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Pakistani mountaineer Shehroze sets another record

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistani mountaineer Shehroze Kashif has set another record. He is the youngest mountaineer to climb 13 peaks above 8000 meters. Shehroze Kashif has crossed this milestone by submitting Chu Yu in China, 8188 meters high. Chu Yu is the sixth highest peak in the world. Shehroze Kashif wants to become the youngest climber to climb all 14 peaks above 8000 meters. Shehroze plans to climb Shishapangma located in China in middle of this month.

Actions of LEAs, govt depts. against illegal activities to continue with full force: COAS

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Friday said the law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and other Government departments will continue the enforcement actions against a spectrum of illegal activities with full force to deny pilferage of resources and economic losses that the country suffers due to these activities. The Army Chief made these remarks during his visit to Karachi where he attended a meeting of the Provincial Apex Committee along with Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh, Justice @ Maqbool Baqar, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. During the Apex Committee meeting, the COAS was briefed about the Revised National Action Plan, Operation in the Kacha Area of Sindh, Security of Foreign Nationals employed on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Non-CPEC and Private Projects, Repatriation of illegal foreigners, Foreign Currency Regularization Measures, Karachi

Transformation Plan, Progress on SIFC initiatives in Sindh and Green Sindh initiatives. The Army Chief underscored the need for synergy among all relevant departments for the gainful effects of the landmark initiatives. The participants affirmed that state institutions, government departments and people are united for the progress and prosperity of the province. Earlier, upon arrival, the COAS was received by Commander Karachi Corps.



KARACHI: Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh, Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar chairs Provincial Apex Committee meeting held at CM House in Karachi. Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Asim Munir is also present.



KARACHI: Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Bahrain, Mr Saqib Rauf, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Governor House.

President for expanding bilateral trade volume with Bahrain

KARACHI (Online): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday stressed the need to expand bilateral trade volume with Bahrain, besides exporting high number of skilled labour force to the country.

Talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Bahrain Saqib Rauf who called on him at the Governor House, the president said demand for skilled labour force in different socio-economic related fields, especially information technology and artificial intelligence, was increasing in the international market. Therefore, he said

the ambassador-designate should be fully focused on capturing the market demand by exporting the required skilled workforce from Pakistan.

President Alvi said Pakistan attached special importance to the brotherly relations with Bahrain. He stressed that economic, educational and cultural ties with Bahrain, should be strengthened. He said the Pakistan embassies abroad should play their due role in exporting skilled labour force from Pakistan and increasing foreign remittances for the country.

Shehbaz plays down any legal barrier to Nawaz's homecoming

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif on Friday played down any chances of a legal barrier to party supremo Nawaz Sharif's homecoming, as speculations regarding the former prime minister take centre stage in the country's politics.

"If Allah wills, Nawaz Sharif will return to Pakistan on October 21 by the will of Allah," Shehbaz said, stressing that the question regarding his return shouldn't be repeated. The remark came during a press conference in Lahore, as the former prime minister — who led the country for 16 months after the ouster of the

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government in April last year — said his elder brother will arrive at the Minar-e-Pakistan following his return to Pakistan.

Nawaz, the three-time prime minister, has been living in London following a self-imposed exile since November 2019 owing to health reasons. He was disqualified for life in 2017 by the Supreme Court for not declaring a receivable salary. Meanwhile, speaking about his government's performance before the caretaker government took over, the former premier said: "We desperately tried to solve the problems in 16 months.

Shehbaz said, God forbid, what would be the situation had Pakistan actually gone bankrupt? "Petrol pumps would have been empty, medicines would have disappeared and daily necessities would not have been available." He said millions of people would have been unemployed if the country had defaulted. "We discussed the provision of low-cost fuel to motorcyclists with the IMF. Our hands were tied as the Washington-based lender, however, turned down our proposal," Shehbaz said.

The PML-N president also said that there's no need to panic as good times lie ahead.

Kabul must stop TTP attacks from Afghan soil to Pakistan: Durrani

ISLAMABAD (INP): Special Representative for Afghanistan Asif Ali Durrani said that Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has been carrying out terrorist attacks on Pakistan from Afghanistan and stated Kabul interim government must stop this process.

Asif Durrani said that "the peace [the Taliban] brought to Afg must also be brought to our borders." He says TTP fighters in Afg, who he noted are using US weapons, should be "returned to Pakistan or neutralized." He also strongly denied the Afghan accusation of interference in Pakistan. Addressing a function in Islamabad, Asif Ali Durrani said that the Soviet Union was not invited to Afghanistan by Pakistan, nor was the Afghan refugees invited by Pakistan itself. Asif Ali Durrani said

Decision of practice and procedure act case likely on Monday

ISLAMABAD (Online): Arrangements have been made for third hearing of practice and procedure case. There will be live hearing of the case on Monday and a bench has also been constituted in this regard.

A full court bench under Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa will hear the case. The decision is likely to be announced on Monday. The CJP has already said he will give decision after hearing 3 lawyers. He has asked the lawyers to come prepared. It is pertinent to mention here the hearing of petitions against Practice and procedure act 2023 was adjourned till Monday. The Court had said decision would be given after hearing the case on Monday.

Unregistered Afghan families start leaving Pakistan after ultimatum

KHYBER (INP): The undocumented Afghans have started to leave Pakistan following the warning issued by the government. The government has set a deadline for the undocumented immigrants to leave Pakistan till Oct 30. Following the ultimatum, as many as 30 Afghan families returned to their hometown through the Torkham border crossing during last few days.

A crackdown is already underway against the unregistered Afghans those are residing in different parts of the country, media reports said. Media reported that people attached with the immigration department are dubbing the return of Afghan families a routine affair.

However, independently the departure is considered an outcome of government instructions. It said in the days to come, the migration of Afghan families from Pakistan, majority of them living in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, would increase. Currently the families those are leaving Pakistan are being helped at the Torkham in connection with their clearance.

Currently, as many as 23,000 Afghans are living in various parts of Khyber and Afghanistan Commissionate has also duly registered them, media quoted the deputy commissioner of Khyber as saying.



LANDIKOTAL: Unregistered Afghan families are willingly enroute their home land passing through Khyber Pass with their homes necessities after the government decided in the apex committee meeting to expell all those Afghans who are living in Pakistan unlawfully

KSRelief to donate 50,000 shelter NFIs, winter kits to Pakistani citizens

ISLAMABAD (INP): King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief) has initiated a vital project aimed at distributing 50,000 kits including 25,000 shelter NFIs (Non-Food Items) and 25,000 winter kits across Pakistan.

The project is planned to be implemented in four phases providing help to individuals who have been affected by recent floods and need assistance. This collaborative effort is being conducted in partnership with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). Speaking on the occasion, chief guest Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed

thanked the Saudi Ambassador for providing 25,000 Shelter NFIs (Non-Food Items) and 25,000 winter kits across Pakistan and said that both countries enjoy strong bilateral relations.

"He said that somebody said that we are like brothers. We are not like brothers. We are brothers", he added. Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki, speaking on the occasion said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is handing over fifty thousand kits as a gift to the brotherly country. This winter aid will be distributed in four phases in all provinces of Pakistan. This gift is presented through the King Salman

Cuba Ambassador calls on Federal Minister of Health Dr Nadeem Jan

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Health Minister Dr Nadeem Jan said that it

Security Summit to be held in Pakistan. On this occasion, the



is my mission to ensure massive reforms in Health Sector. I am ensuring strong practical steps to complete the agenda. Ambassador of Cuba has met with Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan.

Health Minister said that Pakistan should play its prominent role to fulfill the agenda of global health security, in case of any sudden epidemic, it is necessary to ensure the supply of vaccines in poor countries on an equal basis. Pakistan is developing a long-term strategy for drug supply. They want to make molecules in Pakistan through transfer of technology.

In the meeting, it was agreed to boost cooperation in health sector. Dr. Nadeem Jan also presented the invitation to the Global Health



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed posing for a group photo graph along with Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki, Director King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center Pakistan and others after ceremony "Project for the Provision and Distribution of Shelter NFIs and Winter Kits in Pakistan 2023-2024" at Saudi Embassy in Federal Capital.

Police ask all seminaries vis-a-vis not to allow strangers to stay night in mosques

ISLAMABAD (Online): In the federal capital, Anti-Extremism Unit of Islamabad Police has completed contacts with all seminaries vis-a-vis not allowing strangers to stay or spend the night in mosques and madrasas. Islamabad Police has already issued instructions in this regard. Islamabad Police and District Administration have expressed gratitude to the law-abiding scholars. According to spokesperson of Islamabad police, the permission of the authorized bodies is necessary to open an educational institution or madrasah.

ECP establishes facilitation desk at Islamabad Secretariat

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has established facilitation desk at its Islamabad Secretariat to receive objections on delimitations by 27th of this month.

The facilitation desk will also receive objections on Saturday and Sunday. Meanwhile, registration for new voters also continues till 25th of this month.

Murtaza Solangi grieves over death of former PTV director MZ Sohail

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi on Friday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of former PTV director MZ Sohail.

In his message, the minister expressed his heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the family of the deceased PTV officer. Murtaza Solangi said he was saddened to hear the news of MZ Sohail's death who was an asset of the PTV.

Murtaza Solangi said that late MZ Sohail was associated with the news department of Pakistan Television for over four decades and his services for PTV were unforgettable.

Nawaz still suffers from 'chest pain', says report submitted in LHC

LAHORE (INP): A fresh medical report of Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) supremo, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif was submitted to the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday.

The former premier, who had left for London in 2019 on medical grounds, was scheduled to return to Pakistan on October 21. The LHC had allowed Nawaz Sharif to travel abroad initially for a period of four weeks, extendable on the basis of medical reports. As per report, the ex-premier had "some residual anginal symptoms" which would require "frequent follow-up investigations" in London and Pakistan. The report was signed

by Professor Carlo Di Mario, a consultant cardiologist at the Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospitals, part of Guy's and St Thomas' National Health Service Foundation Trust.

The cardiologist noted that they first tried medical treatment, strengthening his antianginal therapy. "When Nawaz's symptoms worsened, another angioplasty was conducted in November 2022 which targeted an occluded left circumflex artery," the doctor said in report. It added that the elder Sharif still has some residual anginal symptoms and suggested continuous monitoring.

REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

24 DAYS REMAINING

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Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Costly borrowing

The finance ministry blaming the hikes in State Bank policy interest rates for the rapid growth in public debt is a case of the pot calling the kettle black.

A ministry official told a Senate panel the other day that a 1pc increase in borrowing costs adds a whopping Rs600bn to annual debt-servicing expenses.

He maintained that the debt stock had surged by over Rs7tr since January 2022 due to the increase in the policy rate from 9.75pc to 22pc. That has, indeed, been the case as soaring debt-servicing costs keep forcing the government to borrow more.

As a new World Bank report notes: "Higher policy rates are increasing government borrowing costs, driving higher financing needs. These financing needs are ... being met through increased borrowing from the domestic banking system."

But the official modestly omitted to mention the contribution of the government's profligate fiscal policies to the quicker growth of its debt stock over the last year and a half, ie, failure to contain its large wasteful expenditures and boost tax revenues by broadening the tax base.

He also didn't mention how the spike in government borrowing from domestic banks to finance an average fiscal deficit of over 7pc year after year has crowded out the private sector and fuelled price inflation. The higher interest rate is a major contributor to our debt woes. But it isn't the original sin.

In this case, extravagant fiscal policies are to blame. SBP has no option but to raise borrowing costs to control the aggregate demand, which is expanding mainly because of unrestrained government spending, and tame price inflation.

The government is stuck in a vicious cycle. Its debt problem is likely to be complicated with the passage of time because of its increasing reliance on domestic banks for financing its fiscal deficit amid shrinking external official budgetary support from multilateral and bilateral lenders.

No matter how miscalculated the SBP decision to hold the interest rate in its last monetary policy committee meeting was in the face of elevated inflation, its reluctance is understandable.

The government's growing need to borrow heavily from the local banks has severely constrained SBP's ability to contain inflation through policy rate increases. As of June, banks had allocated 74pc of their total loans to the public sector.

In contrast, credit to the private sector is down to 26.2pc from 30.3pc a year ago. Reduction in the primary budget deficit is the only sustainable solution for the government to cut its bank borrowings, alleviating the need for new inflationary liquidity injections from the central bank. To achieve that, the government would have to shrink its budget deficit to 2-3pc by increasing tax revenues to 25-20pc of GDP and cutting its wasteful expenditures.

Digital pedagogy



Neda Mulji

Digital pedagogy is vastly different from in-person teaching and learning. Technology-mediated teaching leads to active involvement, collaboration and personalised learning that is not possible within the confines of a traditional teaching framework. Essentially, digital pedagogy leads learners to new dimensions above and beyond the expertise of a teacher who may not be able to give individual time and attention in large classes.

Remote self-paced learning facilitated by technology in class and at home makes learning far more accessible and effective for students. It also enables in-depth monitoring for the teacher who can see the time spent on the learning modules by each of the students, the tasks attempted and the results. Teachers need the support that digital tools provide. However, the real conundrum for many schools is to initiate ways to integrate digital tools in lesson time.

At first it may seem daunting. For many teachers, it is uncharted territory and it may take a while to get comfortable with weaving in digital teaching methods. If the strategy unfolds in easy steps, the landscape of education can change remarkably.

The essential steps to be taken involve access and availability of tablets at school. These can be easily shared among groups of students.

The next step would be creating time during lesson time, or between lessons, to consolidate learning through

online means. The research capabilities that students can develop in class far exceed the learning they can acquire in isolation at home. Something as simple as a keyword search may not come naturally to students but can be learnt through peer collaboration in class. Students can take quizzes online right after a lesson, providing a quick opportunity for formative assessment. Concepts can be clarified instantly with a child-friendly video that can be watched together.

However, successful implementation of digital pedagogy involves weaving it seamlessly into the curriculum one lesson at a time. Many schools have been successful at initiating language learning through digital reading programmes or audio help for students who struggle with acquiring language skills. Such audio support can act as a personal assistant to the teacher, and not many students need help navigating such digital learning once they are introduced to it. Children are natural explorers and curiosity drives them to try out new things once they are shown how.

Not all teachers are comfortable with it, falling by default back onto a traditional style of chalk and talk. Preparing children for global skills requires inculcating these skills in teachers as well as students. Besides subject knowledge, teachers who succeed in digital pedagogy are those who know how to incorporate digital tools into the structure of their lessons. Some questions to consider are: can children express their ideas using a shared

online document? Can they find the information they need to complete an assignment? Can they produce video or audio content based on what they have learnt in

class? Can they comfortably take assessments online? These are just some examples of areas where the teacher's digital expertise is essential to guide the students' journey.

A winning feature of digital pedagogy is that students don't fall through the cracks easily, as they get to revisit the content repetitively — such as videos, discussion boards and quizzes — as many times as they wish. Technology surpasses the limitations of human patience, and students can benefit by teaching themselves, failing and trying again, asking repetitive questions and retaking assessments.

The added benefit of digital pedagogy is that it helps teachers collect data on student effort and attainment. Technological tools will provide a regular overview to the teacher of dips in a students' performance and marginal learning curves. Without digital tools, such data collection is far less reliable and accurate.

It may be difficult for a teacher to cater to the differing needs of learners and that is where technology fills the gaps with adaptive tests and a personal e-coach. The success of digital pedagogy relies on its impact and not merely its usage, and countless studies have shown improvement in students' academic performance once they start using digital tools.

Digital pedagogy can lead to a paradigm shift in how students work, how long they engage with course content and how well they use technology to teach themselves. No mountain is high enough for those who have acquired the skills and strategy to find their way up, and our young ones are definitely digitally-ready. - Courtesy Dawn

Father of the Man



Zubeida Mustafa

Why are we what we are is the question. We were not so before and have emerged so over the years. The most likely reasons for our moral decline is the state's failure to protect its children. Pakistan is not child-centric.

The impact on our children of a policy measure in any walk of life is never weighed carefully. Hence children from all classes suffer. The message they receive is that they will have to fend for themselves. Thus they learn to treat others with indifference when they become adults.

They do not grow up to be caring and sharing in their public attitudes, because they have not experienced such treatment towards themselves when they were young. Remember, all the adults in the country — be they the rulers in Islamabad or the beggars in the streets of Karachi — were once children. To quote William Wordsworth, "The Child is father of the Man".

The capacity of a person to hurt others varies, and depends on the mindset he develops in the company he keeps — be it family or friends — and the power he manages to acquire.

Education, the media and the pulpit also shape people's thinking. An environment unfriendly to the child encourages the culture of lying. Without a gun and power, a person's capacity to harm others is somewhat limited. If he is, however, in a position of power he does immense harm by having thousands killed, destroying institutions and robbing millions of the money

that should have rightfully been spent on them. That is how the rot set in and has grown from generation to generation.

The result? Lust for money, a hunger for power, the tendency to cut corners and to get what one wants without working for it. The inherent sense of justice and fair play that every child is born with is eroded by the time she grows up. The exceptions are too few to change the wider picture. Violence and hardship have dominated our public life.

There would not be a single child in Pakistan who has not witnessed or experienced violence in her life, and that must have impacted her psyche. Sahil, an Islamabad-based NGO, recorded 4,253 child abuse cases in 2022, and the number is expected to be higher in 2023. It must be noted that mental health professionals believe that many of these abused children will emerge as the abusers of tomorrow.

Educating each and every child appropriately is the only way of rectifying this odious situation that threatens to destroy the future of our children. However, it must be emphasised that our present system of primary school education, has proved to be disastrous. It is actually hostile to the child. Be they state-run schools, private institutions — both upscale and low-fee — or madrasahs, they have harmed students immensely. While the first hardly function, the others overload the students with books, tests, homework and tuitions. Their approach is highly competitive and stressful. Educationists who know insist that in the primary years the child should be taught orally through specially designed play material and attractive storybooks and workbooks. Writing should focus only on the impart-

ing of literacy skills.

The common practices of resorting to corporal punishment and teaching in English which the child doesn't comprehend ensures that the adult who emerges from the school system is emotionally insecure and incapable of critical thinking. He has only learnt to memorise lessons without any understanding. What the children actually need is a lot of love and care that will give them confidence.

The saddest part of the story of the child in Pakistan is that parents — the affluent as well as the indigent — do not seem to understand the excesses committed against their offspring. At times, they themselves unwittingly become the oppressors. The poor send their girls to work as domestic labour in spite of being aware of the risks involved. The privileged demand better performance from their children even if it is beyond their natural capabilities.

What comes as a shock after one learns of the tragedy of the child in Pakistan is the galloping demographic growth rate. According to census authorities, our population has grown from 207.6 million in 2017 to 241.5m — an increase of around 33m in six years.

Billions have been allocated for the population welfare programme. It is not known where these billions have gone, certainly not for advocacy campaigns, nor for counselling couples on the choice of appropriate measures, nor for the purchase of contraceptives supplied free to population welfare centres.

The babies keep coming with unfailing regularity, though the majority of them are uncared for. Family planning is a subject that is never talked about. All suffer the consequences of this silence. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Punjab Governor says: Skilled worker force plays an important role in the development of country

Independent Report

LAHORE: A delegation of Auto Air Conditioning Association led by the President of Auto Air Conditioning Association, Malik M. Nadeem met Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman here today at Governor House Lahore. A detailed discussion was held regarding the problems faced by the auto air conditioning industry during the meeting. Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that skilled

worker force plays an important role in the development of any country.

He said that it is praise worthy that the owners of auto conditioning workshops are earning their own livelihood as well as providing training and employment to many people. While underscoring the importance of vocational and technical education, he said that vocational training is the key to prosperity and development.



LAHORE: China's Acting Chinese Consul General in Lahore, Cao Ke addressing a function held on occasion of the 74th founding anniversary celebration of the People's Republic of China. The event was organised by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI).

Weekly inflation goes slightly up by 0.11 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.11 percent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on October 5, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 282.00 points as compared to 281.70 points during the past week, according to the PBS data. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption

group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 37.07 percent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16=100 covers 17 urban centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs 17,732, increased by 0.49 percent and went up to 286.29 points from last week's 284.89 points. The SPI for consumption groups from Rs 17,732-22,888, Rs 22,889-29,517 and Rs 29,518-44,175 increased by 0.38 percent, 0.27 percent and 0.17 percent respectively whereas it declined by 0.03 percent for income group above Rs44,175.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hasan Fawad chaired a Privatisation Commission (PC) Board Meeting.

Political forces should sign CoE for stable country: Mandviwalla

MULTAN (APP):

Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Finance & Revenue, Saleem Mandviwalla on Friday said mainstream political parties should come forward to sign Charter of Economy (CoE) which was the dire need of the hour.

He said it was imperative for a stable Pakistan which would eventually help tackle challenges on the economic front, besides ensuring the interests of people.

Addressing a news conference with PPP leaders Khawaja Rizwan Alam, Ali Qasim Gilani and others at Multan Press Club, he stated that inflation was at its peak and there was a need to bring rates of commodities down to ensure relief for people.

The Senator said that he had met Faisalabad and Multan business community on Thursday adding their issues would be resolved on priority.

He noted that Pakistan People's Party wanted general elections on time and added that PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari and he were meeting with the business fraternity to find solutions to the economic woes of the country.

Replying to a question, the Senator said that whosoever party assumed power after the elections, should act upon CoE. He said that the issues would be resolved on priority.

Earlier, speaking to the executive committee at Multan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) late on Thursday night, he said that businessmen were the most important people of the country.

He said though the standing committee had an oversight role for the govt departments, even then it took up issues of the business community and got them resolved.

PSX gains 41 points

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) gained 41.19 points, a positive change of 0.09 per cent on Friday, closing at 47,493.57 points against 47,452.38 points the previous day. A total of 246,382,303 shares valuing Rs. 7.184 billion were traded during the day as compared to 462,865,965 shares valuing Rs. 8.998 billion the previous day.

As many as 351 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 190 of them recorded gains and 139 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 22 companies remained unchanged.

BRICS expansion allows Ethiopia to deepen economic cooperation with emerging markets: Envoy

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Pakistan Jemal Beker Abdula has said that joining of his country to BRICS would deepen its economic cooperation with the emerging markets of the world. Addressing a round table discussion on "Expanding BRICS and the New Alignments", the ambassador underscored that the BRICS expansion would be instrumental in Ethiopia's ten-year development plan, aligning

with the economic reforms initiated by Ethiopian Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed. He said Ethiopia with the second largest population in Africa, had become one of the fastest-growing economies globally, maintaining an impressive average growth rate for last several years even during the pandemic critical time.

Ambassador Jemal Beker emphasized that Ethiopia's entry into BRICS would open new avenues for increased trade, foreign direct investment, and opportunities for technology transfer, knowledge sharing,

and infrastructural development. He highlighted Ethiopia's commitment to diversify its exports in key sectors such as agriculture and agro-processing, manufacturing, mining, tourism, and information and communication technology (ICT).

"With the addition of new members like Saudi Arabia, Iran, and others, BRICS now represents nearly half of the global population and a quarter of the global GDP," he said, adding this actually positioned BRICS as an economic powerhouse that could not be ignored.

Need to encourage solar energy to avoid expensive electricity: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP):

Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has called for encouraging solar energy to avoid expensive electricity.

In a statement issued here on Friday, he said that due to line losses, capacity payments, and thefts, electricity was becoming more expensive.

Forcing people to avoid alternatives and use expensive electricity was a violation of their fundamental rights, so this practice must be

stopped, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that it was important to attract consumers towards solar energy, make its equipment cheaper, and provide long-term interest-free loans to people, enabling them to use the solar energy.

He said that Pakistan was among the top countries in the world in terms of solar power potential. According to international experts, Pakistan can get 40% of its electricity requirement through solar energy, but instead of using this sector for public welfare, it is being used as a source of profiteering.



LAHORE: Chairman All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajran Naeem Mir addressing press conference at press club in Provincial Capital.

Pakistan's exports to China increase by 5.16%

ISLAMABAD (INP):

Pakistan's export of goods and services to China witnessed an increase of 5.16 per cent during the first two months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

The overall exports to China were recorded at US \$350.297 million during July-August (2023-24) against exports of US \$333.077 million during July-August (2022-23), showing growth of 5.16 per cent, SBP data revealed.

On a year-to-year basis, the exports to China also surged by 25.09 per

cent from \$159.021 million in August 2022, against the exports of \$198.932 million in August 2023. Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to China rose by 31.42 per cent during August 2023 as compared to the exports of \$151.365 million in July 2023, the SBP data revealed. Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed a decrease of 8.26 per cent in the first two months, from US \$ 4.951 billion to US \$ 4.541 billion, the SBP data revealed. On the other hand, the imports from China into the country during the months under review were recorded at US \$ 1861.702 million.

IGP inaugurates modern command and control center at Mardan PS

PESHAWAR (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Akhtar Hayat Khan on Friday inaugurated the modern Command and Control Center at Mardan Saddar Police Station. The IGP received a briefing stating that city surveillance in Mardan would be conducted through 200 cameras at the center. He emphasized that the use of modern technology would assist in controlling crimes and quickly identifying suspects. The Command and Control Center is a project of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, and the IGP mentioned that a similar system has been initiated in D.I. Khan, Haripur, Kohat, and Nowshera. Modern cameras have been installed at 34 of the busiest intersections in Mardan city under the Command and Control Center. The IG Police also inaugurated the distribution of police equipment and the new computerized resource management system for security. The IGP also inaugurated the Ababeel Force, consisting of 50 motorbike riders, for urban policing in the city, emphasizing the importance of urban policing.



PESHAWAR: A delegation of tribal elites of merged Districts meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

No undocumented alien to be allowed to stay in Punjab: CM

Independent Report

LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has asserted that all foreign nationals residing illegally in Punjab should voluntarily depart as the initial data of foreign residents has been compiled. He made these remarks during a media interaction after inspecting the Shahdara flyovers and Bund Road controlled access corridor projects. The CM issued a stern warning that any foreigner staying unlawfully in the province would not be permitted to dwell. Naqvi stressed the importance of self-removal by illegal immigrants in Punjab, cautioning that a comprehensive crackdown would ensue if they failed to comply. However, the government would not abuse anyone, he maintained. The CM observed that the closure of schools had led to a noticeable decrease in pink eye cases. In response to a query about his health, he conveyed that he is feeling better. Mohsin Naqvi provided updates on the progress of the Shahdara flyovers project, highlighting the rapid completion of the bridge and ongoing activities. Anticipating that the flyovers would be opened to traffic next month, he disclosed that 90 percent of the work had already been accomplished. Additionally, he informed that two construction companies are working tirelessly to complete the Bund Road project before 120 days. Simultaneously, numerous pending projects in Rawalpindi, including the Ring Road and safe city authority, have been initiated. These projects are slated for completion within 90 to 180 days.

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AJK govt pleased to constitute Reconciliation Committee: AJK PM office

MIRUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir government has constituted 16-Member Cabinet Reconciliation Committee headed by the minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore to get rid of the ongoing crises over high local power tariff and price hike besides non-availability of flour on subsidised rates and other identical issues. "In the larger public interest, the AJK government has been pleased to constitute the Reconciliation Committee comprising following members", an official order issued by AJK PM office late Thursday said. Quoting the official order issued late Thursday by the AJK PM office in the state metropolis, top official sources told APP here on Friday that led by the minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, belonging to PPP AJK in this coalition government. The committee is comprising ministers including Sardar Mir Akbar Khan.



KARACHI: Employees of private news channel are holding protest demonstration against forced dismissals, at Karachi press club.

Chinese ambassador scholarships awarded to 282 students

SARGODHA (APP): The University of Sargodha awarded Chinese ambassador scholarships to 282 students. In this regard, a prestigious ceremony was held at the University of Sargodha (UoS). One hundred merit-based, 176 need-based and six scholarships were awarded to the position holders of Chinese language courses by Vice Chancellor UoS Prof. Dr. Qaisar Abbas. In a statement, the Chinese ambassador expressed his gratitude to Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qaisar Abbas and emphasized that China-Pakistan friendship has a rich history, solid foundation, fruitful outcomes, and promising prospects. He also stressed that the youth are the hope of the nation and the scholarship aimed to support students in realizing their dreams and contributing to the strong bond between China and Pakistan. Speaking at the ceremony, the Vice Chancellor expressed his profound gratitude towards the Chinese embassy for its unwavering support of the University of Sargodha. He stated, "Education is a powerful tool for building bridges and strengthening the bonds of friendship between nations."

LWMC deploys additional staff for night shift

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) is taking practical measures to ensure the best sanitation situation in the provincial capital. Over 300 sanitary workers and 90 vehicles are working the night shift cleaning operation, said a spokesperson. On the instructions of LWMC CEO Babar Sahib Din, mechanical sweeping and washing is being conducted across the city in the night shift. The process was activity conducted on MM Alam Road, Canal Road, Khayaban-e-Firdousi, Khayaban-e-Jinnah, Gulberg Town, Jail Road, Ferozepur Road, Liberty Market, Punjab Assembly Road, Mall Road.

Governor KP says: Grievances of tribal elites about reduction of seats in merged dists will be conveyed

PESHAWAR (APP): A joint people's delegation comprising the chiefs of the combined districts of Kurram, South Waziristan, Orakzai and North Waziristan called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali at the Governor's House on Friday. In the meeting, the problems and difficulties faced by the people of the merged districts were discussed in detail by the joint people delegation from Kurram, South Waziristan, Orakzai and North Waziristan districts. With the new constituencies, 6 seats of the National Assembly and 8 seats of the Senate of the merged districts have been eliminated, the delegation said. The National Assembly Constituencies of Orakzai and South Waziristan have been abolished by the new constituencies, the delegation informed. There is serious concern among the tribal people about reducing the seats in the National Assembly of the merged districts, the delegation said. Annual Development funds of 100 billion rupees have not been released for the merged districts, delegation and after the local elections, funds, offices and other facilities were not provided to the elected representatives of the merged districts, the delegation said while briefing the Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali. After the merger, the tribal people are facing losses and difficulties instead of benefits, the delegation is of the view.

6 killed, 1318 injured in 1244 accidents in Punjab

LAHORE: At least six persons were killed and 1318 injured in 1244 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of these, 636 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 682 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of hospitals. Furthermore, the analysis showed that 598 drivers, 38 underage drivers, 207 pedestrians, and 519 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics showed that 266 RTCs which affected 263 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by 88 in Faisalabad with 102 victims and at third Multan with 86 RTCs and 86 victims. According to the data 1072 motorbikes, 80 auto-rickshaws, 133 motorcycles, 19 vans, 11 passenger buses, 16 trucks and 99 other types of auto vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in these road traffic accidents.

International News

Russian lawmakers will consider rescinding ratification of global nuclear test ban, speaker says

MOSCOW: Russian lawmakers will consider revoking the ratification of a global nuclear test ban, the parliament speaker said Friday. The statement from Vyacheslav Volodin, the speaker of the lower house, the State Duma, followed Russian President Vladimir Putin's warning that Moscow could consider rescinding the ratification of the international pact banning nuclear tests since the United States has never ratified it. There are widespread concerns that Russia could move to resume nuclear tests to try to discourage the West from continuing to offer military support to Ukraine. Many Russian hawks have spoken in favor of resuming the tests. Volodin reaffirmed Moscow's claim that Western military support for Ukraine means the U.S. and its allies are engaged in the conflict. "Washington and Brussels have unleashed a war against our country," Volodin said. "Today's challenges require new decisions." He said that senior lawmakers will discuss recalling the 2000 ratification of the nuclear test ban at the next meeting of the agenda-setting house council. "It conforms with our national interests," Volodin said. "And it will come as a quid pro quo response to the United States, which has still failed to ratify the treaty." Speaking Thursday at a forum with foreign affairs experts, Putin noted the United States has signed but not ratified the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban, while Russia has signed and ratified it. He argued that Russia could act in kind. "Theoretically, we may revoke the ratification," he said.



Russian President Vladimir Putin addresses the annual meeting of the Valdai Discussion Club in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, Russia.

Kosovo-Serbia tension threatens the Balkan path to EU integration, Germany's foreign minister warns

TIRANA: Germany's foreign minister on Friday expressed the European Union's deep concerns following the recent shootout between masked Serb gunmen and Kosovo police that left four people dead and sent tensions soaring in the region. Annalena Baerbock was in Tirana, Albania at a foreign ministers' meeting ahead of the Oct. 16 summit on the Berlin Process, an initiative from Germany and France to encourage six Western Balkans countries to keep working toward membership in the bloc. The top diplomats of the six countries — Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia — are meeting with Baerbock, EU Enlargement Commissioner Oliver Varhelyi and other senior EU officials. "The key to resolving the conflict is in Belgrade and Pristina, though some may not be pleased to listen to that," she said. On Sept. 24, around 30 heavily armed Serb men first killed a Kosovar police officer and then set up barricades in northern Kosovo before launching an hours-long gunbattle with Kosovo police. Kosovo has accused Serbia of orchestrating the "act of aggression" against its former province, whose 2008 declaration of independence Belgrade doesn't recognize. Serbia has denied this, saying that the gunmen acted on their own. Meanwhile in Kosovo, Maj. Gen. Angelo Michele Ristuccia, the commander of the NATO-led peacekeeping force, called on both Kosovo and Serbia on Friday to return to the negotiating table to resolve their issues to prevent further violence.

Sweden pledges more military aid to Ukraine, considers fighter jets

STOCKHOLM: Sweden will send Ukraine a new military support package worth 2.2 billion crowns (\$199 million) — consisting mainly of artillery ammunition — and is looking into sending fighter jets, Defence Minister Pal Jonson said. Jonson told a news conference the armed forces were due to report by Nov. 6 on the potential for sending Jas Gripen jets to Ukraine after the government asked them to assess the issue. But he reiterated that Sweden would for domestic security reasons need to become member of NATO before it would be able to potentially spare any fighter jets. Sweden hopes to join the NATO defence alliance soon although its accession has been held up by member states Turkey and Hungary. The new military aid package will be Sweden's 14th to Ukraine since Russia's invasion, taking the total value of the Nordic country's such aid to just over 22 billion crowns. "We need to design our support so that it's long term and sustainable," Jonson said. "It is now important that more countries step up to support Ukraine."



A fallen tree branch is pictured under a truck after Typhoon Koinu passed the southern tip of Taiwan, on the outskirts of Dawu, Taiwan.

1.1 million bullets seized from Iran, US ships them to Ukraine

WASHINGTON: Russia has long turned to Iranian-made drones to attack Ukraine. Now Ukrainian forces will be using bullets seized from Iran against Russia troops. A U.S. Navy ship seized the 1.1 million rounds off of a vessel that was being used by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps to arm Houthi rebels in Yemen's civil war in violation of a U.N. Security Council resolution. Those 7.62 mm rounds have now been transferred to Ukraine, U.S. Central Command said Wednesday. The much-needed ammunition has been sent at a time when continued U.S. financial support for Kyiv's fight to defend itself remains in question. "With this weapons transfer, the Justice Department's forfeiture actions against one authoritarian regime are now directly supporting the Ukrainian people's fight against another authoritarian regime. We will continue to use every legal authority at our disposal to support Ukraine in their fight for freedom, democracy, and the rule of law," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement.



An soldiers carry a casket during the funeral of the victims of a drone attack targeting a Syrian military academy, outside a hospital in government-controlled Homs.

Syria buries dead after drone attack kills dozens at graduation ceremony

BEIRUT: Syria began burying its dead on Friday after a drone attack on a military academy graduation ceremony in Homs killed dozens, while Damascus pummeled opposition-held areas in response to the assault by "terrorist organisations". In one of the bloodiest single attacks on the army since the start of Syria's war in 2011, Thursday's assault came just after the ceremony attended by officers and their families, killing and wounding both military personnel and civilians. State media said on Friday that 89 had died, including 31 women and five children, with 277 other people wounded. Dozens of distraught victims' relatives gathered outside the Homs military hospital since the early morning, an AFP correspondent said.

Turkey steps up strikes on militants as conflict escalates in Syria

ISTANBUL: Turkish security forces attacked Kurdish militants in northern Syria and eastern Turkey, and Ankara said it will continue to destroy their capabilities across the region as conflict escalated on Friday nearly a week after a bomb attack in Ankara. The military "neutralised" 26 Kurdish militants in northern Syria overnight in retaliation for a rocket attack on a Turkish base, the defence ministry said. Turkey typically uses the term "neutralise" to mean kill. The rocket attack on the base, by the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia, killed one Turkish police officer and wounded seven officers and soldiers in northwest Syria's Dabiq area on Thursday evening, Ankara said. Turkey also conducted air strikes and destroyed 30 militant targets elsewhere in northern Syria, including an oil well, a storage facility and shelters, the defence ministry said. "As has been done in Iraq, all the capabilities and revenue sources developed by the terrorist organisation in Syria will continue to be destroyed systematically."

Biden announces \$9 billion more in student debt relief

WASHINGTON: U.S. President Joe Biden announced on Wednesday that his administration has approved an additional \$9 billion in student debt relief for 125,000 borrowers. Biden has said he will pursue new measures to provide students loan relief to Americans after the Supreme Court blocked his plan to cancel hundreds of billions of dollars in debt. The president said the latest announcement brought the total approved debt cancellation by his administration to \$127 billion for nearly 3.6 million Americans. "This kind of relief is life changing for individuals and their families. But it's good for our economy as a whole as well," he told reporters. According to a White House fact sheet, the new measures include: \$5.2 billion in additional debt relief for 53,000 borrowers under Public Service Loan Forgiveness programs; nearly \$2.8 billion in new debt relief for some 51,000 borrowers through fixes to "income-driven repayment."

US gov't doesn't want to build new sections of border wall

MEXICO CITY: The U.S. government does not want to build new sections of wall on its border with Mexico, Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said on Friday, expressing doubt that the planned construction would be carried out. "It's pure publicity," Lopez Obrador said in a regular morning press conference after the Biden administration announced it would build additional sections of border wall.

Madad Ali expresses concern over deteriorating primary level edu. standard

HYDERABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Education Minister Madad Ali Sindh while expressing his grave concern over deteriorating primary level educational standard in the country particularly in Sindh province has informed that the caretaker federal government was making sincere efforts to address this issue and also resolve the issues of all higher learning institutions of Sindh on priority basis.

The minister said this while talking to media persons after attending the ceremony of the scholarship cheque distribution under National Endowment Scholarship for Talent Scheme among the students at University of Sindh Jamshoro on Friday.

He informed that all out efforts are being made to provide scholarships to make male and female students of Sindh on priority basis adding that merit is being ensured while select-

ing the candidates for scholarships.

He distributed cheques among the selected male and female students of the University of Sindh, Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences and Shaheed Allah Bux Soomro University of Jamshoro.

During meetings with the Vice Chancellors of higher learning institutions of Sindh, the minister informed that he discussed the issues and assured that all genuine problems would be resolved at the earliest.

He, however, emphasized the need of considering merits while filling vacant academic and administrative posts by refusing all political pressure and influence.

Madad Ali Sindh informed that Ministry of Education is organizing a conference on October 16, 2023 to discuss the issues of the higher learning institutions of the country.



HYDERABAD: Federal minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindh address to media persons at Press Club.

Law Minister says:

Young lawyers need to be trained for high professional standards

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Law and Justice, Ahmad Irfan Aslam on Friday said young lawyers need to be educated and trained in order to raise professional standards.

He stated this during a meeting with Vice-Chairman of Pakistan Bar Council, Haroon-ur-Rashid to discuss specific issues that

was a priority for Caretaker Government and it would be ensured that no development work was decelerated. He reiterated that young lawyers need to be educated and trained in order to raise professional standards, further higher.

He expressed the hope that the construction and refurbishment of bar



hindered smooth functioning of the body. The Law Minister said that the welfare of law-

rooms and technical facilities would improve the working environment for lawyers.

Signed a MoU with IISH ICP officials to be provided medical facilities

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Islamabad Specialized Hospital to provide a discount on cash rates on medical checkups, a police public relations officer said.

He said that the Islamabad Capital City Po-

signed a MoU with Chief Executive Officer Dr. Miraj and Director Zaman Iqbal.

According to the MoU, the hospital will provide medical checkups at 40% discount on cash rates for the employees and 50% discount on cash rates for the ghazi and shuhada families of Islamabad Capital Police. The facilities can be



Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan has directed to ensure best medical facilities to the policemen and their families. Following his directions, SSP (Logistics) Dr. Mustafa Tanvir made efforts and

availed round the clock.

The policemen or their families are requested to keep NIC, departmental card or evidence of affiliation with Islamabad Capital Police during the visit at hospital.

Efforts underway for registration of household workers and tenants

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have launched the "Knock the Door" campaign to facilitate the registration of domestic employees and bolster law and order in the federal capital.

During the ongoing campaign, dedicated teams from the Islamabad Capital Police are taking to the streets and visiting residences to ensure the registration of both tenants and domestic workers. Additionally, they are addressing any concerns and issues raised by the citizens.

Within the framework of this operation, the

Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Islamabad has already compiled data on 201 domestic employees working in 492 houses within the jurisdiction of Sumbal Police Station during the last 24 hours.

The primary objective of this campaign is to bolster law and order in the federal capital, thereby minimizing the risk of any untoward incidents.

Registering tenants and domestic workers not only enables authorities to closely monitor any suspicious activities but also serves as a deterrent against potential wrongdoers.



ISLAMABAD: Andreas Ferrarese, Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan calling on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Parliament House.

Reaches out to US Senators, Congressmen Masood lauds US law-makers for bi-partisan support in foiling move against Pakistan

WASHINGTON (APP): Many key US Senators and Congressmen have reaffirmed their commitment to further cement Pak-US ties and expanding the scope of existing cooperation to trade and investment, renewable



energy, climate change, regional security and promoting people exchanges during their meetings with Pak Ambassador to the United States. During the past week, Ambassador Masood Khan met a number of US law-makers including Senator Bill Hagerty, Senator Jon Ossoff, Representative Jim Banks, Co-Chair Pakistan Congressional Caucus, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Ranking Member House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Representative Jason Crow.

Separately, the Ambassador has also written letters to score of US law-makers thanking them for their resolute support during the recent vote in the House that rejected a proposed amendment to prohibit assistance to Pakistan under the State Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations (SFOFS) Act 2024.

During meeting with Senator Bill Hagerty, the two sides discussed ways to further strengthen Pak-US relations with a focus on cementing ties in trade and invest-

ment, energy and counter-terrorism.

In a meeting with Jon Ossoff, the US Senator from the state of Georgia, matters relating to bilateral relations and regional situation were discussed. With reference to

sister-province relations between Georgia and Sindh province, the two sides reiterated their commitment to explore all possible avenues for tapping the existing potential of enhancing trade ties and promoting people to people exchanges. Separately, the Ambassador had a productive meeting with Congressman Jim Banks, Co-Chair Pakistan Congressional Caucus. He thanked Representative Banks for his leadership in the Caucus and resolute support to Pakistan in Congress. The two sides "discussed ways to strengthen ties in parliamentary, economic, educational and cultural realms," tweeted the Ambassador after the meeting.

Masood Khan also met Ranking Member House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and discussed Pak-US cooperation in defence, science and technology, education, renewable energy, climate change, and people to people linkages.

Islamabad DC leads efforts to combat dengue threat

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon on Friday chaired a meeting to devise a comprehensive strategy to combat the looming dengue threat.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioners, the District Health Officer, Assistant Commissioners, Magistrates, and key stakeholders, marked a concerted effort to safeguard the capital's residents from the menace of dengue.

DC Irfan Nawaz emphasized the importance of preventative measures, asserting that while dengue may not be inherently dangerous, strict precautions must be adhered to.

Iqra University holds faculty professional development workshop

ISLAMABAD (APP): Iqra University's H-9 Campus in Islamabad proudly organized a comprehensive four-day training workshop aimed at Faculty Professional Development. Engaging faculty members from all six prominent departments - Business, Computer Sciences, Social Sciences, Art and Fashion Design, Media Studies, and Pharmacy - the workshop offered invaluable insights into teaching.

IHRA seals private blood bank on massive violations

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a shocking revelation, the Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority (IHRA) on Friday uncovered severe violations here at Ahmed Blood Bank in PWD during an inspection and directed to immediately cease all types of services.

According to an official of IHRA, in response to these grave blood banking violations, the authority instructed the blood bank to apply for registration with the Islamabad Healthcare Regulation Authority (IHRA) within 10 working days while non-compliance would result in strict actions.

It was the second visit of the IHRA team to Ahmed Blood Bank following a registration request. Astonishingly, the blood bank was found to be op-



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah presenting a book to British MP Afzal Khan.

Pakistan-UK cultural relations in focus as MP meets Minister Jamal Shah

ISLAMABAD (Online): British Member of Parliament (MP) Afzal Khan met with Caretaker Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah on Friday to discuss mutual interests, with a particular focus on cultural relations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom.

Federal Secretary for National Heritage and Culture, Humaira Ahmed, along with Adviser and Culture expert Muhammad Kashif Ishaq, also attended the meeting.

During their discussions, the minister emphasized the opportunities for cooperation across diverse artistic domains to enhance and fortify the strong people-to-people connections between Pakistan and the United Kingdom.

He expressed that Art and Culture serve as the true representation and introduction of any nation. He further emphasized that

great nations consistently recognize, appreciate, preserve, promote, and enhance their art and culture.

The minister informed the British MP about ongoing initiatives, which involve the construction of a dedicated building for the Islamabad Museum and the creation of a National Heritage Channel. These efforts aim to promote regional folk literature and preserve the national heritage.

The Minister announced plans for the second phase of the CPEC Cultural Caravan, during which special invitations will be extended to all Central Asian states to participate. British MP Afzal Khan expressed his commitment to furthering cooperation in cultural exchanges and continuing efforts to bolster cultural ties. He commended Pakistan's archaeological sites and likened civilizations to interconnected rivers.

Student succumbs to bullet injuries in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): The critically injured 10th-class student succumbed to his injuries in a hospital in Srinagar in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

According to Kashmir Media Service, the student, Sahil Bashir, was shot at and injured by unknown gunmen in the Wanihama area of the south Kashmir Islamabad district on Wednesday.

He had received bullets in the neck and his spinal cord was damaged," a senior doctor at Soura Institute of Medical Sciences in Srinagar told media men.

Islamabad Police launch innovative ICT-15 App for public safety

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police have unveiled an App aimed at enhancing public safety and crime prevention.

The newly introduced ICT-15 app launched following the directions of Minister for Interior Sarfraz Akbar Bugti, promises to empower the general public in the capital city by enabling them to actively participate in the fight against crime and ensure the well-being of their communities.

Italian Envoy calls on Sadiq Sanjrani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese called on Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani here at the Parliament House on Friday.

The focus of the meeting encompassed mutual interests, notably the prevailing regional dynamics and energy matters.

Chairman Senate emphasized the amicable relations between the two nations and called for further cementing bilateral ties.

He advocated for diversifying energy sources beyond conventional means, accentuating the untapped potential in solar and wind energy within Pakistan.

Sadiq Sanjrani also highlighted the expertise of energy professionals in

Italy, offering collaboration to explore alternative electricity generation in Pakistan.

In light of the escalating impacts of climate change, the Chairman stressed the global imperative to shift towards clean energy generation. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to bolster trade and economic ties between Italy and Pakistan.

Furthermore, Sanjrani extended an invitation to Italian enterprises to capitalize on the investment prospects available in Pakistan.

He specifically pointed out opportunities within the mineral sector, especially in Balochistan, which could prove favourable for Italian investors.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister AJK Anwar ul Haq had a meeting with Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Mr. Sami Saeed.

PTA takes action against illegal internet service providers in Sargodha

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) in coordination with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) conducted two successful raids in Sargodha conducted two successful raids in Sargodha against illegal internet service providers.

The successful raids against illegal ISPs were made possible because of continuous monitoring, commitment, and persistent efforts by the PTA to curb the menace of illegal internet services, thus curtailing the loss to the national exchequer in terms of tax evasion and misreporting of revenues.

Wafaqi Mohtasib inspection team visits AIOU

ISLAMABAD: On receipt of large number of complaints against AIOU, the Wafaqi Mohtasib Mr. Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi deputed Wafaqi Mohtasib Inspection Team comprising of Senior Advisor Mr. Ahmad

tion with the university students and ascertained issues faced by them. Later the team went around different departments of the AIO University to see for themselves the root causes of persistent complaints.

It was revealed that



Farooq, Advisor Dr. Inam ul Haq Javed Deputy Advisor Mr. Pervez Haleem Rajpoot and Senior Investigation Officer Mr. Adnan Ahmad to visit the main campus of the Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) located in Islamabad which is imparting education to 1.1 million students with 54 Regional Campuses all over Pakistan, AJ&K and Gilgit Baltistan.

The visiting team held meeting with the Vice Chancellor and other faculty members to learn about the issues being confronted by the University. The team members also had inter-

the students were facing with delayed receipt of results, denial of admission despite fulfilling required qualification, late or non delivery of semester assignments and delay in checking of the assignments, registering incorrect particulars of the students, delayed reimbursement of admission fee in case of refusal to admission and other such like complaints. The team members proposed to the Vice Chancellor AIOU for the optimal use of vast piece of land held by the University for enhancing the scope of educational activities.

Gas theft attempt foiled in Bama town: illegal pipeline removed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has successfully foiled a gas theft attempt in Bama Town by dismantling an illegal pipeline.

According to a spokesperson of SNGPL, the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) Task Force in Islamabad had conducted a successful raid in Bama Town, preventing the unlawful network from being established.

The underground illegal pipeline, stretching over 300 meters, was discovered and removed before it could connect to the distribution network, saving the

department from irreparable damage.

The action had been initiated on the gas theft in the area of federal and its adjoining areas on the directives of the General Manager of SNGPL Azhar Rashid Sheikh.

During the operation, Task Force personnel disconnected illegal gas meters and initiated legal proceedings against residential consumers engaged in commercial usage of gas connections.

The operations were carried out in various localities, including Tarlai, Dhok Paracha, Tarnol, and New Town Attock.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Mrs. Rubina Khalid, Convener Sub-Committee of the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination presiding over a meeting of the sub-committee at Parliament House.