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Faizabad verdict key to avoiding incidents like Jaranwala: CJP Isa

After IB and PEMRA, defence ministry, PTI and ECP seek to withdraw their pleas; hearing adjourned till Nov 1

ISLAMABAD (INP): If the Faizabad sit-in verdict was implemented, the Jaranwala incident could have been prevented, said Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa on Thursday as the Supreme Court adjourned the hearing on a set of pleas challenging the judgment till November 1.

A three-member bench led by CJP Isa and comprising Justice Aminuddin Khan and Justice Athar Minallah was hearing a set of pleas challenging the top court's judgment in the Faizabad sit-in case,

wherein intelligence agencies were directed not to exceed their constitutional mandates.

As the outset of the hearing, the Ministry of Defence, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) filed applications to withdraw their pleas.

Similar, applications were earlier submitted by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra).

The CJP wondered as to why the review petitions

were being withdrawn. "It appears that an order was given to file review petitions," he observed.

CJP Isa remarked that there will be no future for Pakistan without accountability.

The truth will be set free, he said, asking "why is everyone scared of telling the truth about filing review petitions?"

Online adds: Supreme Court (SC) has remarked why the decision on Faizabad Dharma case has not been implemented and all are so much fearful. SC has sought imple-

mentation report from federal government on decision in Tehreek Labaik Pakistan (TLP) 2017 Dharma case while hearing review petition against the decision Thursday.

The court while adjourning the hearing of case till November 01 sought written replies from the lawyers of the respondents till October 27.

The court remarked all respondents were not present today. Another chance is given to respondents in connection with attendance.



MADINAH MUNAWRAH: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar visited Masjid-e-Nabvi (the Prophet's Mosque) in Madinah and paid his respects at Roza-e-Rasool (SAWW).



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a meeting with a delegation of the members of the British Parliament and the representatives of the Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora in the UK, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) to be celebrated with great religious zeal, fervor today

ISLAMABAD (INP): Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) will be celebrated with great religious zeal and fervor across the country tomorrow Friday.

The day will dawn with thirty-one guns salute at the federal capital and twenty-one guns salute at all the provincial capitals.

Special prayers for the unity of Muslim Ummah and progress and prosperity of the country will be offered in the mosques after Fajr prayers.

Special conferences, events and Mehfil-e-Milad are being arranged to pay respect to the last messenger whose life and teachings are beacon of light for the whole mankind.

A two-day National Seerat-un-Nabi (Peace Be Upon) is commencing in the federal capital in connection with Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW). Prominent Ulama, Mashaikh and scholars will participate in the Conference and throw light on various aspects of the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW).

Buildings, streets, roads, mosques and houses are being decorated with colourful lights in connection with the auspicious occasion.



ISLAMABAD: Newly-appointed Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong meeting with Caretaker Foreign Minister Ja'il Abbas Jilani.

Pak-China ties to be stronger, more stable, says Solangi

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi has expressed confidence that relations between Pakistan and China will further strengthen and become more stable.

In a conversation with China Media Group's Urdu service in Beijing before his return home from an official visit to China, Murtaza Solangi congratulated the Chinese government and people on the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

He said that the BRI has provided new development opportunities to developing countries, including Pakistan.

Speaking about the China Pakistan Economic Corridor, the flagship project of the BRI, Murtaza Solangi said that it was a golden chapter in the relations between China and Pa-

kistan.

He said that the CPEC has provided significant investment in Pakistan's energy, infrastructure, and communication sectors, creating new development opportunities and employment opportunities.

Murtaza Solangi said that Pakistan was entering a new era of CPEC, with new projects such as ML-1 getting underway.

He said that these projects will prove to be a milestone in Pakistan's rail service and introduce new employment and development opportunities.

The minister also expressed his confidence that the upcoming visit of the top leadership of Pakistan to China in October will begin a new era in relations between the two countries.

He said that despite the changing global political landscape, Pakistan-China relations are improving with each passing time.

ECP unfreezes voter lists nationwide for registration, corrections

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has immediately lifted restrictions on voter lists nationwide, allowing eligible individuals to register, transfer, or rectify their votes till Oct 25.

According to the ECP spokesperson's statement, the electoral rolls were suspended on July 20, this year by invoking clause 39 of the Election Act 2017.

Following the unfreezing of electoral lists, eligible individuals now have the opportunity to update their voter information. He urged all eligible citizens to ensure the correctness of their voter registration, modifications, and transfers, and align their particulars with their computerized national identity card details by October 25, 2023.

Farrukh Habib, brother, four others arrested

GWADAR (INP): Authorities have achieved yet another success in their ongoing crackdown on the PTI leaders and workers following the incidents of violence of May 9 as now they have succeeded in picking up a party stalwart and former federal minister Farrukh Habib, his brother and four others, who had gone into hiding, from Gwadar on Thursday.

According to reports, all six of them have been shifted to an undisclosed location. Confirming the news, the party's spokesman has said that one man dressed in a police uniform and seven to eight men in plainclothes came to the place where Farrukh was staying along with five others and whisked them away without arrest warrants.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George speaking at "Awareness Raising & Sensitization Session on Human Rights" in National College of Arts.

PM Kakar pays respects at Roza-e-Rasool (SAW)

MADINAH MUNAWRAH (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar visited Masjid-e-Nabvi (the Prophet's Mosque) in Madinah and paid his respects at Roza-e-Rasool (SAWW).

The prime minister offered nawafil at the Roza the Wednesday evening.

Afterwards, the caretaker Prime Minister visited the International Fair and Museum of the Prophet (SAWW)'s Biography and Islamic Civilization, located adjacent to Masjid-e-Nabvi.

Dr Nasir Misfir Al-Zahrani, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Prophet (SAWW)'s Museum, warmly welcomed the prime minister.

The prime minister was given a comprehensive briefing about the historical museum, which showcases the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad

(SAW) as well as the Islamic civilization.

PM Kakar expressed his deep appreciation for the museum and applauded the efforts made to preserve and present the rich Islamic heritage.

As a token of appreciation, Dr Nasir Misfir Al-Zahrani presented the prime minister with a shield and books, symbolizing the cherished connection between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in promoting Islamic heritage and fostering mutual understanding.

The museum chronicles the Prophet's (SAW) journey and highlights significant events and teachings through multimedia. It also showcases Islamic civilization's achievements in various fields. The museum promotes interfaith dialogue and understanding, fostering respect for diverse beliefs and cultures.

COAS says

Law enforcement actions against illegal activities to continue with full force

Underscores the need for synergy among all relevant departments for gainful effects of the landmark initiatives

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab, Mohsin Raza Naqvi. During the Apex Committee meeting, the COAS was briefed about overall security situation, including Law Enforcement Actions against electricity and gas theft, hoarding and foreign currency smuggling, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The Forum was also briefed on measures taken for the protection of minorities and the progress of operations in the Kacha area. The forum also reviewed the repatriation of illegal foreign nationals.

Aneeq highlights CII's vital role in addressing national, religious issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed emphasized the indispensable role of the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) in establishing enduring foundations for addressing the national and religious issues.

Addressing former non-Muslim parliamentarians and community leaders here at the CII the other day,

he also highlighted the Council's crucial support in the research endeavors of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony.

Minister Aneeq stressed the importance of Muslims being knowledgeable about their responsibilities and urged for adherence to the noble character of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

President, British MPs call for an end to India's human rights abuses in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi and the members of the United Kingdom's parliament on Thursday expressed deep concern over the human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and the persecution of the minorities in India.

The matter was discussed as the Members of Parliament (MPs) and the representatives of the Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora in the UK called on President Alvi here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The delegation was led by Chairman of Labour Friends of Kashmir UK, Shadow Minister Andrew Gwynne.

The meeting high-

lighted the need for an action by the international community to put pressure on India to stop its human rights abuses in IIOJK.

President Alvi said India was involved in the genocide of Muslims, persecution and suppression of minorities, burning and destroying the churches in Manipur, and the extra-judicial killings of the leaders of minority communities regionally and internationally.

He said the psyche of India was changing as it had been influenced by the extremist Hindutva ideology which aimed to marginalize minorities, particularly the Muslims.

He mentioned that Pakistan was committed to safeguarding the

rights of its minorities, and took prompt action if any injustice was done to them.

The president highlighted that India was trying to change the demographic structure of the IIOJK to transform the Kashmiri people into a minority in their own land.

He urged the world to put pressure on India to reverse its illegal demographic changes in the occupied territory.

UK Shadow Minister Andrew Gwynne expressed grave concern over the human rights violations and denial of rights to the people of IIOJK. The torture and brutalities being committed by India are unacceptable, he added.



LAHORE: Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir attending Punjab Apex Committee. Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Raza Naqvi is also present.

PaL welcomes efforts for peace in Yemen

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Thursday welcomed positive outcome of the dialogue, held in Riyadh from September 14 to 18, between the officials of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and the Sultanate of Oman aimed at achieving a road map for the peace process in Yemen. akistan also lauded the Saudi initiative of dialogue between the Saudi Defense Minister and the Sana'a delegation.

It reflects the positive intent of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the sagacious stewardship of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, in standing with Yemen and its people and encouraging the Yemeni parties to engage in a dialogue towards achieving a comprehensive, enduring and amicable political solution, under the United Nations' auspices, a press statement issued by the foreign office spokesperson said.

"Pakistan reiterates its principled support for a political solution to the Yemeni crisis through dialogue and consultation," it added.

Pakistan's stance on Israel-Palestine conflict remains Unchanged: FM Jilani

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Caretaker Foreign Minister Ja'il Abbas Jilani has said that Pakistan's stance on Israel-Palestine conflict has always remained same and the issue should be resolved as per aspirations of the Palestinians.

Addressing a press conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Thursday, he expressed serious concern about the human rights violations occurring in Palestine, and underscored that Al-Quds should be recognised as the capital of Palestine.

Ja'il Abbas Jilani further stated that Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar had actively participated in several conferences during the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). "PM Kakar engaged in productive bilateral meetings with the presidents of Iran and Uzbekistan, and the vice-president of China during his visit to the United States."

Dr. Nadeem says:

Govt to take action against smuggled drugs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan issued an order to start a crackdown against counterfeit, unregistered, and smuggled drugs. According to a spokesperson of the Ministry of Health, the minister directed that the

sale storage and distribution points of all such medicines should be stopped immediately.

Dr. Nadeem Jan said that strict legal action should be taken against the elements involved in these unregistered fake medicines. He said that the scope

of surveillance in the market should be increased with checks on distributors, medical stores, and wholesalers in the markets. The minister said that effective measures are being taken for the uninterrupted supply of quality and safe medicines to the people.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Accruing more debt

The government has issued new debt of over Rs2.5tr during the first three months of the current financial year to finance its burgeoning fiscal deficit — the gap between its revenues and expenditures — according to new estimates of a Karachi-based brokerage firm. The new borrowing is nearly 57pc of the total debt of Rs4.4tr it had auctioned during FY23. The issuance of additional debt underlines the government's shrinking tax and other revenues, increased spending and growing reliance on domestic sources to fund its budgeted expenditures as external financing dries up. External financing shrank to its seven-month low of \$316m in August. Cumulatively, Islamabad secured external financing of \$3.2bn in July and August, which also includes Saudi deposits of \$2bn and a guaranteed loan of \$508m for the PAF.

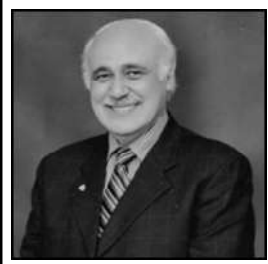
This shows that expectations that multilateral and bilateral partners would allow their coffers to flow to help Pakistan's distressed economy, following the IMF's nod to the Stand-by Arrangement, were very exaggerated.

The government is also facing difficulties in securing \$6bn through commercial loans and has dollar bond issues. Chances of achieving the budgeted external financing target of \$17.6bn for its expenditures and of meeting its foreign debt and other payments are slim. Last year, the government was able to obtain \$10.8bn in external financing and had to impose strict restrictions on imports and even on legitimate dollar outflows to avoid defaulting.

The centre has been running a large, unsustainable fiscal deficit of around 7pc of GDP for the last many years, which is the main reason for the accumulation of its huge domestic and foreign public debt, external sector fragility and inflation. The pace of debt accumulation has picked up in recent years. This is especially true for domestic public debt, which has grown to around Rs39tr from over Rs30tr a year ago, because of reduced external inflows. Successive governments have tried to justify the worsening fiscal imbalance on the basis of economic development targets. But these excuses are used only to mask the reality. The fact is that we are in the midst of the worst and longest economic crisis in our history because of the lavish lifestyles of powerful interests at the expense of the people and the well-being of the economy. The World Bank's country chief had alluded to this a few days back when he pointed fingers at the country's military, business and political elites for the economic mess we are struggling to resolve today.

Pakistan is facing an existential crisis that has severely impacted the majority of its citizens, especially the low- and middle-income segments and small businesses.

Mounting debt and dwindling foreign exchange reserves are two of our biggest challenges, which, without immediate fiscal reform, could lead to total economic collapse.



F.S. Aijazuddin

"Well, he would, wouldn't he?" That remark by Mandy Rice-Davies (an English model) became famous in the 1960s. She and her call-girl friend Christine Keeler had become embroiled in the political scandal that brought down John Profumo, then a minister in prime minister Harold Macmillan's cabinet. Mandy had been asked by a reporter outside the Old Bailey why Profumo had denied allegations of sexual impropriety between him and Ms Keeler. She retorted tartly: "Well, he would, wouldn't he?"

In an odd way, that word 'denial' connects Mandy with Modi. His government denied any involvement in the murder of a Canadian citizen — Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the chief of Khalistan Tiger Force. Nijjar was gunned down in June 2023 within the grounds of the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in British Columbia, on Canadian soil. Earlier in May, the Khalistan Commando Force chief Paramjit Singh Panjwar was shot dead by some unidentified assailants in Lahore, on Pakistani soil. Both assassinations took place in Com-m-onwealth countries. The difference between the two was that, unlike the Pakistanis, the Canadians reacted with unprecedented vehemence.

Canadian PM Justin Trudeau confronted his Indian colleague with this blunt accusation: "Canadian security agencies have been actively pursuing credible allegations of a potential link between agents of the government of India and the killing of a Canadian citizen, Hardeep

Absurd truths

Singh Nijjar." Modi dismissed the allegations as "absurd".

Gone the previous bonhomie when Tru-d-eau could tease Modi that he had more Sikhs in his cabinet than Modi did. Gone the diplomatic niceties when Common-wealth members bickered behind closed doors. Gone the myth that the Sikh diaspora had assimilated themselves — indistinguishable except for their turbans — into the corpus of their host countries.

The repeated demand by a subdivision of Sikhs for Khalistan — a separate nation state — has ensured that it remains as potent and combustible a factor both within India and outside it. India has 16 million Sikhs in its Punjab and 2m within reach of it. Over 8m Sikhs live outside India — 800,000 in Canada, 500,000 in the US, another half million in the UK, and the rest scattered across the globe. Khalistan is spoken of loosely as the area that is India's Punjab. The demand for it emanated first from within India, was fuelled from across the border by Pakistan's Gen Ziaul Haq and his like-minded successors. It is now a rallying call among an increasingly affluent Sikh diaspora.

To the Sikhs, geography and history coincide. The kingdom of Punjab created by the Sikh Maharaja Ranjit Singh in the mid-19th century remained roughly intact until 1947, except at its fringes and earlier when in 1846 Kashmir was sold to Raja Gulab Singh of Jammu, making him maharaja of both. In August 1947 Cyril Radcliffe sliced Punjab into two. One-third (the less arable) went to Indian East Punjab and the larger more fertile became Pakistani Punjab. In 1966, Indian PM Indira Gandhi trifurcated her Punjab to create Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and a residual Punjab.

So, today, the question arises: which area would comprise a hypo-

thetical Khalistan? Only the present state of Indian Punjab? Or would it also include territory in modern Pakistan that contains shrines sacred to the Sikh faith (Nankana Sahib, Punjab Sahib, Kartarpur, etc)?

Might any future government of a yet unborn Khalistan also demand offshore outposts in Canada, the US, and the UK? For example, the US has Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Britain still retains Gibraltar, the Channel Islands, Tristan da Cunha, and the Falkland Islands. Greece and Turkey share the offshore island of Cyprus, divided since 1964 on ethnic lines.

The timing of PM Trudeau's disclosure is significant. It has taken the shine off PM Modi's self-coronation as a leader of South Asia. Worse, it has denied India's ambition to secure a place as a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

He is being reminded that defying UN resolutions consistently for the past 75 years are poor credentials for a seat at its round table. Deflecting an accusation made by a fellow Commonwealth prime minister (who flew over 11,000 kilometres to confront him with 'credible proof' of Indian involvement) is yet another unfortunate example of India's brittle diplomacy.

PM Modi is not inclined to listen to anyone connected with the word Congress, least of all Annie Besant, the first woman president in 1917 of the Indian National Congress. She had cautioned once: "Ref-us-ing to be-li-e-ve until proof is given is a rational position; denial of it outside of our own... experience is absurd." It will take time to repair the damage done by the Nijjar/Panjwar murders to the carefully crafted murti of Mahatma Modi. Remember, though, Gandhi was the victim, not the assassin. — Courtesy Dawn

Peca strikes again



Farieha Aziz

Muhammad Khalid Jamil, bureau chief ABN News Islamabad, was arrested and charged under Section 20 of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016 (Peca) along with Section 505 of the Pakistan Penal Code. The complaint was made by a technical assistant at FIA Islamabad, accusing Jamil of disseminating an "anti-state narrative by sharing false misleading and baseless information" through his social media posts on X (formerly Twitter).

Since 2017, journalists critical of state excesses and policies have routinely been targeted using Section 20. Jamil's case follows the same pattern. But what's alarming is the use of Section 20 in the ICT jurisdiction after the Islamabad High Court (IHC) struck down the "harm to reputation" portion of it and bound FIA to follow certain procedures, especially in cases against journalists.

The language of Section 20 requires the complainant to be a "natural person" who is the aggrieved party. However, in such cases, it is usually a law-enforcement (LEA) officer or random third party, who operationalises this section of the law. Despite it being a non-cognisable offence, Section 20 routinely features in FIRs against journalists. Peca Rule 7(5) requires an investigation officer to seek the permission of the competent court for investigation under Section 155 of the CrPC. While the FIA is required to do this for Section 20, it does not. Instead, FIRs are registered using cognisable sections alongside Section

20, to gain powers to arrest.

Section 33 of Peca lays down the requirement for warrants to conduct search and seizure. Peca Rule 8 re-emphasises the requirement for warrants and for a proper chain of custody to be maintained. This too is not done. Instead, individuals are arrested, their devices are seized, they are coerced into providing their passwords — in breach of Article 13 of the Constitution which protects against self-incrimination — to gain access to devices and social media accounts. And if passwords aren't divulged, then other illegal methods are used to pry entry. Section 34 of Peca requires a warrant for the disclosure of content data. This also exists merely on paper.

Not only is the letter of the law violated so blatantly, but the person implicated is then condemned to the motions of 'the law' even though the offence is not made out. Process is punishment. But this is not about the law, it's about impunity. By now the abuse under Peca is well documented. That the application of Section 20 is illegal stands established in jurisprudence. Yet LEAs are able to repeat their illegal acts as there exists complete impunity in the absence of rule of law and accountability.

What also requires scrutiny is the judicial practice of remanding citizens into police — in this case, FIA — custody. What can't be investigated after the grant of bail? Aren't investigations conducted into non-cognisable offences? Condemning people into LEA custody in what are blatantly politically motivated and illegal cases only serve as a pressure tactic to silence them and warn others. What is the purpose of seizing devices and conducting forensics when the basis of booking someone is a

tweet or remarks in the public domain? Especially when the person doesn't deny making the remarks or posting the content. The purpose then is simply to extract information coercively to use for leverage and blackmail.

Consistent today in political cases is the concealment of FIRs, arbitrary cancellation and postponement of bail hearings. When bail is granted, the same individuals are rearrested in fresh cases the minute they step out of jail. Protection orders are issued by high courts but violated with impunity. Con-t-e-mpt applications are filed but amount to little by way of deterrence or accountability. In the tr-amping of fundamental rights, the writ of the courts also stands challenged.

While courts occasionally provide relief in the few odd cases before them, constitutional courts need to do more than just deal with the case at hand. They need to lay down precedents that extend broader protections and hold to account all those within the state apparatus, who abuse the law.

The Islamabad High Court struck down the PTI ordinance expanding the ambit of Section 20 and the "harm to reputation" part of the 2016 version of the law introduced by the PML-N, but the "false information" portion was left intact. Separately, the Lahore High Court declared all of Section 20 to be constitutional. An appeal against the LHC order was filed before the Supreme Court (SC) and proceedings in the case were stayed. The case has yet to proceed further. Now is the time to turn to the SC to settle the Section 20 question and, along with it, the wider abuse under Peca and the consistent infringement of due process and freedom of expression. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Pakistan's economy performs well on external, internal sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Finance Ministry on Thursday said that since the beginning of FY2024, Pakistan's economy stepped up on the recovery path and Pakistan's economy performed well on the external and internal sectors. In August FY2024, month-on-month exports increased by 14.2 percent while imports grew by 2.1 percent for the same period, according to the monthly economic update and outlook report issued by the Ministry of Finance.

On the external front, the current account deficit and aligned indicators are showing some developments in August,

the report said. Similarly, fiscal performance remains satisfactory at the start of FY2024. It is expected that the economic revival plan and prudent actions - policies including SIFC and IT policy - will attract new investments to create a multiplier effect in the economy for higher and inclusive economic growth in FY2024 and further in the medium term.

According to the report, recent administrative measures aimed at improving the availability of essential food commodities and expected ease in supply constraints has improved the inflation outlook.

Moreover, administrative and regulatory action for curbing illegal activities in the foreign exchange market have started to yield desired dividends and narrowing the gap between interbank and open market exchange rates.

Similarly, fiscal performance remains satisfactory at the start of FY2024. It is expected that the economic revival plan and prudent actions - policies including SIFC and IT policy - will attract new investments to create a multiplier effect in the economy for higher and inclusive economic growth in FY2024 and further in the medium term.



Caretaker Minister for National Food Security and Research Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik is addressing a workshop on Climate-Resilient High Yielding and Quality Rice Development at National Agriculture Research Centre (NARC), Islamabad.

FCCI president says: Economic diversification vital for sustained growth

FAISALABAD (APP): President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) Dr. Khuram Tariq has said that economic diversification is vital for sustained growth of economy.

He was addressing a function of Association of Certified Chartered Accountant (ACCA) as the chief guest. He stressed the need for diversification of economy and said that it was meant for having a diverse range of industries

and businesses, as well as a mix of large and small businesses. "A diversified economy is less likely to be severely impacted by a downturn in a particular sector," he added. He also underlined the need for skilled workforce, adding that a well-educated and well-trained workforce is essential for economic growth and resilience. He said that governments and businesses should invest in training and education programs to ensure that

Furniture designers meet PFC chief

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq said on Thursday that artificial Intelligence (AI) was transforming the fashion world but the fast growing technology would never be a replacement for designers' "original creativity". Talking to a delegation of furniture designers and manufacturers led by Ms Nida Ejaz, he said Fashion innovator Calvin Wong had developed the Interactive Design Assistant for Fashion (AiDA).



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar chaired the Cabinet Committee on State-owned Enterprises (CCSOE) held at Finance Division in Islamabad.

Agriculture machinery imports reduced 27.49%

ISLAMABAD (APP): The imports of agriculture machinery and implements during the first two months of the current financial year reduced by 27.49 per cent as compared to the imports of the corresponding period of last year.

During the period from July-August 2023 agriculture machinery and implements valued at \$8.878 million were imported as compared to the imports of \$11.830 million of the same period last year, according to the data of Pakistan Bureau

of Statistics. Meanwhile, agriculture and other chemicals group imports into the country during the first two months of the current financial year reduced by 15.48 per cent as compared to the imports of the corresponding period of last year.

During the period from July-August 2023, agricultural chemicals costing \$1.439 billion were imported as against the imports of \$1.702 billion in the same period of last year.

Need urged for exploiting potential of biogas production

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Hitech Hybrid Seed Association (PHHSA) Shahzad Ali Malik Thursday stressed the need to exploit the potential of biogas to overcome energy issues and enhance dependency on environmental fuel production in the country.

Talking to a delegation of industrialists he said that the use of biogas offers a multitude of economic benefits, including cost savings and enhanced energy security, said a press release.

He said it also aligns with our commitment to sustainability and can serve as a catalyst for

economic growth as well as enhance energy security by reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels.

This independence can shield our economy from the volatility of global energy markets and geopolitical tensions, he said adding that the significant potential of biogas as a sustainable energy source can play a pivotal role in improving our economy as it's not only an environmentally friendly alternative but also a valuable resource for job creation.

He said the growth of the biogas industry can alleviate unemployment and boost local economies.

Dollar falls by Rs 1.05

KARACHI (Online): Rupee has gained stable position in the face of persistent fall in the value of dollar.

Dollar lost price by Rs 1.05 as greenback was traded for Rs 287.90 during early interbank trading on Thursday.

Dollar was closed at Rs 288.75 in inter bank on Wednesday. Trading took a positive start in stock market.

Pakistan Stock Exchange benchmark KSE100 shares index gained 99 points to close at 46464 points.

Pakistan's total liquid foreign reserves reach \$13.16 billion

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan reach US\$ 13,161.8 million while reserves held by the central bank stood at \$ 7,636.7 million.

The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that SBP's reserves decreased by 59 million to US\$ 7,636.7 million on account of debt repayments during the week ended on September 22, 2023.

Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks stood at \$ 5,525.1 million, it added.

Total liquid foreign reserves held by the country.

Enhanced trade, export volume must for economic stability: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi Thursday stressed the need for increasing trade activity and enhancing volume of the country's exports to ensure economic stability.

He expressed these views in a meeting with a delegation of the Islamabad Industrial Association (IIA) led by Muhammad Ahmed, here at the Aiwan-

e-Sadr. President Alvi said investment in information technology and boosting its exports would prove helpful in attaining the goals of development and progress.

The delegation apprised the president of the contribution of IIA in promoting exports of the country. It also highlighted the challenges faced by the traders and businessmen.

SAPM says: Pakistan assures ILO, EU to fulfill commitments regarding labour standards

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Jawad Sohrab Malik Thursday assured International Labour Organization (ILO) and European Union (EU) that Pakistan would fulfill commitments regarding compliance of fundamental labour standards including elimination child and forced labour, freedom of association and gender discrimination.

He was speaking as a chief guest at launch of 'National Report on the General Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+)' organized by the ministry,

said a press release here. The SAPM reiterated that Pakistan was cognizant of the challenges regarding labour rights and committed to overcoming them. Pakistan was on a journey to becoming an ethical and responsive global partner and the GSP+ was a critical part of that journey, he added. He also emphasized the need of close cooperation and coordination amongst all partners to comply with international convention of labour rights successfully for uninterrupted status from the GSP+ benefits which was imperative for export of goods to EU countries.

Pakistan has to progress and Pakistan will progress InshaAllah: CM Naqvi

Says we all make a claim of love with the Holy Prophet (SAW) but do not act upon the teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW).

Independent Report
LAHORE: Provincial Rehmat-tul-lil-Aalaameen (SAW) Conference under the auspices of Auqaf Department Punjab was organized at Alhambra Hall today.

Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi was the chief guest. Ulema-e-Karam and Mashaihh from all schools of thought, leaders of Christians, Sikhs, Hindus and other religions participated in the Provincial Rehmat-tul-lil-Aalaameen (SAW) Conference. Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi while addressing the Provincial Rehmat-tul-lil-Aalaameen (SAW) Conference said that we all make a claim of love with the Holy Prophet

(SAW) but we do not act upon the teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW).

If we act upon the teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW) then our lives will be transformed. It is the endeavour of the whole team that whatever time is available we should vigorously serve the masses. We are the believers of the Holy Prophet (SAW) and will not be disappointed ever. Pakistan will take off.

A lot of atrocities were perpetrated on our beloved Holy Prophet (SAW). Conspiracies were hatched but the Holy Prophet (SAW) never got disappointed. Mohsin Naqvi said that those thinking of disaster of the country are

PIMPD trainee officers visit Safe Cities office

LAHORE (APP): The officers, undergoing training as part of the 12th induction training course at the Punjab Institute of Management and Professional Development (PIMPD), visited the Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) as part of their orientation programme. The delegation consisted of 40 officers.

Director Public Relations Tauseef Sahib Gondal told the delegation the PSCA's mandate has been extended across the Punjab province. He emphasised that a modern infrastructure like Safe Cities is essential for modern policing. Tauseef Sahib, along with DSP Agha Nasir, provided the delegation with a briefing on functioning of the organisation. The delegation visited various departments.



KASHMORE: Participants of awareness walk in connection of Polio Eradication Campaign led by Farukh Shahzad Qureshi, Deputy Commissioner Kashmore, in Kashmore.

World Tourism Day celebrated in Chitral

CHITRAL (APP): On the occasion of World Tourism Day, wonderful programs were conducted in Chitral, with the day being celebrated with great enthusiasm, and a walk was organized on this occasion in which a large number of people related to tourism participated.

Students from schools and government officials representing civil society

participated in the walk. The participants carried placards inscribed with promoting tourism and maintaining peace in the beautiful valley of Chitral.

Deputy Commissioner Chitral Muhammad Ali and DPO Chitral Ikramullah Khan were the special guests of the World Tourism Day program.



LAHORE: Madad Ali Sindhi, Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training awarding degrees to successful students during 22nd convocation of Government College University at Government College University.

Anwaar Ul Haq says:

AJK to announce mega development package for Poonch Division soon

MIRPUR (AJK) (INP): Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that a mega development package for Poonch Division would be announced soon.

While addressing a public gathering at Hajera in Poonch division on Thursday the PM said that the issue of inflated electricity bills and shortage of subsidized flour has been resolved amicably.

The function was

attended and addressed by senior Minister Colonel (Rtd) Waqar Noor and other Government Ministers including Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, Sardar Mir Akbar and Sardar Saud Sadiq and others.

Speaking on the occasion, the PM said that the government was giving a subsidy of about 1500 rupees on a 20 kg bag of flour. He said it was for the first time that the government suspended the notification and withdrew

additional taxes imposed on the electricity bills.

The PM said that the incumbent coalition government had increased the salaries of government employees despite facing financial constraints.

He said that the government bore a burden of 19 billion rupees in this regard.

Regarding the appointment of an ADC in the area, the PM said that a formal notification to fill the vacancy will be issued in a couple of days.

FIA seizes luxury vehicles owned by showroom owner in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Commercial Banking Circle team seized four luxury vehicles in a trade-based money laundering case on Thursday.

According to details, the FIA continues to investigate car showroom owners in order to catch 'trade-based' money laundering in Karachi.

In the latest action, FIA team raided a car showroom at Khalid bin Waleed road and seized four luxury vehicles including, Land Cruiser, Audi and others. The vehicles were

seized as the showroom owner failed to present proof of import of the vehicles.

The officials further said that the car showroom owner was asked multiple times to appear before the FIA team, but he did not.

The agency further said notice has been issued to the owners of Karachi's thirteen car showrooms.

Earlier, the FIA officials raided the residence of a businessman Aziz Seekha in Karachi in which they recovered a huge amount of foreign and Pakistani currency and prize bonds.

CTO Lahore intensifies anti smog campaign

LAHORE (APP): Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Captain (ret'd) Mustansar Feroze ordered a crackdown on smoke-emitting vehicles, on Thursday. In a statement, he said that environmental and air pollution causes viral diseases. Therefore, transporters should run their vehicles on roads only after proper repair and checkup. The violators will be taken to task, he warned.

The Lahore Traffic Police have mobilised all efforts to eliminate potential smog and environmental pollution. According to an order of the Lahore High Court (LHC).

Minister attends GCU's convocation, praises its role in education development

LAHORE (INP): The Government College University (GCU) Lahore commenced its 22nd convocation ceremony on Thursday, attended specially by Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi, former chief justice of Pakistan Tassaduq Hussain Jilani, former deputy speaker of Bahrain Dr. Adil Bin Abdul Rahman, and eminent religious scholar Qari Sohaib Ahmad Meer Muhammadi.

The two-day event is being held to celebrate the academic achievements of its distinguished graduates. The convocation activities are being led by GCU Vice Chancellor Professor Dr.

Asghar Zaidi.

Speaking at the first session, Madad Ali Sindhi expressed his pride in addressing the students of an institution where Allama Dr Muhammad Iqbal once taught and praised the dedication of Vice Chancellor Dr. Zaidi. He emphasised the need for quality education in Pakistan, and said that no nation could make progress without instilling educational skills in its youth.

He also commended the efforts of historical GCU in the field of education. Vice Chancellor Dr. Asghar Zaidi highlighted the recent developments at the university.



KARACHI: Members of Insaf Lawyers Forum are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of police department, held at Insaf House in Karachi.

Chiniot mines reference: Court summons PA speaker, others

LAHORE (APP): An accountability court on Thursday summoned eight accused, including Punjab Assembly Speaker Sibtain Khan, for October 7 in the Chiniot mines and minerals reference.

Accountability Court Judge Zubair Shahzad Kiyani issued the orders on the reference, submitted by the National

Accountability Bureau (NAB). NAB had approached the court for reopening of the reference, closed under the defunct amendments to the National Accountability

Ordinance (NAO), set aside by the Supreme Court.

An accountability court on October 6, 2022, had returned the Chiniot mines and minerals reference to NAB with an observation that it lacked jurisdiction to proceed further in the case after the amendments introduced to the NAO.

Besides Sibtain Khan, Salman Ghani, Muhammad Aslam, Abdul Sattar Mian, Imtiaz Ahmad Cheema and others had been named as the accused in the reference.

International News

Jens Stoltenberg meets with Zelensky to discuss battlefield & ammunition needs in Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg met with President Volodymyr Zelensky to discuss the status of the war and needs of troops on Thursday, the day after Russia accused Ukraine's Western allies of helping plan and conduct last week's missile strike on the Black Sea Fleet's headquarters on the annexed Crimean Peninsula.

Zelensky said that Stoltenberg agreed to make efforts to get NATO members to help provide additional air defense systems to protect Ukraine's power plants and energy infrastruc-

ture that were badly damaged in relentless and deadly attacks by Russia last winter. He also reminded the secretary-general of the persistent attacks that often strike civilian areas, including 40 drone attacks overnight. "In the face of such intense attacks against Ukrainians, against our cities, our ports, which are crucial for global food security, we need a corresponding intensity of pressure on Russia and a strengthening of our air defense," Zelensky said.

"The world must see how Russia is losing dearly so that our shared values ultimately prevail."

Stoltenberg said that NATO has contracts for 2.4 billion euros (\$2.5 billion) in ammunition for Ukraine, including 155 mm Howitzer shells, anti-tank guided missiles and tank ammunition.

"The stronger Ukraine becomes, the closer we become to ending Russia's aggression," Stoltenberg said. "Russia could lay down arms and end its war today."

Ukraine doesn't have that option. Ukraine's surrender would not mean peace. It would mean brutal Russian occupation. Peace at any price would be no peace at all."



German Federal Minister of Defense Boris Pistorius receives his Israeli counterpart Yoav Gallant with military honors in Berlin, Germany.

Germany and Israel sign an agreement for Berlin to buy a US-Israeli missile defense system

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: Germany and Israel on Thursday signed an agreement for Berlin to buy the sophisticated Arrow 3 missile defense system, designed to intercept long-range ballistic missiles. The development is the latest step in Berlin's bid to strengthen its air defenses following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Germany aims to integrate the system into wider NATO air defense efforts. Last year, Berlin launched the European Sky Shield Initiative, which now includes 19 countries. Israel secured U.S.

approval in August for the \$3.5 billion deal, which was needed because the system was jointly developed with the United States.

German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius and his Israeli counterpart Yoav Gallant signed a memorandum of understanding in Berlin on Thursday for the purchase of Arrow 3.

"It is, without exaggerating, a historic day for both our countries," Pistorius told reporters, describing Arrow as "one of the best systems, if not the best."

Israeli settlements 'systematically erode' viability of Palestinian state, says UN envoy

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process

Tor Wennesland has expressed deep concern over the relentless expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

During the last three months, more than 10,000 housing units were advanced, he told the UN Security Council in New York on Wednesday.

"Settlements further entrench the occupation, fuel violence, impede Palestinian access to their land and resources, and systematically erode the viability of a Palestinian state as part of a two-state solution," the senior UN envoy said.

"I call on the government of Israel to cease all settlement activity and dismantle outposts immediately, in line with its obligations under international law," he added.



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky attend their press conference in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Macron proposes limited autonomy for France's Mediterranean island of Corsica

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron proposed granting limited autonomy for Corsica on Thursday in a modest step toward nationalist sentiment on the Mediterranean island.

In a speech he described as "an outstretched hand," Macron said: "Let us have the audacity to build a Corsican autonomy within the republic."

"It won't be an autonomy that is against the state nor autonomy without the state, but an autonomy for Corsica and

within the republic," he said in his address to the island's local elected assembly.

The island is home to more than 340,000 people and has been part of France since 1768. But Corsica has also seen pro-independence violence and has an influential nationalist movement. In 1998, in an assassination that stunned the country, pro-independence activists shot dead France's top official on the island, Claude Erignac. Other violence has been mostly low-level, often involving bombs planted in cars or

buildings overnight, when no one is inside. Macron didn't go into great detail about what powers might be transferred from Paris to a more autonomous Corsica. He said that he favors changing the French Constitution to recognize "the specificities" of Corsica's island community. A constitutional change would require French parliamentary approval.

"This is how we will turn a page that was marked by somber hours and be able to open another."

India imposes curfew in strife-hit areas of Manipur state

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India imposed a curfew in the capital and some areas of its restive state of Manipur on Thursday, after scores of students were injured in violence following protests against the alleged abduction and murder of two students, authorities said.

Ethnic violence has plunged the northeastern state bordering Myanmar into what many security

experts describe as an intense civil war fought over land, jobs and political clout between its two largest local groups. "Indefinite curfew had to be implemented in Imphal and in some other districts," L. Kailun, a senior police official based in the state capital, told Reuters.

More than 80 students were injured in Wednesday's clashes, another police official said on condition of anonymity.

3 people die in a crash involving 4 vehicles in New Hampshire

Monitoring Desk
HOOKSETT: Three people have died following a crash involving four vehicles in New Hampshire, police said.

An SUV side-swiped two vehicles on a road and rear-ended a third on Route 3 before it crossed the road and hit a tree stump on Wednesday afternoon, police said in a news release.

The SUV driver and two passengers were taken to a hospital, where they were pronounced dead.

Warehouse blast near Tashkent airport kills one, injures over 160

Monitoring Desk
TASHKENT: An overnight explosion at a warehouse near the airport in Uzbekistan's capital, Tashkent, killed one person and injured more than a hundred, authorities in the Central Asian country said on Thursday.

"A teenager born in 2006 died," the Uzbek health ministry said on Telegram, adding that a further 162 had been injured.

The emergency situations ministry said powerful lightning had caused "an explosion, then a fire, which is still burning" in a warehouse in the airport zone.

Of those hurt in the

accident, 138 sustained minor injuries and a further 24 were still in hospital in a more serious condition, the health ministry said.

Videos circulating on social media showed a column of flames and smoke rising into the night sky.

The blast blew out the windows of several houses in the surrounding area and damaged their interiors.

Explosions continued to ring out in the hours after the blaze broke out as emergency crews tackled the fire and ambulance staff worked to evacuate those injured, an AFP journalist at the scene witnessed.



French President Emmanuel Macron addresses the Corsican Assembly in Ajaccio, as part of a three days visit in the southern French island of Corsica.

China, Germany resume high-level financial talks after COVID-19

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China and Germany will co-host a third financial dialogue in Germany on Oct. 1, the Chinese foreign ministry said on Thursday, resuming high-level talks that had stalled for several years due to COVID-19.

Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng will co-chair the dialogue with German Finance Minister Christian Lindner, ministry spokesman Mao Ning said at a regular news conference.

In the last round of talks in January 2019, China and Germany signed agree-

ments to strengthen coordination in banking, finance and capital markets, and pledged to further open market access and deepen cooperation to broaden economic ties. Since then, the European Union, including Germany, has expressed concerns about being too economically dependent on China. Last week, Germany said it was planning to force telecoms operators to slash the use of equipment from Huawei and ZTE in their 5G networks after a review highlighted an over-reliance on these Chinese suppliers.

President greets nation, Ummah on blessed day of Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW)

PM urges nation to follow Prophet (SAWW)'s teachings of compassion, unity

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday felicitated the Pakistani nation and the Muslim Ummah on the blessed day of Milad-un-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him). In a message on the occasion of 12 Rabiul Awwal, he said the arrival of Prophet (SAWW) was good tidings for relieving the suffering of humanity adding that the arrival of the Holy prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) was the greatest and the most blessed event in history. The president said due to Holy Prophet (SAWW), the humanity was honoured with the reward of guidance and mercy from Allah Al-

mighty. He said Prophet Muhammad (SAWW) was brought to this world as the 'mercy for all the worlds'. He said the life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) was an embodiment of obedience to Allah Almighty, justice, compassion, and love towards human beings. He said Holy Prophet (PBUH)'s teachings are universal and undying source of guidance for the mankind and present solutions to uncountable challenges being faced today and to be faced till the doomsday. "In the whole life of Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAWW), we find a perfect model not only for faith and worship, but also for all as-

pects of life." President Alvi said teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) with regard to the oneness of Allah Almighty, social justice, human rights, gender equality and welfare of the poor reflected the comprehensiveness and universality of the message of Islam. He said Pakistan was a country with different cultures and religious diversity. "We should give importance to this diversity and should work diligently for the promotion of unity and better understanding among the fellow citizens."

The president said after the establishment of the Islamic State in Madinah by the Holy Prophet (PBUH),

the rights given to the non-Muslims and the agreements with the followers of other religions should be kept in mind by all Pakistanis.

Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar urged the nation to obey the Holy Prophet (PBUH)'s teachings of brotherhood and compassion besides following his message of unity to become an example of tolerance and coexistence.

The prime minister, in his message to the nation on Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) 1445 Hijri, extended his greetings to the whole of the Pakistani nation as well as the Muslim world.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani and Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Jiang Zaidong are cutting cake along with other officials on the occasion of the 74th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China.



ISLAMABAD: Vice Admiral (R) Iftikhar Rao, Special Assistant to PM on Maritime Affairs and other speakers addressing World Maritime Day seminar held under auspices of NIMA

Holy Prophet (SAWW) perfect model for success in both worlds, NA Speaker

ISLAMABAD (Online): Speaker National Assembly and former Prime Minister of Pakistan Raja Pervez Ashraf has said that the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) is the perfect model to be emulated for success in both of worlds. He said that the teachings and practices outlined by last Prophet PBUH have been a true beacon of light for whole humanity. He also added, "it is the

Holy Prophet's perfect teachings and practical model which guide the Muslim Ummah in all spheres of life and also guide them to overcome socio-economic challenges. He expressed these views while extending warm felicitation to the Muslim Ummah on the blessed occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi PBUH (12 Rabi-ul-Awwal 1145 A.H.). Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf

has said that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) has been a torch bearer to whole mankind. He emphasized that every human society can achieve goals of progress and prosperity by implementing teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). He added, "tolerance and forbearance practiced and taught by the Holy Prophet (PBUH) are essential to create pluralistic society."

PSX Welcomes Canadian High Commissioner & Team on their Visit to PSX



Independent Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) welcomed the High Commissioner of Canada to Pakistan, H.E. Ms. Leslie Scanlon, Counsellor Commercial Mr. Michael Lazaruk, and Trade Commissioner Mr. Athar Abbas, on their visit to PSX. The MD & CEO PSX Mr. Farrukh H. Khan, accompanied by a PSX Board member, Mr. Nadeem Naqvi, and the PSX management team welcomed the distinguished guests to the Exchange.

A meeting between the two parties were held where matters of mutual interest pertaining to the economy as a whole and the capital markets in particular were discussed. The trade and economic team from the High Commission of Canada was also present in the meeting which enabled a discussion on further development of trade between Canada and Pakistan.

Yadgar-e-Shahda: Monument of KP Police's Courage and Dedication

Independent Report PESHAWAR: In a solemn ceremony held at the Malik Saad Shaheed Police Lines in Peshawar, the Inspector General of Police for KP, Mr. Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur, inaugurated the newly constructed Yadgar-e-Shahda Police monument. The event bore witness to

deep gratitude and reverence the KP Police holds for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Further emphasizing the significance of the occasion, IGP planted a sapling as a living tribute to these brave officers who laid down their lives to uphold peace and order in the



the unwavering dedication of the KP Police force to honor the memory of their fallen heroes. As IGP arrived at the police lines, he was greeted with warmth and respect by a contingent of police officers. Dressed in their immaculate uniforms, a well-armed police squad executed a crisp salute to their chief guest, embodying the spirit of duty and sacrifice that defines their profession. In a poignant moment, IGP Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur paid his respects to the police martyrs by laying flowers at the monument dedicated to their memory. The act symbolized the

region. The sapling represents the enduring spirit of resilience and renewal that characterizes the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police force. Speaking at the ceremony, IGP Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur stated, "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police is an exemplary and courageous force. Peace and order owe much to the sacrifices of our martyrs and heroes. The KP Police has consistently played a leading role in the fight against terrorism." His words resonated with the shared commitment of the police force to safeguard their community and the nation.

Love, not charity; BISP is an expression of care for deprived, says Chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib has said that BISP is a manifestation of love and care for the less fortunate members of our society. "BISP is about much more than providing monetary aid; it is not charity, it's our expression of love for the deprived segments of society", he said during a heartwarming address to a gathering of BISP employees at the BISP Auditorium Hall.

Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib expressed his unwavering commitment to altering the prevailing perceptions about the program. While addressing, he passionately spoke about the crucial role that education plays in uplifting individuals and society as a whole.

He expressed concern over the fact that millions of children in Pakistan do not have access to education and emphasized the need to change this reality. "Education is the real game-changer," he stressed, underlining that it is a national, social, and religious responsibility to ensure that every child in Pakistan receives education.

Senate body gets briefing on under-construction project of PIMS

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination on Thursday received a briefing on the under-construction project of the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS). The PWD officials gave the briefing to the Committee that met here with Dr. Humayun Mohmand in the chair.

The committee expressed its displeasure on the pace of ongoing work in PIMS. The committee summoned the concerned DG of PWD to the next meeting.

The case of alleged fake courses by the University of Faisalabad was also discussed. The chairman said that the various technical degrees are being mixed with professional degrees. He questioned the existence of any system of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) regarding the examination of such degrees. The Chairman HEC informed that an allied council has also been formed to look into these matters.

Pakistan Navy celebrates World Maritime Day

Independent Report KARACHI: Pakistan Navy celebrated World Maritime Day (WMD) 2023.

The theme of WMD for this year is MARPOL at 50 - Our commitment goes on; that reflects the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) long history of protecting the marine environment from impact of shipping through a robust regulatory framework. In his message on World Maritime Day, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad

Navy's steadfast dedication to ensure maritime safety and upholding environmental mandates.

On this occasion, Pakistan Navy organized a range of activities to highlight the significance of maritime sector. Major events included a seminar cum webinar organized at Pakistan Navy War College Lahore under the auspices of Maritime Centre of Excellence. Seminar was attended by students and faculty of various universities and think tanks. During the seminar, prize distribution for 4th Inter University Essay Competition was also held. National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) organized seminar/webinar at Bahria University Islamabad Campus which included expert talks by maritime professionals, policymakers and maritime researchers.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Oybek Arif Usmanov called on Jamal Shah, Interim Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture.

PC Deputy chairman reviews progress on SDGs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission (PC) Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan on Thursday chaired a progress-review meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The meeting, attended among others by Joint Chief Economist Zafar ul Hasan, Chief SDGs M Ali Kemal and senior officers from provinces, including

Annual Development Plans (ADPs) aligned with relevant SDGs and other policies, particularly focusing on high-priority areas; Annual Plan of SDGs for 2023-2024 and the pathway forward for 2030 and status update on technical working group committees. The quarterly meeting was aimed at assessing performance, analyzing challenges, and charting the way



Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, discussed key areas of interventions and progress on vital goals set during the last National Economic Council (NEC) subcommittee meeting in December 2022, a news release said.

The meeting took up agenda items including SDGs District Scorecards Development by each province; District Development plans; Quarterly progress

forward with actionable points to accelerate SDGs' progress.

Chief SDGs M Ali Kemal, in his briefing, expressed concern over the slow pace of achieving SDGs "due to pandemic, floods and [economic] recession."

He emphasized that during the mid-term review "we have devised a plan to accelerate the progress [on achieving the SDGs]."

Police Khidmat Markaz issues 73,378 general police verification certificates

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Police's Khidmat Markaz has played a crucial role in assisting citizens by issuing a staggering 73,378 General Police Verification Certificates. These certificates serve a variety of purposes, including character certificates, foreigners' registration, and the registration of tenants and domestic servants. According to the police spokesman, the initiative has been driven by the unwavering commitment of the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, who has issued special directives to ensure the provision of maximum services to the residents of Islamabad. As a result of these efforts, the

Islamabad capital police has implemented several measures to enhance citizen services. The Police Khidmat Markaz has witnessed a substantial influx of applications throughout the year, with 73,563 applications for general police verification certificates being received. Of these, a commendable 73,378 certificates have already been issued to citizens following thorough verification by the relevant police stations. The processing of the remaining applications is actively underway. To obtain a general police verification certificate, applicants are required to present their original Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC),

Sanjrani commends China for lifting 800 mln people out of poverty

ISLAMABAD (APP): Acknowledging China's remarkable economic achievements Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Thursday commended China for lifting around 800 million people out of poverty—a feat unparalleled in history.

Addressing a reception arranged to celebrate the 74th Founding Anniversary of the People's Republic of China, the chairman noted President Xi Jinping's transformative vision, as outlined in China's recent White Paper, emphasizing an innovative and profound approach to international relations and economic globalization.

The event witnessed the presence of Jiang Zaidong, the newly-appointed Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan, Parliamentarians, Distinguished Guests, and members of the community. The Chairman expressed heartfelt congratulations to President Xi Jinping, the Communist Party of China (CPC), and the people of China on this significant milestone. He highlighted the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China, emphasizing the depth of mutual trust, respect, and shared vision for a brighter future.

Expressing gratitude for the warm welcome received, Chairman Senate welcomed Jiang Zaidong to Pakistan. He conveyed the assurance of complete support and cooperation in diplomatic and bilateral engagements during Ambassador Jiang Zaidong's tenure. The Chairman reflected on the historical ties between Pakistan and China, emphasizing the strength of their bond that has grown over the years. He underscored the importance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a testament to

their trust and brotherhood. Chairman Senate expressed confidence that CPEC would symbolize their joint commitment to regional prosperity.

Chairman Senate expressed Pakistan's commitment to deepening ties with China based on mutual respect and shared aspirations.

He reiterated his gratitude for China's unwavering support during challenging times, including natural disasters and the global health crisis posed by COVID-19.

As a pledge of commitment, the Chairman Senate emphasized the role of parliamentary diplomacy in fostering deeper ties, collaboration, and mutual understanding between the two nations.

He concluded by reaffirming Pakistan's unwavering dedication to the unique bond with China, envisioning a future filled with success, growth, and unparalleled friendship.

Investment in agricultural research and dev. only solution to economic crisis

PARC's newly developed rice varieties may act as a game changer in the rice economy of Pakistan: Chairman PARC

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: The federal minister for National Food Security and Research, Dr. Kausar Abdulla Malik, visited National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC),

changing climate and resistant to extreme temperatures. He also mentioned that efforts are being made to commercialize agricultural research in order to benefit the end users, espe-

Dr. Ali reiterated the focus on benefiting farmers by maximizing their profits through increased crop yields. He emphasized that NIGAB's newly developed climate resilient rice varieties



Islamabad on September 28, 2023, to preside over a one-day workshop on Climate Resilient High Yielding and Quality Rice Development. During his address, Dr. Kausar Abdulla Malik emphasized the significance of research and development in the agricultural sector, stating that it is the country's only hope for overcoming the economic crisis. Dr. Kausar urged young scientists and researchers to make use of technology, particularly in the field of genomics and Biotechnology.

He emphasized the importance of adapting crops that are resilient to the

especially the farmers. He also applauded active collaboration of PARC with private seed sector. Dr. Kausar commended Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) for developing rice varieties that are successfully competing with expensive imported hybrid seeds. In his welcome remarks, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC, expressed gratitude to the distinguished guests, government and private sector representatives, media personnel, and all workshop participants for their participation to make the event successful.

PRCS organizes Grand Mehfil-e-Milad to celebrate Eid Milad un Nabi

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) proudly hosted a splendid Mehfil-e-Milad to commemorate Eid Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W) at the National Head-



quarters on Thursday. Speaking on this occasion, Chairman PRCS Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari said that Eid Milad un Nabi is a day of profound renewal of allegiance with the Rehmatul-lil-Alameen Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). It serves as an opportunity for the faithful to recommit themselves to living in accordance with the Sunnah (the way of life of the Prophet) and the divine commands. "Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) led

humanity on the path to his Creator and his life was the embodiment of all the qualities of the preceding prophets and messengers of Allah", he added.

He went on to express a heartfelt prayer, saying, "May Allah grant us the courage and strength to wholeheartedly follow the life and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)." The event witnessed the participation of esteemed guests, Secretary General PRCS Muhammad