

Governor Punjab says Conducive environment for business community vital to development of the country

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended the opening ceremony of Pak Water and Energy Expo at Expo Center Lahore on Wednesday as a special guest.

Addressing the ceremony, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said a conducive environment for the business community is vital to the development of the country.

He said that such exhibitions create opportunities for the business community to show case their products, which contribute positively to the economy. He said that such activities give opportunities to business community and institutions to foster opportunities for exchange of technology and innovative solutions.

Governor Punjab said that in this exhibition, national and international

companies are exhibiting their products and offering innovative solutions, new technology in water, energy, and environment sectors. He said that water plays a very important role in our lives. He said that provision of clean water reduces the burden on the health sector. Governor Punjab said that the sewage water should also be put in the rivers after cleaning. He said that it is a matter of great honour that the products of Pakistani



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman inspecting different projects at Pak Water & Energy Expo at Expo Center Lahore.

Governor visits Afghan Consulate to condole over deaths in earthquake

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali here on Wednesday visited the Afghan Consulate and met with Consul General, Hafiz Muhib Ullah Shakir.

A statement from the Governor's House, said the Governor expressed heartfelt sympathies over the deaths and destruction of over 50000 homes and buildings due to an earthquake in the Herat province of Afghanistan.

The Governor on his behalf and the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's extended condolences to the Afghan Consul

General and said we equally share the grief of Afghan people and government at this critical hour.

The Governor said Afghanistan was our brotherly neighboring country and both the people share the common moments of grief and happiness.

The Afghan Consul General thanked the Governor for visiting the consulate and said we were thankful to the people and government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for sharing our grief and providing services and respect to the people of Afghanistan.

Drug control officials for inspection of medical stores in Kohat

KOHAT (APP): Drug Inspector Kohat Muhammad Irfan Wazir, along with the officials of Drug Control Kohat, conducted a detailed inspection of medical stores here in Kohat on Wednesday. According to the DC office, on the instruction of Deputy Commissioner Kohat Dr. Azmatullah Wazir, Drug Inspector Kohat Muhammad Irfan Wazir, along with the officials of the Drug Control Team.

DC for intensified efforts to curb electricity theft

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Abbottabad Khalid Iqbal on Wednesday while chairing a meeting addressed critical concerns related to electricity theft prevention and the recovery of outstanding dues. The meeting, held under the auspices of the District Enforcement Committee, featured comprehensive briefings on actions taken against those involved in electricity theft, courtesy of the Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO).

PFA stops production of five bakeries in Lahore.

Independent Report
LAHORE: The enforcement teams of the Punjab Food Authority (PFA) on Wednesday stopped the production of five well-known bakeries on quality parameters and violations of the labelling laws during different raids in the provincial metropolis.

Raja Jahangir Anwar said that the authority shut down the production units of five bakeries on Dil Muhammad Road, Defence Road.

launched an inspection drive against bakeries in Lahore to ensure the provision of adulteration-free food. The teams thoroughly inspected the hygiene, food quality and safety standards during a daylong operation.

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CM Punjab directs to complete safe city projects within stipulated time

Independent Report
LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi while issuing directions to complete the Safe City projects of Rawalpindi, Faisalabad and Gujranwala within stipulated period of time stated that the process of purchasing necessary equipment along with construction of buildings should be timely completed.

Communication & Works Department should ensure completion of the construction of building within stipulated time. CM directed the RPOs of Rawalpindi, Faisalabad and Gujranwala to personally oversee the projects. CM stated that all cameras of

Lahore Safe City Project will be made functional at the earliest. CM presided over an important meeting at the Punjab Safe City Authority Office in which progress was reviewed on the Safe City projects of Rawalpindi, Faisalabad and Gujranwala. The proposals to bring improvements in the Emergency Services 15 and making paperless working of the Punjab Safe City Authority were reviewed during the meeting. CM was informed during the briefing that 2000 cameras will be made functional by the first week of November in Lahore. IG Police gave a briefing with regard to progress being made in the Safe City.



MUZZAFERABAD: Students are attending the classes at open air schools in the different areas of the Azad Kashmir, as after millions rupees of education fund, students are studying with building.

Physical fitness very important in stressful times: Dr. Javed

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Health Ministers Professor Dr. Javed Akram and Dr. Jamal Nasir attended the annual sports day ceremony of Fatima Jinnah Medical University as special guests. Vice Chancellor King Edward Medical University Prof. Dr. Mahmood Ayaz, Vice Chancellor Fatima Jinnah Medical University Prof. Dr. Khalid Masood Gondal, Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kamran Khalid, Registrar Prof. Dr. Nadeem,

Principal Prof. Dr. Noreen Akmal and a large number of students including faculty members of FJMU. Provincial Health Ministers Prof. Dr. Javed Akram and Dr. Jamal Nasir also distributed trophies and cash prizes among the children who won the first, second and third positions in the annual sports day of Fatima Jinnah Medical University.

In his address to the participants of the event, the caretaker provincial health minister Prof. Dr. Javed Akram said.

CM's aide Dr. Riaz Anwar advocates thalassemia awareness at RMI event

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Rahman Medical Institute (RMI) on Wednesday held Thalassemia Awareness event to educate the community about this devastating genetic blood disorder. Dr. Riaz Anwar, Special Advisor to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Chief Minister on Health, graced the event as guest of honour. Addressing the gathering, he emphasized the critical need to raise public awareness about thalassemia as a means of combating the disease's prevalence. He urged the public to undergo thalassemia screenings, particularly before marriage, to safeguard future generations from its

devastating consequences. Shafiq ur Rahman, Chief Executive Officer of RMI, highlighted his institute's ongoing efforts in thalassemia prevention and awareness. He informed that RMI is committed to screening more than two thousand children, and later they will work as ambassadors to bolster the campaign against thalassemia.

Dr. Shah Taj Khan, Head of Pathology at RMI, drew attention to the lack of government-level data on thalassemia, despite its prevalence. She pointed out that by venturing into every district in the province, children affected by thalassemia can be identified.

Addl. IGP visits ABAD House

KARACHI (APP): Additional Inspector General of Police Karachi Khadim Hussain Rind on Wednesday said the police should be informed timely about the land grabbers and encroachments to ensure swift action against the involved culprits.

In a meeting with the Association of Builders and Developers (ABAD) during his visit to ABAD House, he said the police had arrested number of accused involved in extortion, according to a police spokesman.

AIG of police said that the process of evacuation of illegal immigrants was also underway.

Rind said strict actions were being taken against the criminal elements in the city.

International News

Turkey's Erdogan says Hamas is not terrorist organisation, cancels trip to Israel

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, in his strongest comments yet on the Gaza conflict, said on Wednesday the Palestinian militant group Hamas was not a terrorist organisation but a liberation group fighting to protect Palestinian lands.

NATO member Turkey condemned the civilian deaths caused by Hamas's Oct. 7 rampage in southern Israel, but also urged Israeli forces to act with restraint in

their response. Ankara has strongly criticised Israel's bombardment of Gaza.

"Hamas is not a terrorist organisation, it is a liberation group, 'mujahideen' waging a battle to protect its lands and people," he told lawmakers from his ruling AK Party, using an Arabic word denoting those who fight for their faith.

Unlike many of its NATO allies and the European Union, Turkey does not consider Hamas

a terrorist organisation and hosts members of the group on its territory. Ankara backs a two-state solution to the decades-old Israel-Palestinian conflict.

Advertisement
Scroll to continue Erdogan also slammed Western powers for supporting Israel's bombing of Gaza and called for an immediate ceasefire, the unhindered entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza and for Muslim countries to work together to stop the violence.



Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan attends a meeting with members of parliament from his ruling AK Party (AKP) at the Turkish parliament in Ankara, Turkey.

Record 114 million people now displaced worldwide: UN

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The number of people worldwide living in forced displacement from their homes is estimated to have exceeded 114 million, the United Nations said Wednesday — a record figure.

"The number of people displaced by war, persecution, violence and human rights violations globally is likely to have exceeded 114 million at the end of September," UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, said in a statement.

The main drivers in the first half of 2023 were the conflicts in Ukraine, Sudan, Myanmar and the Democratic Republic of

Congo; a prolonged humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan; and a combination of drought, floods and insecurity in Somalia, UNHCR said. "The world's focus now is — rightly — on the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. But globally, far too many conflicts are proliferating or escalating, shattering innocent lives and uprooting people," said UN refugee chief Filippo Grandi.

"The international community's inability to solve conflicts or prevent new ones is driving displacement and misery. We must look within, work together to end conflicts and allow refugees and other displaced people to return

home or restart their lives," he said in a statement.

In its Mid-Year Trends Report, which analyses forced displacement during the first six months of 2023, UNHCR said that by the end of June, 110 million people had been forcibly displaced worldwide.

That figure was up 1.6 million from the end of 2022. A UNHCR spokesman confirmed to AFP that the new figure was a record since the agency began collecting data in 1975. Since Israel launched withering strikes on Gaza in response to the October 7 Hamas attack, the number of people internally displaced within Gaza is estimated at about 1.4 million.

Hezbollah holds talks with Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad leadership

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: The leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah group held talks on Wednesday in Beirut with senior Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad figures in a key meeting of three top anti-Israel militant groups amid the war raging in Gaza.

In neighboring Syria, meanwhile, state media said an Israeli airstrike hit the international airport in the northern city of Aleppo on Wednesday, damaging its runway and putting it out of service.

Other Iran-backed militants — should take at this "sensitive stage" in the Middle East.

Their goal, according to the statement carried on Hezbollah-run and Lebanese state media, was to achieve "a real victory for the resistance in Gaza and Palestine" and halt Israel's "treacherous and brutal aggression against our oppressed and steadfast people in Gaza and the West Bank".

No other details were provided. The meeting came as the war between Israel and Hamas, the Palestinian militant group that rules the Gaza Strip, is now in its third week. The fighting, triggered by Hamas' deadly incursion into Israel on Oct. 7 that killed more than 1,400 people in Israel, has killed more than 5,700 Palestinians in Gaza.

Egypt's Sisi says Cairo playing positive role in de-escalating Gaza crisis

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said on Wednesday that his country was playing a "very positive role" trying to de-escalate and find a diplomatic solution to the conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Egypt has taken an active role in negotiating access to aid for people in Gaza through the Rafah crossing, which it shares with Gaza, as well as in negotiations for hostage releases, while advocating for a ceasefire in the conflict.

Inspecting scores of Egyptian warplanes, tanks, and other military hardware at an exercise on the western edge of the Sinai Peninsula, about 135 miles (215 km) from Egypt's border with the Gaza strip, he said that though Egypt had considerable military capabilities it would only ever use them wisely and in self-defence.

"It's very important when you have this kind of power that you use it reasonably, wisely, and maturely and you don't overstep and have illusions about your own strength," he said, alluding to internal calls for Egypt to involve itself in the conflict.

"You have this capability to defend yourself ... never let anger or fervour cause you to overstep," he said. Sisi, who met French President Emmanuel Macron in Cairo later on Wednesday, said the military exercise had been intended for events to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1973 war against Israel that started on Oct. 6, but had been postponed due to the conflict. Speaking with Macron, Sisi said both leaders had agreed that any move to displace Gazans into Egypt's Sinai peninsula - a move he had previously warned that Egypt would not bear.

New Zealand opens inquest into Christchurch mosques attack

Monitoring Desk
WELLINGTON: An inquest into New Zealand's 2019 mosque killings opened Tuesday, with relatives of the 51 people who died in the massacre hoping to discover if any lives could have been saved.

White supremacist Brenton Tarrant shot and killed 51 Muslim worshippers at two Christchurch mosques on March 15, 2019, in New Zealand's deadliest

modern-day mass shooting. Deputy chief coroner Brigitte Windley opened the inquiry in Christchurch, saying it would "look at what we may learn from this atrocity and speak for those who have lost their lives in an effort to protect the living".

Maha Galal, spokesperson for the "15 March Whanau Trust" representing some of the victims' relatives, said there was an "urgent need for answers".

Lula approval falls on perception Brazil economy slipping -Genial/ Quaest poll

Monitoring Desk
BRASILIA: Approval of President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's performance has fallen in the last two months as Brazilians worry that Latin America's largest economy is worsening, a new Genial/Quaest poll showed on Wednesday.

Approval of his way of governing has fallen to 54% in October from 60% in August.

Seven die as fog causes 158 crashes in US

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: A large cloud of fog enveloping a highway led to at least 158 car crashes and seven deaths in the southern US state of Louisiana, authorities said on Monday. The so-called "super fog," which US media reported was caused by a mixture of marsh fires and dense fog, led to a massive pileup on Interstate 55, about 30 miles (48 kilometres) outside of New Orleans, the Louisiana State Police said in a statement.

Photos posted by the police showed both lanes of the highway bridge where the incident occurred blocked off by the wreckage, which included dozens of charred vehicles. A fire had erupted on the highway, police said. One vehicle appeared to have driven off the bridge and into the water below.

More than 25 people were taken to hospital, not counting the "many victims (who) sought medical assistance on their own."

China's defence ministry blasts Pentagon's annual report

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China's defence ministry on Wednesday denounced the U.S. Defense Department's annual report on China, saying it distorts the country's security policy and military strategy.

Over the next decade, the People's Republic of China will rapidly modernise, diversify, and expand its nuclear forces, the Pentagon said in its report to U.S. Congress.



Lebanon's Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah meets Jihad Secretary General Ziyad al-Nakhlah and deputy leader of Hamas, Sheikh Saleh al-Arouri at an unidentified location in this handout image released.

