, he stressed that terrorist outfits trying to gain a foothold in Afghanistan should be treated as a threat to the neighbourhood and the entire international community.

After Afghanistan itself, Jilani said, Pakistan had the greatest stake in Afghanistan, i.e., peace within and with its regional and international partners.



QUETTA: Additional IG Balochistan Police, Commandant BC Salman Chaudhry and DIG Quetta Abdul Hayee Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Indian links to Canada target killing shows its 'extrajudicial network' has gone global: FO

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Foreign Office on Wednesday said the news of Indian involvement in an extrajudicial killing in Canada had shown that the country's "network of extra-territorial killings had now gone global".

"India's assassination of a Canadian national on Canadian soil is a clear violation of international law and the UN principle of state sovereignty," the FO spokesperson said at a weekly press briefing.

Spokesperson Murtaz Zahra Baloch was responding to a question on Canadian Prime Minister

Justin Trudeau's statement that he had "credible evidence" linking the Indian state to Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar's murder must be based on "some facts."

Nijjar, 45, was shot dead in his vehicle by two masked gunmen in the busy car park of the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in British Columbia, a Canadian province.

The spokesperson said the incident was a "reckless and irresponsible act" that called into question India's reliability as a credible international partner and its claims for enhanced global responsibilities.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Jan Achakzai and CEO Tech Valley Pakistan Umar Farooq visiting DGPR Information Cell. Commissioner Quetta Division Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat and DGPR Kamran Asad are also present

Jan Achakzai lauds performance of Tech Valley for digital literacy, job opportunities

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Muhammad Achakzai has appreciated performance of the Tech Valley for the digital literacy and improving opportunities of jobs in Balochistan.

He expressed the hope that the Government of Balochistan, Tech Valley and Google would continue partnership in future.

He particularly referred to the Google career certificates programme and digitalization of Information Department Balochistan and said that these are two important examples of the resolve of Tech Valley for development of the province.

Jan Achakzai was speaking to the CEO of Google for Education and Google Work Space Partner, Tech Valley, Umar Farooq here on Wednesday.

Also present in the meeting were Commis-

sioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat and Director General Public Relations, Kamran Asad.

He appreciated the endeavours of Tech Valley and Google in the projects of increasing working capacity especially Google career certificates programme in the province.

Umar Farooq informed that Tech Valley is also working to digitalize the information department of Balochistan under a pilot programme besides the Google career certificates programme.



Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addressing the conference on "Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response" held on the sidelines of 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York

Additional burden of 33 bn ready for electricity consumers

ISLAMABAD (Online): Another bad news has come for the people suffering from inflation.

The possibility of further increase in electricity prices has been indicated.

It has been reported that after the sharp increase in the prices of petroleum products, preparations are being made to make electricity more expensive.

The price of electricity tariff is likely to increase further by Rs. 83 per unit.

Central Power Purchasing Agency has submitted application of increase in electricity tariff in NEPRA.

The request for increase in electricity tariff was given in the context of monthly fuel price adjustment.

According to CPPA, 15 billion and 47 crore unit of electricity was provided to DICOs in August.

The request of CPPA will be heard on 27 September.

Additional burden of RS 33 billion will be imposed on consumers due to increase in price of electricity.

Governor visits residence of slain ANP leader

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar visited the residence of leader of Awami National Party, Arbab Ghulam Muhammad Kasi here on Wednesday.

During the visit, the Governor expressed condolence with the bereaved family of the ANP leader and the party leaders.

Meanwhile, in a condolence statement issued here, the Governor also expressed deep grief and sorrow over the killing of Arbab Ghulam Muhammad Kasi.

Governor said that the late Kasi was a thorough gentleman and sincere political leader.

He said that the services of late Kasi for the political consciousness of general public would always be remembered.

The Governor prayed for the departed soul and bereaved family to bear the tragic loss.

Pakistan is likely to get \$70 bln foreign investment

KARACHI (INP): Following the establishment of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), Pakistan is expected to get \$70 billion as a foreign investment on Wednesday.

Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir held meetings with business persons and established a Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) after which Pakistan is likely to get foreign investment of \$70 billion.

The business community, while expressing optimism and positivity, stated that following the army chief's meeting and establishment of the SIFC, the expectation of \$70 billion in foreign investment will put the economy back on track.

Delay in completion of projects intolerable: CM Domki directs to complete projects of construction and expansion at the earliest

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has directed the concerned quarters to complete the projects of roads expansion and construction of the roads under Quetta Development Package.

He asserted that the delay in completion of the roads projects is intolerable.

The caretaker Chief Minister was speaking on occasion of inspection of work of under-construction Sabzal road, Sariab road, link Badini to Eastern bypass road on Wednesday.

Also accompanied with him were the Secretary Communications and Works, Ali Akbar Baloch, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat, Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Flight Lineament (Retd) Saad bin Asad.

The Chief Minister re-



LIANYUNGANG: Federal Minister for Interior, Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti addressing the opening session of the 2023 Conference of Global Public Security Cooperation Forum in Lianyungang.

Int'l community needs to put joint efforts to tackle common challenges: Bugti

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has emphasized upon the international community for making collaborative efforts for tackling the common global challenges threatening the security and well-being of all nations.

While speaking at the opening session of the

Provision of jobs to degree holder students important priority of Govt: CS

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan has stated that it is an important priority of the provincial government to provide livelihood to the degree holder male and female students in the province.

The Chief Secretary was speaking to the Chief Executive Officer of Tech Valley, Umar Farooq here on Wednesday.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary Education, Abdul Rauf Baloch, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat and other concerned high ups. The Chief Secretary said that the government is taking steps to provide job opportunities to youth of the province. He said that the online employment opportunities would get boost for students of the province under the memorandum of understanding between Government of Balochistan and Tech Valley (Google), which is a good initiative.



QUETTA: Secretary Education Abdul Rauf Baloch and Chief Executive Officer Tech Valley signing a MoU regarding Google Scholarships. Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan is also present

PM urges world to extend financial, technical support to developing countries to address climate change

Urges Int'l community to ensure better preparedness against future pandemics

NEW YORK (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has urged the world to extend financial and technical support to developing countries like Pakistan to help them achieve ambitions on climate change.

Addressing the Climate Ambition Summit 2023 in New York on Wednesday, he stressed the need for deriving a climate action to achieve the climate goals across the globe. He said climate justice also entails providing developing countries like Pakistan with the financial and technological

means to realize these higher ambitions.

Highlighting Pakistan's priorities in dealing with the climate vulnerability challenge, the Prime Minister said we have recently adopted our first ever national adaptation plan to build climate resilience. He said our next step is the projections and casting of interventions identified in the adaptation plan complemented by a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy.

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said we will also enhance our efforts to integrate ad-

aptation into our planning forces. In the second phase of the plan, we would prepare a sector specific investment framework, which could serve as a blueprint to translate identified adaptation needs and strategies into tangible and bankable projects. He said Pakistan has also launched the Living Indus Initiative, which is a menu of 25 interventions aimed at restoring the ecological health of Indus River basin.

The Prime Minister further said that disaster risk management is a cross cutting priority in our national adaptation plan. bal



QUETTA: Project Director QDP Rafiq Baloch briefed Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki about ongoing projects of road expansion.

Solangi terms poet Iftikhar Arif shining star on literary horizon

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi while paying tributes to the academic and literary services of renowned poet Iftikhar Arif on Wednesday said that the towering figure was a shining star on the literary horizon who has made an immense contribution in the field of literature.

He expressed these views while addressing the launching ceremony of the documentary film on the life and achievements of the renowned poet named "Barhawan Khiladi" here at the Information Service Academy.

Murtaza Solangi said that Iftikhar Arif's name would be at the top of the list of the leading figures of media if the knowledge and literature of Pakistan was prepared.

Mastung blast injured airlifted to Karachi for treatment

Independent Report QUETTA: A seriously injured person of Mastung blast, Inayatullah Shahwani was shifted to Karachi by the air ambulance on Wednesday.

Inayatullah Shahwani, who was injured in the Mastung bomb blast on Thursday, was being treated at the Trauma Center of Civil Hospital Quetta. He was airlifted to Karachi for further treatment on directives of the caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki. Earlier, he had also directed to shift the JUI leader Hafiz Hamdullah and other injured of Mastung blast to Karachi for specialized medical treatment.

Balochistan govt to upgrade 150 primary schools in 100-day task plan: Qadir

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Minister for Education Prof. Dr. Qadir Bakhsh Baloch on Wednesday said that the interim government has executed a 100-day task plan to upgrade 150 primary schools to middle level.

The provincial government has initiated the project to improve the sector with the provision of basic facilities in public schools in far-flung areas of the province, he expressed these views in a meeting with the delegation of UNICEF. The minister briefed the UNICEF delegation on the ongoing projects in the education sector in the province.

Prof. Dr. Qadir Bakhsh Baloch said the government of Balochistan values the partnership of UNICEF that is enduring their committed support in the promotion education sector in the province.

He said UNICEF is currently taking care of 2400 schools and the number of these schools could be enhanced to 3600 if there is strong coordination between the education department and UNICEF.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi addressing during screening of documentary on the life and achievements of Iftikhar Arif Titled "Barhwaan Khiladi" at Information Services Academy.

Balochistan High Court Whosoever high, every institution is meant for citizens of Pakistan and all properties belong to them

Independent Report QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court (BHC) has remarks that whosoever high, every institution is meant for citizens of Pakistan and all properties belong to the people of country.

The Court observed that the state of affairs shows that the governance situation in the province in general and in Quetta city in particular has totally been held in limbo, without any proper response to the court's orders.

Thus, under the circumstances, we are left with no option, but to issue notice to the Chief Secretary Balochistan to appear in person on the next date of hearing.

These remarks were given by the division bench of High Court comprising Mr. Justice Kamran Khan Mulakhail and Mr. Justice Iqbal Ahmed Kasi during hearing of a constitutional petition of Ms. Jalila Haider here.

The court directed to the Chief Secretary to call a meeting of concerned QDA and QMC officials along with the Secretary Local Government in respect of plot under Zarghoon road bridge in the light of directions passed by the Supreme Court, and he shall also convene a meeting with the Secretary Transport department, Chairman Provincial Transport Authority and DG Traffic Engineering Bureau to devise a mechanism.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Sikh activist's murder

A spat between Canada and India over the murder of a pro-freedom Sikh activist in a Vancouver suburb has turned ugly, with both states expelling diplomats and exchanging accusatory rhetoric. Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian citizen and prominent advocate for Khalistan, was killed outside a gurdwara he headed in June. In a startling disclosure, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told his country's parliament the authorities were "pursuing credible allegations" that Indian "agents" were linked to the murder. In a related move, Ottawa expelled a diplomat described as India's top intelligence agent in the country.

Meanwhile, New Delhi on Tuesday asked a Canadian diplomat to leave the country apparently due to involvement in "anti-India activities", while an Indian foreign ministry spokesman described Mr Trudeau's claims as "absurd".

Bilateral ties had steadily been declining over the Khalistan issue, as Canada hosts a large Sikh diaspora, and many Canadian Sikhs support the movement for a separate homeland.

Due to these facts, Mr Trudeau had received a somewhat frosty reception during the G20 moot in New Delhi earlier this month, compared to the warm welcome other foreign leaders received. With public allegations, things have come to a head.

Assassinations by states on foreign soil of elements they consider undesirable is part and parcel of international espionage. But perhaps Israel takes the cake where subterfuge is concerned.

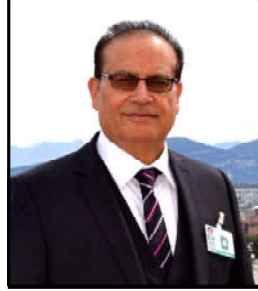
Tel Aviv's agents have for decades been taking out targets across the globe. Most of the victims have been Palestinian militants and activists, while lately members of Hezbollah and those linked to Iran's nuclear programme and security institutions have topped the list.

Considering the cosy relationship between New Delhi and Tel Aviv, perhaps the Indians have taken a page out of Mossad's handbook in organising the hit on an individual they considered a "terrorist". Other states, too, indulge in such activities.

However, despite India's posturing, this issue is unlikely to fizzle out, as the Canadian PM would not have made such a major announcement without strong proof.

Along with assuring a large ethno-religious community that their safety matters, Canada will also pursue this murder to protect its reputation as a state where the rule of law is respected, as Mr Trudeau noted. States may indulge in such underhanded behaviour, but the blowback can be embarrassing if things go awry, as the Indian government is discovering.

Cracking Illicit Dollar Trade: A Solution or a Temporary Fix?



By Qamar Bashir
Former Press Secretary to the President; Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC

High inflation in Pakistan is significantly impacting both the economy and its citizens. This persistent inflation is eroding people's purchasing power, making it increasingly challenging for them to afford essential goods and services. Furthermore, it's putting immense strain on businesses, which are grappling with elevated operating costs and dwindling demand.

The soaring prices of basic necessities are directly contributing to a decline in people's purchasing power, exacerbating poverty levels and food insecurity. As prices rise, individuals find themselves burdened with mounting debts, fostering widespread financial stress and anxiety within society. Additionally, the relentless increase in prices threatens to constrain employment opportunities.

Businesses, in particular, are bearing the brunt of these circumstances. Elevated operational costs can force them to make tough decisions such as downsizing or restraining new hires. This, in turn, compounds the challenges for job seekers and families seeking to support themselves. The pervasive nature of high inflation underscores the urgency of addressing this issue to alleviate the hardships faced by both individuals and enterprises in Pakistan.

Since March 2022, the Pakistani rupee has experienced a substantial depreciation against the US dollar which has appreciated by 100% from Rs. 170 to Rs. 340 before gradually stabilizing at the current rate of Rs. 290, though still notably higher. This dramatic fluctuation in the exchange rate has triggered several distortions in the economy with far-reaching consequences.

First and foremost, the soaring value of the US dollar amplifies the cost of importing goods and services denominated in US dollars. This, in turn, results in higher prices for imported products, which can significantly contribute to inflationary pressures. Additionally, the appreciating dollar makes Pakistani exports more expensive for foreign buyers, potentially diminishing demand for Pakistani goods in international markets. This poses a direct threat to Pakistan's export-oriented industries.

Furthermore, the escalating cost of imports due to the stronger dollar contributes to overall inflation, eroding the purchasing power of consumers and consequently lowering their standard of living. The situation is exacerbated for essential commodities that heavily rely on imports, such as oil and certain food items, as their prices increase, placing additional financial strain on households.

The substantial appreciation of the US dollar also has adverse effects on Pakistan's trade balance. As exports become less competitive and imports become more costly, the country is prone to experiencing a larger trade deficit. Lastly, foreign investors may adopt a cautious stance towards investing in Pakistan due to concerns surrounding exchange rate volatility and the economic repercussions of a rapidly appreciating dollar. This heightened uncertainty could potentially result in reduced foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into the country, affecting economic growth and stability. Addressing these exchange rate challenges is crucial to mitigate the adverse impacts on Pakistan's economy and ensure a more stable and conducive environment for trade and investment.

The swift and stringent crackdown on Hundi, Hawala, and illegal currency exchange operations, along with border closures with Afghanistan, has indeed had a positive impact on the Pakistani rupee's exchange rate in a remarkably short span. This has provided a degree of stability and relief to an economy that has been grappling with challenges. However, it's essential to recognize that this represents a temporary solution, and sustainable remedies are required, both at the macro and micro levels, to establish lasting stability, consistency, and predictability in the exchange rate—a fundamental requirement for a healthy economy.

While government regulators and the State Bank of Pakistan may have limited options, it's crucial for the State Bank to adopt innovative monetary policies to manage inflation and stabilize the exchange rate, even within these constraints. Simultaneously, the government should explore measures to support export-oriented industries and proactively manage the fiscal deficit to mitigate the impact of a stronger dollar on the economy. Additionally, the central bank may need to intervene in the foreign exchange market to maintain currency stability and prevent excessive volatility while keeping in view factors such as market sentiment, economic conditions, and geopolitical events.

In this context, the latest Asian Development report on Pakistan's economy presents a sobering picture. It predicts a 0.3% slowdown in the economy for fiscal year 2023, in contrast to the 6.0% growth observed in FY2022. This decline is attributed to a combination of factors, including devastating floods, policy tightening, and substantial efforts to address significant fiscal and external imbalances. The report observed that the floods have resulted in an estimated \$30 billion in damages to infrastructure and crops and have displaced millions of people.

The ADB report projects that Pakistan's economic growth is expected to rebound to 1.9% in FY2024, contingent upon the government's ability to restore macroeconomic stability and implement crucial reforms. The report acknowledges that the government's efforts in post-flood reconstruction will contribute to economic growth in the upcoming years.

Nevertheless, the ADB report emphasizes significant risks to this outlook, including the potential for additional flooding, a global economic slowdown, and an increase in global interest rates. It also underscores the ongoing risks posed by the war in Ukraine and the persistent COVID-19 pandemic, which could negatively affect Pakistan's economy.

In this backdrop, reforms aimed at enhancing economic efficiency and promoting private sector investment are essential. These reforms should target sectors such as

energy, taxation, and labor markets to foster growth.

Given Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change, investments in climate resilience and social safety nets are imperative to shield the economy from future shocks and protect the vulnerable from economic hardships. Innovative solutions involving high-end technology and artificial intelligence can transform the tax system, making it more progressive and alleviating the burden on low-income households, thereby reducing poverty and inequality.

Efficiency improvements in the energy sector are also paramount, as it currently faces issues like inefficiency, theft, and mismanagement, contributing to high energy prices. Enhancing energy sector efficiency can bolster competitiveness.

Fostering a favorable investment climate by reducing bureaucracy and corruption and improving infrastructure can stimulate private sector investment, which is a crucial driver of economic growth.

Investing in human capital through improvements in education and healthcare is essential to cultivate a skilled and productive workforce, thereby boosting economic growth and reducing poverty.

Lastly, targeted support for the poor and vulnerable, such as food subsidies and cash transfers, can help them cope with the challenges posed by high prices.

While the crackdowns of illegal currency hoarders provide immediate relief, it's imperative to implement long-term solutions to mitigate the incentives for such illicit activities.

One enduring solution is the establishment and enforcement of robust Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Know Your Customer (KYC) Regulations. Many countries have stringent AML and KYC regulations in place to meticulously monitor and control currency transactions. These regulations make it arduous for individuals and entities to hoard or transfer large sums of foreign currency without proper documentation.

Governments and financial authorities can bolster their efforts by employing advanced financial surveillance systems to detect unusual or suspicious transactions, which may include large-scale currency hoarding or smuggling.

While cracking down on illegal currency activities provides immediate relief, the long-term goal should focus on reducing the incentives for smuggling and hoarding. This requires the implementation of creative monetary and fiscal policies, updated foreign currency rules and regulations, and the effective use of technology for monitoring and enforcement. Without addressing the root causes and incentives, unscrupulous elements may continue to find new ways to engage in such activities, potentially corrupting regulators and law enforcement personnel along the way.

Pakistan faces a complex economic landscape, and addressing these challenges will require a multifaceted approach that includes monetary policy innovation, support for key industries, fiscal responsibility, and structural economic reforms aimed at improving competitiveness, reducing reliance on imports, and attracting foreign investment. These efforts are vital to ensure a more stable and resilient economic future for the country.

Commerce News

Integrated Energy Planning to help in tackling energy crisis: Planning Minister

ISLAMABAD (Online): The caretaker Planning Minister for Development & Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed said that Integrated Energy Planning will help in tackling the energy crisis being faced by the country. He made these remarks while addressing the workshop titled "Integrated Energy Planning for Sustainable Development, organized by the Energy Wing of the Planning Ministry on

Wednesday. Under the vision 2025, the project IEP was envisioned to make a centralized Energy Planning and Resource Centre (EPRC) that meets the demands of energy planning for the fast development in the world.

The Planning Minister said that the outcomes of the Low Emission Analysis Platform (LEAP) model by the Integrated Energy Planning (IEP) will help in achieving the high

industrial growth—exported economic base and to save the foreign exchange reserves.

The event was attended by the Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Jehanzeb Khan, country's leading experts in the energy sectors and other stakeholders.

LEAP model is an effort to present a holistic integrated initial approach to Energy Demand and Supply Analysis;

containing all components of integrated balances, it is used to compute long-term energy prices under various scenarios. It is noted that in August 2022, IEP for Sustainable Development took the initiative of providing an in-person LEAP training program where relevant energy sector stakeholders were invited to participate in the training process. EPRC working under IEP started working on Pakistan's first LEAP energy model.



ISLAMABAD: The caretaker Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed on Wednesday chairs a meeting to "Build Consensus for Regulating Conversion of Agricultural Land to Housing Societies in Pakistan" at Planning Ministry.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatization Fawad Hasan Fawad chaired a meeting on PIA in on September 20, 2023. Advisor to PM on Aviation was also present.

Jazz CEO calls to shift focus from 2G-only handsets to local assembly of 4G smartphones

ISLAMABAD (APP): The telecom industry is urging a paradigm shift in Pakistan's local handset manufacturing approach, advocating for a transition from 2G-only handsets to a full focus on the domestic assembly of 4G smartphones.

According to data available on the Pakistan Telecommunication website, out of the 67.7 million handsets assembled within the country since 2020, only 22.9 million were smartphones, indicating a critical need for a directional overhaul in the industry.

In a tweet, Jazz CEO Aamir Ibrahim highlighted that various countries are phasing out 2G and 3G networks to pave the way for more efficient 4G technology. Pakistan must ensure its populace was digitally equipped for the modern age.

Ibrahim urged the government to take decisive steps, advocating for the discontinuation of both the import and local assembly of 2G and 3G phones.

PSX loses 20.89 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) declined by 20.89 points on Wednesday, showing a negative change of 0.05 per cent, closing at 45,889.58 points against 45,910.47 points the previous day.

A total of 129,372,427 shares were traded during the day as compared to 117,145,448 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 3,639 billion against Rs 4,110 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 313 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 132 of them recorded gains and 160 sustained losses.

Zong 4G announces Huo Junli as new CEO

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong 4G Pakistan's leading telecommunications company, has announced Huo Junli as the new Chairman & Chief Executive Officer (CEO), marking a significant leadership transition.

"Huo Junli has officially taken the helm, succeeding Wang Hua, who has served as CMPak's CEO and Chairman for over five years and will now undertake a new role within the CMCC," a news

release said on Wednesday. Huo Junli holds a Master's degree in Electronics and Communications Engineering from Beijing University of Posts & Telecommunication, and a Master's degree in Business Administration from Xi'an Jiaotong University. "He brings an extensive and diverse background with nearly three decades of experience in the telecommunications industry."

Thai envoy announces resumption of Thai Airways flights to Pakistan

LAHORE (APP): In a significant development, the Ambassador of Thailand, Chakkrid Kraichaiwong, announced the revival of Thai Airways services from Pakistan, marking a promising step forward in strengthening bilateral ties. The Ambassador revealed plans to reintroduce five weekly flights from Karachi and Lahore, along with four flights from Islamabad.

This announcement was made during the Ambassador's address here at

Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) on Wednesday. The LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Senior Vice President Zafar Mehmood Ch, Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt, and Minister Counselor (Commercial) at Royal Thai Embassy Bangladesh in Pakistan, Khemathat Archawathamrong, Deputy Head of Mission Royal Thai Embassy Islamabad, Kamol Wan Sriposil, and former LCCI office-bearers and Executive Committee members were also present.

SBP awards IPA to establish five digital retail banks

KARACHI (INP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), in a bid to foster innovation, financial inclusion and availability of affordable digital financial services, granted in-principle approval (IPA) for establishing five digital retail banks on Wednesday.

Governor SBP, Jameel Ahmad awarded IPAs to the five proposed digital banks- HugoBank Limited, KT Bank Pakistan Limited, Mashreq

Bank Pakistan Limited, Raqami Islamic Digital Bank Limited and Telenor Microfinance Bank Limited- in a ceremony at SBP Museum Building, said a statement issued here.

The event was attended by sponsors of proposed DRBs, CEOs of incumbent banks, Payment System Operators (PSOs), Payment System Providers (PSPs), Electronic Money Institutions (EMIs),

Fintechs and SBP's top management.

It is pertinent to mention that the central bank had issued NoCs to five successful applicants for establishing digital banks in Pakistan in January 2023 and after fulfillment of the necessary requirements, these entities have now been granted in-principle approval to prepare themselves operationally to launch the digital financial services.

Rupee gains Rs 1.02 against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Wednesday witnessed 12th consecutive recovery session as it gained Rs1.02 against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 293.88 against the previous day's closing of Rs 294.90. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 293.6 and Rs 296.5 respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by 99 paise to close at Rs 314.29 against the last day's closing of Rs 315.28.

SWCCI, Superior University ink MoU

SARGODHA (APP): A Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony was held between the Sargodha Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Superior University Sargodha campus on Wednesday.

The aim of agreement is to providing students with business opportunities in various fields through the Chamber of Commerce. President SWCCI Madam Shamim Aftab, Vice President Tanzila Fiaz, Secretary Chamber Sara Rehan, Executive Members Dr Humaira Azhar, Rubina Mukhtar, Samira Shahid, Shazia Bangash, and from the university side, Director University of Commerce & Industry Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal, Lecturer Anam Khan, and other staff members were present in the ceremony. On the occasion, SWCCI President Madam Shamim Aftab said the Women's Chamber of Commerce had always provided opportunities for women to progress. Female students would also be familiarized with modern business methods in the contemporary era.

KP CM for timely completion, activation of hydel power projects

PESHAWAR (APP): The 17th board meeting of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Hydel Development Fund (HDF) was held here on Wednesday with the Caretaker Chief Minister, Muhammad Azam Khan in the chair.

Caretaker Provincial Minister for Finance, Ahmed Rasool Bangash, Advisor to CM on Energy and Power, Dr. Sarfaraz Ali Shah, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Additional Chief Secretary Zubair Asghar Qureshi, administrative secretaries

of the concerned departments and other board members attended the meeting.

Besides reviewing progress on the decisions of the last board meeting, the forum accorded conditional approval to the proposed funding for hydel development projects for the fiscal year 2023-24.

The Chief Minister on this occasion, directed the quarters concerned to take necessary steps in order to operationalize the province's own

Transmission and Grid Company adding that the appointment of the chief executive officer of the company be ensured as early as possible for the purpose.

He termed the establishment of the Provincial government's own Transmission and Grid Company as a good move to improve the power supply system in the province and said that its operationalization will substantially reduce the province's dependence on WAPDA infrastructure.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali presides over the 15th Senate session of Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan.

Chairs senate meeting of AWKUM Governor suggests measures to overcome financial problems

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali here Wednesday chaired the 15th Senate meeting of Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan (AWKUM) that approved the minutes of the last meeting.

The meeting was also attended by the caretaker education minister, Qasim Jan, Vice Chancellor of the varsity, Dr. Zahoor-ul-Haq, Additional Secretary Education, Javid Iqbal and representatives of the Higher Education Commission. The meeting

approved minutes of the last senate meeting and discussed matters including draft statutes, university's power of attorney, discipline rules, pay scale and appointments of administrative officials.

The meeting also discussed objections on promotions of administrative staff, appointments of regular faculty members and disbursement of pensions. Speaking on the occasion, the governor said that the objective of the meeting is to bring improvement in the whole

system after consultation and deliberation. He said that it is my utmost desire that universities should overcome their financial problems and further improve performances for the betterment of students.

He suggested that universities should devise a strategy with the consultation of insurance companies for payment of pension arrears and added that it would reduce the pension burden on varsities and also help providing financial help to employees after retirement.

Feroze Jamal says: Provincial govt constantly demanding payment of its rights from the federation

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Information, Tourism and Culture Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel has said that the caretaker KP government will never give up the constitutional rights of the province.

His provincial government is constantly demanding payment of its rights from the federation in hydropower, gas royalty and other issues, while positive progress is also expected from the center in this regard, he added.

He expressed these views during a visit to Pakhtunkhwa Radio FM 92.2 and a detailed interview in the program Pakhtunkhwa Online in Peshawar. On arrival at Pakhtunkhwa Radio, he

also inspected the Broadcasting House while Station Director Ghulam Hussain Ghazi briefed him on the performance and role of this provincial Radio network.

Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel said that the announcement of the election date is not the responsibility of the caretaker government, but instead it's the responsibility of the Election Commission of Pakistan, when asked by the host of the program, Lehaz Ali, about the general elections.

"Whenever the election commission announces the date of the elections, the caretaker provincial government will give full support to conduct fair.



KARACHI: Chief Executive officer State Life Insurance Corporation Shoaib Javed Hussain calls on Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

Punjab expands 24/7 healthcare services in underserved areas

LAHORE (APP): Punjab's Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Dr. Jamal Nasir announced that more than 300 basic health units (BHUs) in remote and underdeveloped areas of the province are now offering round-the-clock medical services, following the directive of Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi.

Dr. Nasir, while presiding over a departmental review meeting on Wednesday, revealed that additional medical staff, including doctors and paramedics, have been deployed to

ensure these BHUs remain operational 24/7.

Additionally, the caretaker government has supplied 300 ultrasound machines to enhance healthcare services at these primary health facilities. Dr. Jamal Nasir outlined that these 24/7 BHUs are equipped to provide Basic Emergency, Obstetrics & Newborn Care (EMONC), Antenatal & Postnatal Care, family planning services, immunizations (BCG, OPV, Hep B, DPT, Measles, TT), laboratory services, ultrasound services, 24-hour ambulance services.

ATC allows fresh physical remand of Mehmood in 3 cases

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Wednesday granted a fresh physical remand of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Mian Mehmoodur Rasheed to police in three cases related to May-9 violence.

The court allowed police three-day physical remand of the PTI leader in three cases, including torching a container at Kalma Chowk and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz office in Model Town.

ATC Judge Abher Gul Khan conducted the proceedings wherein the police produced the accused after bringing him from jail.

The investigation officers had requested the court to grant physical remand of the accused.

They submitted that the custody of the accused was required for interrogation in connection with the new offences added in the cases.

CCPO Lahore expresses dismay over pending cases

LAHORE (APP): Capital City Police Officer Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana expressed disappointment over the pending cases and pending road certificates, and directed the officers concerned to resolve the cases on priority basis.

He expressed this while presiding over a meeting held on the performance of divisional SPs at the conference room of CCPO's office here on Wednesday. In the meeting, a detailed review of the performance regarding the pending road certificates, the cases

under investigation and the silent accused was reviewed.

On the occasion, Bilal Siddique Kamyana said that negligence and lack of interest in duties would not be acceptable, however, the SPs concerned would also be held accountable for the poor performance of SDPOs, SHOs, Incharge (Investigation).

The CCPO Lahore said that challans should be completed, and road certificates and the cases should not be kept pending.

EUM holds int'l conference on AI, linguistic studies

MULTAN (APP): Emerson University Multan (EUM), Department of English organized an international conference on the importance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Linguistics here on Wednesday.

The conference titled "Artificial Intelligence and Linguistics Studies" was addressed by the Dean School of Foreign Languages, Shanghai International University, Dr. HU Kaibo, Dr. Kang Yang, and Dr. Alzaal. The speakers shared their experiences with students regarding research and language development, emphasizing their significance.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce & Industry, Dr. Gohar Ejaz called on Dr. Kausar Abdulla Malik, Federal Minister for Food Security & Research.

International News

Iran's president denies sending drones and other weapons to Russia and decries US meddling

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: Iran's president on Monday denied his country had sent drones to Russia for use in the war in Ukraine, even as the United States accuses Iran of not only providing the weapons but helping Russia build a plant to manufacture them.

"We are against the war in Ukraine," President Ebrahim Raisi said as he met with media executives on the sidelines of the world's premier global conference, the high-level leaders' meeting at the U.N. General Assembly. The Iranian leader spoke just hours after five Americans who had been held in Iranian custody arrived in Qatar, freed in a deal that saw President Joe

Biden agree to unlock nearly \$6 billion in frozen Iranian assets.

Known as a hard-liner, Raisi seemingly sought to strike a diplomatic tone. He reiterated offers to mediate the Russia-Ukraine war despite being one of the Kremlin's strongest backers. And he suggested that the just-concluded deal with the United States that led to the prisoner exchange and assets release could "help build trust" between the longtime foes.

Raisi acknowledged that Iran and Russia have long had strong ties, including defense cooperation. But he denied sending weapons to Moscow since the war began. "If they have a document that Iran

gave weapons or drones to the Russians after the war," he said, then they should produce it. Iranian officials have made a series of contradictory comments about the drones. U.S. and European officials say the sheer number of Iranian drones being used in the war in Ukraine shows that the flow of such weapons has not only continued but intensified after hostilities began. Despite his remarks about trust, Raisi's tone toward the United States wasn't all conciliatory; he had harsh words at other moments. Raisi said his country "sought good relations with all neighboring countries" in the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.



Russian peacekeepers evacuate civilians in the town of Askeran following the launch of a military operation by Azerbaijani forces in the region of Nagorno-Karabakh, a region inhabited by ethnic Armenians, in this still image from video published.

As UN Security Council takes up Ukraine, a potentially dramatic meeting may be at hand

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: All eyes will be on Ukraine's president and Russia's top diplomat at a U.N. Security Council meeting Wednesday. Will they clash? Will they speak? Will they avoid each other entirely? The meeting's topic is deeply relevant to those questions: It's about upholding the U.N. Charter in Ukraine. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres minced no words this week in reiterating that Russia's February 2022 invasion of its smaller

neighbor violated the charter's underpinning—that the 193 U.N. member nations respect each others' sovereignty and territorial integrity. The U.N. chief will brief the 15-member council and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, making his first in-person appearance before the U.N.'s most powerful body, is on tap to follow him. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is No. 11 on the list, and Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is scheduled to follow him.

King Charles greeted in France with pomp, diplomacy on state visit

Monitoring Desk PARIS: King Charles arrived in France on Wednesday for a three-day state visit, during which he and President Emmanuel Macron will hope to build on symbolism and personal bonds to turn the page on years of rocky relations between the two nations.

The king and his wife, Queen Camilla, were greeted by French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne in a windy Paris, before heading to a ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe, where they paid tribute to French and British soldiers who died in two world wars. They then drove down the Champs-Élysées avenue in a French DS car, waving at the thin crowds that had gathered along the tree-lined boulevard. "Shame he didn't drive down in a carriage," Marie-Noelle Ahanso, a 62-year old employee, told Reuters.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi with other lawmakers walks in a procession to enter the new Parliament building, in New Delhi, India.

Azerbaijan halts Karabakh offensive after ceasefire deal with Armenian separatists

Monitoring Desk BAKU: Azerbaijan said on Wednesday it had halted military action in its breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh after Armenian separatist forces there agreed to a ceasefire whose terms signalled the area would return to Baku's control.

Under the agreement, confirmed by both sides and effective from 1pm (0900 GMT) on Wednesday, separatist forces will disband and disarm and talks on the future of the region and the ethnic Armenians who live there will start

on Thursday. Karabakh, a mountainous area in the volatile wider South Caucasus region, is internationally recognised as Azerbaijani territory, but part of it has been run by separatist Armenian authorities who call the area their ancestral homeland.

Fearful of what the future might hold, thousands of Armenians massed at the airport in Stepanakert, the capital of Karabakh which is known as Khanakendi by Azerbaijan. Others took shelter with Russian peacekeepers.

Azerbaijan, which sent troops backed by artillery strikes into Karabakh on Tuesday to bring the breakaway region to heel, says it plans to integrate the area's 120,000 ethnic Armenians and that their rights will be protected under the constitution.

But some Armenians — given the region has been at the centre of two wars since the 1991 Soviet fall — are sceptical and neighbouring Armenia has accused Azerbaijan of trying to ethnically cleanse the territory, something Baku denies.

Washington, Riyadh exploring mutual defence pact: New York Times

Monitoring Desk JEDDAH: American and Saudi officials are discussing the terms of a mutual defence treaty that would resemble military pacts that the US has with allies such as Japan and South Korea — in a bid to get Saudi Arabia to normalise relations with Israel, the New York Times reported.

Under the agreement, both sides would pledge to provide military support if the other country is attacked, either in the region or on Saudi

territory. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is also asking the Biden administration to help his country develop a civilian nuclear programme, which some US officials fear could be cover for a nuclear weapons program to counter Iran, according to an NYT report.

Any treaty with Saudi Arabia that is similar to the American pacts with other allies is sure to draw strong objections in Congress, since some lawmakers, including top Democrats.

Communications cut to Libya's ruined city

Monitoring Desk DERNÄ: Telephone and internet links were severed on Tuesday to Libya's flood-hit city of Derna, a day after hundreds protested there against local authorities they blamed for the thousands of deaths. A tsunami-sized flash flood broke through two aging river dams upstream from the city on the night of September 10 and razed entire neighbourhoods, sweeping untold thousands into the Mediterranean Sea. Protesters massed on Monday at the city's grand mosque.

India moves toward reserving 33% of the seats in Parliament and state legislatures for women

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: India's Parliament on Wednesday took a major step toward reserving 33% of the seats in its powerful lower house and in state legislatures for women to ensure more equal representation, an issue that had languished for nearly three decades because of a lack of consensus among political parties.

Indian President Droupadi Murmu called the measure the most "transformative revolution in our times" for gender justice. The Lok Sabha, Parliament's lower house, approved legislation introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

government that is expected to boost its image ahead of national elections before next May. An overwhelming 454 members across the political spectrum supported it and only two voted against it. However, the measure will not apply to next year's national elections, Home Minister Amit Shah said.

The legislation now requires approval from Parliament's upper house and half of the country's 28 state legislatures, which is considered likely. Shah said it will be implemented in the 2029 national elections following a new census and an adjustment of voting districts after next year's elections.



Gillian Tett of the Financial Times, moderator, Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Amor Mottley, Wold Bank Group President Ajay Banga and Carolina Cosse, Mayor of Montevideo, Uruguay, participate in the United Nations Sustainable Development Forum.

Indonesia parliament committee approves higher 2024 budget of \$216bn

Monitoring Desk JAKARTA: Indonesia's parliament committee on Tuesday approved the government's higher 2024 budget expenditure of \$216 billion to support economic growth, but some analysts say a bigger spending buffer might be needed to cope with adverse weather events.

President Joko Widodo's budget for 2024, his final year in office, targets expenditure at 3,325.1 trillion rupiah (\$216.27 billion), up 6.45% from 2023's outlook to account

for higher energy subsidies amid rising global oil prices.

The fiscal deficit for next year was seen at 2.29% of gross domestic product versus an outlook of 2.3% of GDP for this year, while 2024 economic growth seen a touch higher at 5.2%.

The fiscal budget proposal was approved by the budget committee chaired by Said Abdullah.

Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati highlighted the risk of rising global crude oil prices to the budget next year.

Pak, Saudi Arabia agree to deepen cooperation in all fields

NEW YORK (APP): Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on Tuesday emphasising the vital importance of Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations agreed to further deepen mutual cooperation in all fields, especially economy, trade, energy and investment.

The bilateral relations were discussed in a meeting between Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani and his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, on the sidelines of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The two foreign ministers exchanged views on various aspects of bilateral relations as well as the regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Foreign Minister Jilani thanked the Saudi

leadership for their generous and unwavering support to Pakistan which was particularly instrumental in securing the deal with the International Monetary Fund.

He apprised the Saudi foreign minister of the formation of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to facilitate and fast-track potential investments from GCC Member States, especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

He emphasized that mutually rewarding Pak-Saudi cooperation in key areas including IT, Energy, Infrastructure and labour must be fast-tracked and augmented.

The foreign minister also thanked the Saudi counterpart for hosting more than two million strong Pakistani diaspora

which not only contributed towards the development of both countries but also formed a vital bridge between the two brotherly nations.

Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud highlighted the brotherly relations between the two nations and the valuable contributions made by the Pakistani community in the development of the Kingdom.

The foreign minister reiterated that Pakistan eagerly looked forward to the visit of the Saudi Crown Prince and the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are bound by fraternal ties marked by mutual trust and understanding, close cooperation, and an abiding tradition of supporting each other.



QUETTA: General Manager Construction of NHA Bisharat Hussain briefed Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Ejaz Qureshi says Wafaqi Mohtasib playing leading role in international fraternity of ombudsman

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Wafaqi Mohtasib Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi on Wednesday said the Wafaqi Mohtasib institution was playing a leading role among the international fraternity in realizing the ombudsmanship goals of rule of law and good governance.

It was evident from the trust reposed by the 47 members of Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA) in the institution by re-electing the Federal Ombudsman as AOA President during the General Assembly moot held at Kazan, Tatarstan, on September 11, he said while addressing a conference.

The unopposed re-election, he said, "is a clear manifestation of the fact that the services of Wafaqi Mohtasib of Pakistan in carrying forward the ultimate goals of



ombudsmanship i.e good governance, fair play, administrative justice and rule of law were fully recognized by the international community." Ejaz Qureshi thanked the AOA General Assembly for expressing confidence in Pakistan's contribution in promoting the cause of ombudsmanship in Asia and beyond.

Prior to Kazan moot, he said, a meeting of the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI) was held in

Bangkok (Thailand) on July 11, which was actively participated by Pakistan.

He said the Asian Ombudsman Association, established following the First Asian Ombudsman Conference held on April 15-16, 1996 at Islamabad, was a major non-political, independent and professional body of international character representing more than two thirds of the world population.

Balochistan farmers get pulses seeds to enhance production

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) has provided high-quality pulses seeds to farmers of Balochistan province in order to enhance the production of edibles in the country.

The other aim of the initiative was to enhance the farm income of small growers as well as to ensure food safety and security of the farming communities of such areas of the province, said Chairman PARC Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali.

Talking to APP here on Wednesday, he said that high-yielding pulse seeds have been distributed to farmers in 22 districts of Balochistan.

He further said that the council has played a pioneering role in the introduction and promotion of olive, saffron, pistachio, and other high-value fruit plants in Balochistan.

Chairman PARC reiterated the commitment of the Council, as the apex

national agricultural research organization, to disseminate innovative agricultural research findings across the province to enhance farm income, particularly of the small farmers.

Dr Ali said that PARC has also planted approximately one million olive trees across eighteen districts of Balochistan and installed a drip irrigation system on 2,000 acres.

Our primary focus is on enhancing area under pulses crop in Balochistan to achieve self-sufficiency at the national level and to fulfill the dietary needs of the people of the province, he remarked.

Additionally, he said that PARC has launched multiple research programs for the cultivation of sesame and psyllium husk (Ispaghol) in various areas of the province, adding that it would also help in achieving sustainable agriculture growth in the country.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar attending funeral prayer of ANP leader Arbab Ghulam Muhammad Kasi

Gwadar Port, SEZ will play an important role in development of Balochistan: Moinul Haque

Briefs media delegation from Balochistan on Pak-China ties, CPEC

BELING (INP): A high-level media delegation from Balochistan province, currently on visit to China, met with Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moinul Haque at the Pakistan Embassy here on Wednesday.

Ambassador Haque briefed the delegation about Pakistan and China bilateral relations especially the current status of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which he termed as the flagship project of BRI and a strong symbol of Pak-China strong ties.

In the second phase of CPEC, the focus is on co-operation in science and technology, agriculture and social sector development, he added.

Ambassador Haque said that Pakistan and China are all-weather friends and strategic cooperative partners and both the countries support each other during the challenging



times.

He said that China extended ample assistance to Pakistan during the Covid-19 pandemic by sending vaccines, equipment and medical teams.

During the floods last year, China again extending a helping hand and sent relief goods to help the flood-stricken people in Pakistan, he added.

Ambassador Haque said that China is focusing on the Balochistan province and has initiated several development projects especially in Gwadar.

He informed that Gwadar port, special economic zone and Gwadar international airport will play an important role in the development of the province and the country.

He said that Gwadar has a potential to become the regional hub for business and trade and expressed the confidence that the port city would greatly contribute to the economy and bring about job and business opportunities for the locals.

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Maximum public service and solution of problems included in priorities: CM

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that it is included in his top priorities to serve the masses and resolve their problems.

Mr. Domki was speaking to a representative delegation of All Baloch Trade Union who called on him under leadership of Muhammad Siddique Yousafzai here on Wednesday.

The members of delegation congratulated Mr. Domki on assuming the office of caretaker Chief Minister and expressed best wishes for him.

They also informed Mr. Domki about the issues being faced by the trade union and requested him to resolve them.

While assuring to resolve their issues, the caretaker Chief Minister said that maximum public service and resolution of their issues is included in his top priorities.

He said that the directives would be issued to the Deputy Commissioner Quetta to resolve the issues of trade unions.

In this regard, the CM's office would also extend its assistance, he maintained.

Ex Senator Saifullah call on CM Domki

QUETTA (APP): Former Senator, Nawabzada Mir Saifullah Khan Magsi called on Balochistan Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki on Wednesday.

Provincial Adviser Irrigation Mir Danish Longov, Syed Asad Shah, Director General of Agriculture Research Development Nadeem Sadiq, retired police officer Sardarzada Mir Gul Khan Sasoli, Mir Saifullah Sasoli, secretaries of various departments and trade union officials were also present on the occasion.

Different issues came under discussion during the meeting, said a press release.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the General Staff Saudi Armed Forces, General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili called on Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters.

Sikh community protests against India over leader's killing in Canada

LAHORE (INP): The Sikh community staged a protest in Lahore on Wednesday against the Indian government in response to the killing of a prominent Sikh leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a vocal advocate of the Khalistan movement, in Canada.

The Sikh community emphasised that Indian intelligence agencies were involved in targeting Sikhs globally, calling on the international community to take note of India's acts of terrorism.

Speaking to the media, former member of the Punjab Assembly, Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, asserted that India was involved in the assassination of the Khalistan leader.

"Indian government is fearful of the Khalistan referendum and is resorting to targeting Sikhs, but Sikhs have a fundamental right to peaceful and democratic struggle for Khalistan," he added.

He said that Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has provided evidence of India's involvement in the killing of Sikh leader, adding that India has long been accused of spreading terrorism.

The Sikh community also raised slogans against the Indian government and demanded that the international community must take notice of the atrocities and ethnic cleansing perpetrated against Sikhs by the Modi government.



LAHORE: Sikh Community of Pakistan holds protest outside Press Club against the alleged death of Sikh person in Canada.

WMFP condemns harassment of Spanish journalist

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Women Media Forum, Pakistan (WMFP) strongly condemns the harassment faced by Spanish journalist Isa Balado while reporting in Madrid.

Isa was on-air reporting a robbery when a male passerby appeared to touch her rear and proceeded to ask her which channel she worked for. She did not react to the harassment but proceeded to calmly catch his face on camera.

WMFP commends the way Isa dealt with the harassment, commenting on her courage in confronting this person immediately not only sending him a message that he had not intimidated her and that it was not alright to do this. She dealt with the situation with professionalism and courage.

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Domki pays surprise visit to BHU Pashtoonabad

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki paid surprise visit to the Basic Health Unit, Pashtoonabad on Wednesday. During the visit, the caretaker Chief Minister reviewed the medical facilities available at the BHU Pashtoonabad.

He also inspected the outpatient department, medicine store, EPI center and other sections of the

BHU. He expressed satisfaction over the performance of BHU Pashtoonabad describing it satisfactory. He stressed the need to establish role model medical centers on the pattern of BHU Pashtoonabad for provision of healthcare facilities to the masses. He said that the BHUs are basic part of the primary healthcare system in provision of medical services to the masses and as such it is very necessary to make them fully functional.

Funeral prayer of slain ANP leader offered in Kuchlak; Governor, others participate

Independent Report
QUETTA: The funeral prayer of senior leader of Awami National Party (ANP), Arbab Ghulam Muhammad Kasi, who was shot dead the other day, was offered in native area, Killi Katir of Kuchlak.

Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Kakar and a large number of other people belonging to different political parties including ANP, tribal elders, religious leaders and from various shades of life participated in the funeral prayer.

Malik Abdul Wali Kakar also laid floral wreath on the coffin of ANP leader. Speaking on the occasion, Governor said that the late Arbab Ghulam Muhammad Kasi was a gentleman and a sincere political leader, who always focused on the public issues and their rights. He said that the invaluable services of late Kasi would be remembered for long.

Caretaker Minister Home visits SSP Traffic office Quetta; lauds performance

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Captain (Retd) Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali visited the SSP Traffic Office Quetta on Wednesday.

The SP Traffic, Malik Muhammad Javed welcomed the Minister Home and briefed him about the overall functioning of the Traffic Police.

Also present on the occasion were the Staff Officer, Attique Rehman and IT Incharge, Muhammad Azam.

IT Incharge briefed the Minister Home about the smart traffic management system, Eassta App, E-chalancing and road safety.

The Minister Home was also briefed about the licensing, monitoring and service infrastructure besides other related issues.

Speaking on occasion, the Minister said that it is no less than a challenge to keep running over 500,000 vehicles in Quetta city.

He said that the provision of police services, education and enforcement are top priorities of the government. He noted with contentment that the Traffic police is providing best services despite limited resources. He said that the roads accidents would be decreased by implementing the traffic laws. Moreover, the 80 percent head injuries would also be reduced by using helmets while riding bikes. While briefing the Minister, SP Traffic informed that committees have been formed comprising transporters, social activists and traders representatives for resolving the traffic issues. Similarly, crackdown is also being done against encroachments at vast level, he informed.

He described encroachments, improper road structure and enormous increase in the number of vehicles as major reasons behind hurdles in flow of traffic.

Levies Force recovers body of man in Dasht

QUETTA (APP): Levies Force recovered the body of a man at a mountain near Dasht area of Mastung district on Wednesday.

According to Levies sources, on receiving information, the Levies Force team reached and took the body into custody which was dumped at a mountain after killing by unknown men. The body was shifted to a nearby hospital where it was identified as a 35-year-old Shair Zaman resident of Killi Shahnwaz near Sariab area of Quetta. The Levies source said that the relatives of Shair Zaman had registered a case against in relevant Police Station that he was abducted along with rickshaw by unknown armed men on gunpoint few days ago. The body of the deceased was handed over to the heirs after completion of medico-legal formalities. Further investigation was underway. After receiving the body, the relatives of the deceased body blocked the road near Custom Sariab area against the killing.



QUETTA (APP): Levies Force recovered the body of a man at a mountain near Dasht area of Mastung district on Wednesday.



QUETTA: Provincial Home Minister Capt (Retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali inspecting different sections during his visit to traffic police office

DC Quetta directs to issue 1500 pending cases of local certificates within a week

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Flt. Lieutenant @ Saad bin Asad has directed to issue 1500 pending cases of the local certificates within a week time.

The decision to this effect was made on the pub-

lic complaints on Wednesday.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed to issue the local certificates, which are lying pending since August 23, 2023 within a week.

All those who have submitted the applications

for local certificates may collect their certificates within one week, it was directed further.

The DC Quetta said that it has been directed to make the process of local certificates easier for facilitation of the general public.