

Punjab Governor says: PEC is playing an important role in national development

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended the STEM Ambassador Program under the auspices of Pakistan Engineering Council at Lahore College for Women University as a special guest. Vice Chancellor Lahore College for Women University Dr. Shagufta Naz, Chairman Pakistan Engineering Council Najeeb Haroon, Convener Pakistan

Engineering Council Development Committee Engineer Mir Masood Rashid, Former Member Provincial Assembly Sania Kamran, Deans, academicians and a large number of students were present. Addressing the ceremony, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Pakistan Engineering Council is playing an important role in national

development. He said that the Pakistan Engineering Council's Graduate Internship Program is providing students with quality work experience, which is not only an investment in the future but also a valuable contribution to the development of the engineering sector. The Punjab Governor said that the importance of science and technology is a vital factor in modern world. While appreciating

the STEM initiative of PEC, he said that arranging activities in various educational institutions for the promotion of scientific studies among the youth under STEM is commendable. He said that this program will help universities and schools to work together and impart science education to the children. It will definitely help in increasing the trend of STEM education, he added.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman in a group photo with Vice Chancellor and others during a ceremony of Stem Ambassador Program at Lahore College for Women University.



PESHAWAR: Ambassador of Poland in Pakistan Maciej Pisarski meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali.

Minister conveys condolences to Sikh Community

PESHAWAR (Online): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Law and Human Rights, Auqaf, and Minority Affairs, Justice (Retd) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah, alongside Auqaf Secretary Dr. Asad Ali, paid a visit to Gurdwara Bhai Joga Singh Namak Mandi in Peshawar. During this solemn occasion, they expressed their heartfelt sympathy and

condolences to the Sikh community in the wake of Hardeep Singh's tragic killing by India's RAW agency in Canada. The leaders of the Sikh community expressed their gratitude to Justice Retired Syed Arshad Hussain Shah for his visit to the Gurdwara. Speaking to the media during this visit, the caretaker provincial minister extended his condolences to the Sikh community.

Caretaker CM chairs meeting on Foreign Funded Projects

PESHAWAR (Online): An important meeting to discuss and review progress on Foreign Funded Development Projects in the province including newly merged areas was held here on Tuesday with the caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan in the chair. Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary, Additional Chief Secretary Zubair Asghar Quraishi, administrative secretaries of the concerned departments and other high ups attended the meeting. The participants were

given detailed briefing about the progress made so far on the foreign funded development projects and other related matters. It was told that under the foreign funded development portfolio, a total of 66 development projects worth Rs. 849 billion were reflected in the Annual Development Program of the current financial year adding that Rs. 114 billion have been allocated for the aforementioned projects in the current fiscal year, out of which Rs. 10.9 billion have been released so far. Briefing about the details of development projects in the various sectors, it was informed that five projects were reflected in Agriculture sector, three in Public Health Engineering, four projects in the Elementary & Secondary Education and seven projects in the sector of Power & Energy, three projects in the Health, three projects in Local Government, five in Road Communication, two in Tourism, three projects in Irrigation, one project each in Forests, Home, Industries and Labour whereas nineteen in multi-sectoral development sector.

Anti-corruption seminar at PINS Moral and professional Dis-honesty is also a form of corruption

Independent Report
LAHORE: Executive Director of Punjab Institute of Neurosciences (PINS) and renowned Neurosurgeon Prof. Asif Bashir has said that collective efforts are required to eliminate corruption and malpractices from the society and for this purpose all the stakeholders should start sincere efforts and a concrete struggle to get rid of this menace. He further said that apart from financial corruption, moral decline and professional negligence have also spread in our society because not

performing one's duties honestly and lack of interest in office hours is also corruption. These views were expressed by ED PINS Prof. Asif Bashir while addressing the corruption awareness seminar organized by National Accountability Bureau (NAB) at Bashir Auditorium "PINS". A large number of Professors, young doctors, nurses and medical staff participated in the seminar. Addressing the seminar, Director NAB Imran Sohail said that the main reason for the economic and financial problems that Pakistan is

facing today are hurdles like corruption, nepotism, bribery and favoritism, due to which a lot of national resources and income have been lost. A large portion is wasted, resulting in Governments looking to external aid and financial institutions to run the country, he added. Imran Sohail further said that Pakistan can move forward only if all the institutions and the people work together to eliminate corruption and make serious efforts. Director NAB said that the National Accountability Bureau is advancing this struggle

according to its mandate and many seminars are being organized in various institutions and Government Departments to raise awareness about corruption while this seminar organized in the Neuro Institute is part of this same struggle. ED PINS Prof. Asif Bashir while appreciating the efforts of NAB officials to eradicate corruption said that this campaign will help to raise awareness among people against corruption and we all should be mentally alert about it. They will be willing to carry out their affairs

according to the rules and regulations, not to fall into any kind of temptation to give undue concessions to anyone, by which someone else's rights will be destroyed, the affairs of the offices will be deteriorating and our national resources are wasted. Prof. Asif Bashir expressed his determination that Punjab Institute of Neurosciences will provide its platform for all the issues included in the national stream and such positive activities will continue to be encouraged in the future as well.

Jan chairs meeting on key infrastructure projects KP

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Communication & Works and Irrigation Ahmad Jan Khan, recently led a meeting in Peshawar to discuss significant infrastructure projects within the Communication & Works Department. During the meeting, progress on the province's flagship mega projects and their completion timelines were assessed.

Murad presides over an online minerals cadastre portal review meeting

Independent Report
LAHORE: Under the chairmanship of Provincial Minister for Mines and Minerals, Ibrahim Murad, an online Minerals Cadastre Portal review meeting was convened. The meeting was also attended by the Director-General of Mines and Minerals and the Chief Executive Officer of Punjab Board Of Investment and

Trade (PBIT). During the meeting, the Mines and Minerals Department provided a detailed briefing to the Provincial Minister regarding the design and data of the department's web portal. A suggestion from PBIT proposed further translation of the Mines and Minerals Department's website into two additional international languages.

International News

Turkey to ratify Sweden's NATO bid if US approves F-16 sales to Ankara

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that the Turkish parliament would ratify Sweden's accession to NATO if the U.S. approves the sale of its F-16 fighter jets to Ankara, Reuters reported on Sept. 26. Erdogan told reporters on his flight back from Azerbaijan that Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan discussed the issue of Sweden's NATO aspirations with U.S. State Secretary Antony Blinken in New York last week. According to the Turkish president, the

Biden administration is linking the F-16 sales to Ankara's approval of the Swedish NATO bid. "If they (the U.S.) keep their promises, our parliament will keep its own promise as well. Turkish parliament will have the final say on Sweden's NATO membership," Erdogan said. Both Sweden and Finland applied to join the Alliance in May 2022 due to Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Turkey initially blocked both of their bids but gave the green light to Helsinki in March. Erdogan seemingly conceded to back Sweden's

bid and forward it to the Turkish parliament on July 10 after meeting NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson. A day after the announcement, the Biden administration said that it would move forward with the sale of F-16s to Turkey. Ankara requested to buy \$20 billion of F-16 aircraft and nearly 80 modernization kits for its existing warplanes from the U.S. in October 2021. Since then, neither the ratification of Sweden's NATO bid nor the sale of the jets have been finalized.



Belarus Foreign Minister Sergei Aleinik addresses the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Belarus' top diplomat says he can't imagine his nation entering the war in Ukraine alongside Russia

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The foreign minister of Belarus, which has a strategic partnership with Russia, says he cannot envision a situation where his country would enter the war in Ukraine alongside Russian forces. Sergei Aleinik said in an interview with The Associated Press that he also can't imagine a situation where Russia would order his country to use the tactical nuclear weapons it recently deployed in Belarus. "I don't see such an

option because it is an instrument of defense primarily," he said of the missiles. But if Belarus was invaded, "I will not exclude any instruments to be used to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country," he said. Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, who has relied on Russian subsidies and political support to rule the ex-Soviet nation with an iron hand for nearly three decades, allowed the Kremlin to use Belarusian terri-

tory to send troops into Ukraine in February 2022 at the start of the invasion. But Lukashenko has opposed joining the fighting. Aleinik said the stationing of tactical nuclear missiles in Belarus is a response to "the very big militarization" along its western border. The Polish military, for example, is planning to double its armed forces and bring more heavy weapons to the border, backed by a growing presence of U.S. and other NATO forces, he said.

EU commissioner calls for more balanced trade with China & warns that Ukraine could divide them

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: The European Union's trade commissioner called for a more balanced economic relationship with China on Monday, noting an EU trade deficit of nearly 400 billion euros (\$425 billion), while also warning that China's position on the war in Ukraine could endanger its relationship with Europe. Valdis Dombrovskis, in a speech at China's prestigious Tsinghua University, said that the EU and China face significant political and economic headwinds that could cause them to drift apart. "The strongest, yet

not the only, headwind is Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, and how China positions itself on this issue," he said. Dombrovskis spoke before high-level economic and trade talks with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng. EU leaders have expressed concern about the bloc's growing trade deficit with China, which reached 396 billion euros last year. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen recently announced an investigation into Chinese subsidies to electric vehicle makers, saying a flood of cheaper Chinese cars is distorting the European market.



KHANKENDI: In this videograb released by the Russian Defence Ministry, Russian peacekeepers help evacuate refugees from this town, also called Stepanakert.

Swedish police open arson case after mosque fire

Monitoring Desk
SWEDEN: Swedish police said on Tuesday that they were investigating whether a fire that reduced a mosque to rubble the previous day in central Sweden was arson. "The investigation into the fire is continuing. Police will question witnesses and verify whether there were security cameras in the area," the police said in a statement on their website. The fire broke out on Monday around noon in Eskilstuna, a town of 108,000 people 150 kilometres (93 miles) west of Stockholm, causing no injuries, a police spokesman told AFP. There are no suspects and no arrests have been made. "The mosque is almost completely destroyed, nothing can be saved," mosque spokesman Anas Deneche told AFP. Deneche said the mosque had been the target of several acts of violence in the past year and his family had been threatened.

Serbia demands that NATO take over policing of northern Kosovo after a deadly shootout

Monitoring Desk
BELGRADE: Serbia's president demanded Tuesday to have a NATO-led peacekeeping force take over for the national law enforcement agency in northern Kosovo after a daylong shootout between armed Serbs and Kosovar police left one officer and three gunmen dead. In one of the worst confrontations since Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008, about 30 masked

men opened fire on a police patrol near the village of Banjska early Sunday then broke down the gates of a Serbian Orthodox monastery and barricaded themselves with the priests and visiting pilgrims. The violence further raised tensions in the Balkan region at a time when European Union and U.S. mediators have been pushing for a deal that would normalize ties between former wartime foes Serbia and Kosovo.

Saudi Arabia plans tougher IAEA checks

Monitoring Desk
VIENNA: Saudi Arabia said on Monday it has decided to end light-touch oversight of its nuclear activities by the UN atomic watchdog and switch to full-blown safeguards, a change the agency has been demanding for years. Saudi Arabia has a nascent nuclear programme that it wants to expand to eventually include activities like proliferation-sensitive uranium enrichment. It is unclear where its ambitions end, since Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has said for years.



Kosovo police members of Special Intervention Unit escort one of the arrested Serb gunmen out of the court after the Kosovo shootout in capital Pristina.

Taiwan expects to deploy two new submarines by 2027, security adviser says

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: Taiwan hopes to deploy at least two new, domestically developed submarines by 2027, and possibly equip later models with missiles, to strengthen deterrence against the Chinese navy and protect key supply lines, the head of the program said. Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, has made the indigenous sub program a key part of an ambitious project to modernise its armed forces as Beijing stages almost daily military exercises to assert its sovereignty. President Tsai Ing-

wen, who initiated the programme when she took office in 2016, is expected to launch the first of eight new submarines on Thursday under a plan that has drawn on expertise and technology from several countries - a breakthrough for diplomatically isolated Taiwan. Admiral Huang Shu-kuang, Tsai's security adviser, who is leading the program, said a fleet of 10 submarines - which includes two Dutch-made submarines commissioned in the 1980s - will make it harder for the Chinese navy to project power into the Pacific.

