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KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing during an event on the Spirit of Female Entrepreneurship and Medical Leadership of female doctors organized by Sehat Kahani.

President for promoting tele-medicine and tele-health services in Pakistan

Says doctors should bridge up awareness gap to overcome health challenges

KARACHI (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi has called for promoting tele-medicine and tele-healthcare platforms to improve the outreach of healthcare services to low-income areas of the country. He said that digital platforms could enhance the reach of health services to far-flung areas, besides providing timely advice to people and helping promote preventive healthcare solutions in Pakistan.

The President made these remarks while addressing a ceremony titled "Spirit of Female Entrepreneurship and Medical Leadership of Female Doctors" organised by Sehat Kahani, in Karachi. Sehat Kahani's CEO, Sara Saeed Khurram, COO & Co-founder of Sehat Kahani, Dr Iffat Zafar, and other medical professionals working in the field of tele-healthcare services attended the event. Addressing the event,

the President said that nations failed due to lack of education and health facilities, adding that Pakistan needed to focus more on disease prevention rather than curing the diseases. He also regretted that 28 million children were out of school in the country.

The President highlighted that women in our country faced different hurdles in society towards their participation in mainstream economic activities. He stressed the role of institutions in creating greater opportunities to empower and educate women. President Dr. Arif Alvi appreciated Sehat Kahani's active role in transforming society with better opportunities for female doctors.

He also acknowledged Sehat Kahani's role in providing a pathway for women to serve their country, besides lauding their focus on tele-medicine and

tele-health care services. The President said that communication was the key to bringing betterment to society. He also emphasized initiating conversations at home as a step towards the solutions of issues such as mental health and well-being and other health-related issues. He said that the government launched a helpline through an application titled 'Hamraaz' to meet the challenge of mental health and the people, who were facing mental illness or any depression condition could use it.

He said that Hamraaz was launched during the tenure of the previous government. The President also presented shields to the doctors in the field of medicine, from various specialisations, serving all across Pakistan for their exceptional work

and dedication to the field of medicine.

Sehat Kahani CEO and co-founder, Dr Sara Saeed Khurram, celebrating the remarkable achievements of Female Entrepreneurship and Medical Leadership of Female Doctors, said that Sehat Kahani was started to provide female doctors with the opportunity to serve their country. She said that Sehat Kahani – the digital healthcare organisation – not only connected patients to doctors in Pakistan using its app but also had e-clinic nationwide serving underserved communities.

The platform provides individual consultations, corporate and mental health solutions, online diagnostics, and e-pharmacy, she added.

He said that the telemedicine emerged in Pakistan in the times of

COVID, which was need of the hour. Dr. Alvi also stressed the need for quality education and health and said that the country could not develop without them.

He said that two 28,000,000 children were out of the school in the country.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Sehat Kahani Dr. Sara Saeed Khurram while addressing the event, said that Sehat Kahani could be accessed easily by anyone in need of medical consultation.

She said that the app was also providing opportunity to female doctors to join the digital health facility to advise their patients online.

Earlier, the President distributed shields among the female doctors and appreciated their services to the patients online.

Deportation process applies to all illegal foreigners: Caretaker PM

If they wanted to return to Pakistan with the required legal documents and valid visas, there would be no restriction

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday reiterated that as per government's policy and relevant laws, they were sending back all the illegal aliens and foreigners from the soil of Pakistan as the set deadline of October 31 under the repatriation process draws nearer. He said that such policy was not centric to only illegal Afghan nationals that had been staying inside the country but encompassed all those undocumented and illegal foreigners.

In an interaction with the students of Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) during a special session, the prime minister elaborated that Pakistan had hosted more than 4 million Afghan refugees on its soil for the last 40 years under the Geneva Convention, despite the fact that it was not a signatory to that.

He said more than 1 million foreigners had been categorized as illegal who had been staying in Pakistan without legal and valid documents.

They were being encouraged to return back to their native countries, he said, adding if they wanted to return to Pakistan with the required legal documents and valid visas,

there would be no restriction. Replying to a question regarding an incident involving Afghan nationals, the caretaker prime minister said that he had already given direction to the relevant authorities of the interior ministry to ensure dignity of the repatriated women and children as there might be vulnerable groups.

The prime minister said that Pakistan had entertained on its soil for decades those Afghans that had been registered as refugees and compared the treatment meted out to immigrants' boats in the Mediterranean Sea.



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting of the Caretaker Federal Cabinet.

Caretaker govt has no political agenda: Solangi

Locals helping undocumented immigrants will be dealt with iron hand: Bugti

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday said that the caretaker government was strictly adhered to its constitutional role of holding free, fair and transparent elections in the country.

"We are not a political government, and we do not have any political agenda. Political parties do not need us for establishing contacts with each other. The Election Commission is in contact with all the political parties," the minister said while addressing a press conference after a meeting of the Federal Cabinet presided over by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-

Haq Kakar. Solangi was flanked by ministers for Interior, Culture & Heritage, and National Health Services.

Sharing the major decisions taken by the Federal Cabinet, the minister said the forum approved the Repatriation Order under sections 3 and 14B of the Foreigners Act of 1946 on the recommendations of the Ministry of Interior. It was aimed at sending back illegal immigrants to their countries, he added.

Solangi said the prime minister had issued special directives for ensuring repatriation of illegal immigrants in a dignified and respectful manner.



KARACHI: Health worker administers polio vaccine drops to a child during anti-polio immunization campaign, at Federal B Area in Karachi

KMC strives for promotion of sports, healthy activities: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that KMC is working for the promotion of sports as healthy activities are necessary for any society.

He said this while speaking as the chief guest at the closing ceremony of the volleyball tournament at Garden Valley Hall.

He said that we are trying to build sports complexes in all districts of Karachi so that the youth can develop their skills and have ample opportunities to express their talent.

PPP leader Sardar Khan and a large number of people from Gilgit were also present on this occasion.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab watched the final match of the tournament and praised the players for their good performance and distributed prizes to the winning players at the end of the match.

He said that like cricket, hockey and football, volleyball is also the most popular sport in Pakistan in which national players are performing prominently at the international level. It is important to attract the youth towards healthy physical activities and this type of sports should be fully supported at all levels.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest of the event Caretaker Interior Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti cut the cake along with Ambassador of Turkiye to Pakistan Mehmet Pacaci, Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori and others during the celebrations of the 100th Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Turkiye, at local hotel in Federal Capital.

Electricity price likely to be increased by Rs 1.30

ISLAMABAD (INP): The price of electricity is likely to increase as the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) is considering a proposal to increase the price of electricity by one rupee and 30 paise. The proposal would put an additional burden of 22 billion 56 crore rupees on consumers.

The increase is being proposed to cover the cost of electricity theft and line losses, as well as to increase electricity consumption.

Anti Polio drive kicks off in Karachi, over 2.5 million children to be immunized

KARACHI (APP): A seven-day anti-polio campaign kicked off here on Monday, in which 2.584 million children will be immunized across the Karachi Division. Polio teams consisting of as many as 12,414 polio workers have been formed which will administer polio drops to children up to 5 years of age in all areas of Karachi.

The Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Saad Khalid Niazi had announced the launch of a seven-day special anti-polio campaign after the recent emergence of polio cases and positive sewage samples in Karachi.

ACS for expanding rabies control program to all union councils of Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Additional Chief Secretary Local Government Department, Manzoor Ali Sheikh here on Monday directed that scope of rabies control program should be extended to all union councils of the province.

Chairing a meeting about Rabies Control Program, he further directed that more medical centers should be established for the sterilization of dogs and shortage of veterinary and field staff should be fulfilled. He said that the anti-rabies program should be expanded from the seven districts of Karachi to all the union councils of the province and anti-rabies helpline numbers should be issued for each district separately. Awareness sessions should be organized at the level of all the towns to

highlight the effectiveness and importance of anti-rabies control program, the ACS instructed and stressed that a comprehensive strategy should be devised to review the number of stray dogs within the limit of each union council, he said.

Instead of relying on traditional methods to prevent the people from dog bites, he said modern methods should be adopted, Manzoor Sheikh emphasized and suggested that harmless color tags should be attached with the sterilized dogs to reduce unnecessary fear amongst the people. Earlier, Project Director Anti-rabies Control Program Samira Hussain gave a detailed briefing to the Additional Chief Secretary Local Government Sindh regarding the program.



NEWSHERA: Illegal immigrants families living in Pakistan arrived outside the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) repatriation center to voluntarily return to Afghanistan following Pakistan's government decision to deport all illegally staying foreigners from the country after October 31st.

IGP for strict security for anti-polio drive

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Riffat Mukhtar Raja on Monday ordered police to ensure strict security measures for the five-day long anti-polio drive.

He said all the security steps for the drive should be made stricter with coordination at police stations level, according to spokesman for Sindh Police. The provincial police chief said security should be provided to polio teams on the basis of inner and outer cordon in possible sensitive union councils.

He said special responsibilities should be assigned to police commands in all such union councils. Along with the concerned police and commands, plain clothed personnel should also be deployed in sensitive union councils. Riffat Mukhtar said during random snap checking, picketing and patrolling, strict vigilance should be maintained, suspicious activities should be monitored properly. The IGP ordered that communication and information sharing should be ensured at all levels.

District SSPs should monitor the security measures themselves and make the concerned SHOs to be present in the areas.

Foreign Office Decision to deport illegal foreigners in line with sovereign laws, int'l norms

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Foreign Office on Monday said the decision to deport the illegal foreigners residing in Pakistan was in line with the sovereign domestic laws and international principles.

Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, in response to a statement by the United Nations High Commissioner (UNHCR), said the decision was "in exercise of Pakistan's sovereign domestic laws, and compliant with applicable international norms and principles."

The UNHCR had appealed to the Pakistani authorities to suspend the deportations as a November 1 deadline looms. "We have seen the press statement by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan (IFRP) applies to all illegal foreigners residing in Pakistan, irrespective of their nationality and country of origin," she said in a statement. Baloch said all foreign nationals legally residing or registered in Pakistan were beyond the purview of this Plan.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari meets PPP Central Information Secretary, MNA Shazia Marri during meeting held at Bilawal House in Karachi.

Germany's stance on Middle East conflict coincides with NATO's stance, says envoy

KARACHI (APP): The German Ambassador to Pakistan Alfred Granas on Monday said Germany has been maintaining diplomatic and investment relations with Pakistan for 70 years and considers this region a very important region.

He said this while addressing a meeting with the Karachi Council of Foreign Relations (KCFR).

He said that Germany has given 150 million dollars in aid to Pakistan and that Germany's balance of trade with Pakistan is favourable to both countries. Germany has been collaborating in the electronics, medical, and environmental fields. Germany is now closing down nuclear and shifting

to renewable energy.

Replying to a question he said supplying weapons to Ukraine is not against the German constitution. Germany is in NATO and that's its stance on Israel coincides with NATO's stance. He said that there is no consensus on European Defense as proposed by the French president because Germany will have to forego its welfare support program and spend more money on defence expenditure.

The Ambassador warded off the question that European leaders don't think for themselves and do what America tells them to do. The Ambassador also said that Pakistan has a lot of potential for future

growth. Germany's point of view on Israel's statement that the United Nations is ending, the Ambassador replied that the end of the United Nations can only occur when all of its members decide to leave it, which is something he did not see.

In reply to a question regarding CPEC, the Ambassador said that nobody could blame Pakistan for accepting the investment; however, the benefits and costs of the strings attached to it are for Pakistan to decide.

In reply to another question as to how did Manage the energy crisis when gas was cut off from Russia the Nord 1 pipeline was blown up or dammed.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

In waiting

With the Election Commission seemingly committed to holding elections by the last week of January, it is puzzling that the political parties still appear to be showing little interest or initiative in preparing for the exercise.

One unconfirmed report in a local daily, published this Saturday, has even claimed that the ECP has set aside Sunday, Jan 28 for the general election, and is expected to inform the Supreme Court accordingly. While the published claim was not substantiated by the ECP — which has publicly taken the position that an official date can only be announced once final delimitations have been notified — it nonetheless appears to be a reasonable target for political parties to plan around.

This gives the parties less than three months to finalise and announce their manifestos, launch their campaigns, interview candidates and issue tickets, and also to start mobilising their cadres to prepare voters for the big day.

Three months is not a lot of time, yet our politicians seem unable to shake out of their languor.

What do they know or suspect that is preventing them from going into election mode? Where are their workers' conventions, corner meetings and rallies? Where are the conspiracy theories and the wheeling and dealing that provide an endless stream of political commentary before every election?

The entire system seems to be suffering from some form of self-inflicted paralysis, waiting for something to give. One could conjecture from the inaction that, despite the ECP's assurances, the parties don't truly believe elections are around the corner.

This uncertainty may be what is preventing them from opening their war chests and launching their campaigns in earnest. Campaigns do end up burning a lot of cash and no party would want to start spending before it knows for certain its 'investments' will not go to waste.

However, what our political leaders seem to be overlooking is the possibility that if they start moving according to the timeline the ECP has provided, the pressure to hold the much-delayed elections within the provided time frame will automatically start to build.

It will become much more difficult for the authorities to back out — if that is the fear — when political parties have already sunk their resources into the process. In such a scenario, the latter would resist and take action if their legitimate interests in the upcoming elections were threatened by any further delay.

Therefore, it is not as if the only choice available to the parties is to wait. A grave injustice has already been done by the repeated violation of constitutional deadlines for elections.

Continuing to repeat the 'it is entirely up to the ECP to set a date' fallacy will only make parties culpable in denying the people their right to elect a government.

Persisting theories



Huma Yusuf

How many conspiracy theories have you heard since Nawaz Sharif's return? There's the entrapment theory, the Sharif family schism theory, the counterpoint-to-Zardari theory, the coalition government theory, the election delay theory...

Pakistan is no stranger to conspiracy theories. They have been a key feature of our public discourse. The more the political instability, the greater their proliferation. That fact that we are accustomed to these should not, however, distract from the fact that they offer warnings about the state of our democracy and civil society.

Conspiracy theories are a combination of inaccurate information, wilful disinformation and rumour. They persist because they help to rationalise — however irrationally — a person's experience of state and society. The basis of most theories is that behind the structures of governance there exists a 'deep state', a small group of influential people who control government policy. In Pakistan, in the context of our 'hybrid democracy', this is not a far-fetched claim. Our local conspiracy theories therefore pertain not to the existence of a deep state, but to its motivations and goals.

Additional factors, too, fuel conspiracy fires, the lack of a free media foremost among them. The censorship and distortion of the media, and the public's awareness that media sources may not be wholly credible, elevate the validity of such

theories. The frequent use of back channels for political negotiations, the circumvention of rule of law by state institutions, and the preponderance of political puppets create more space for conspiracy theories. Precedent beyond the political arena also gives them a fillip: an obvious example was the revelation that US intelligence had located Osama bin Laden in Pakistan under the guise of a vaccination programme. This, after years of clerics' theorising that vaccines were foreign ploys to sterilise Muslims.

It also does not help that these theories often serve the interests of our beleaguered politicians. When they are thwarted in furthering their own agendas, or when they have little control over their actions or the policies they implement, politicians themselves exploit conspiratorial rhetoric to exert some influence over national narratives. Imran Khan offers the best example. Members of the public who peddle conspiracy theories also benefit in our politically distorted context, as they give the marginalised a sense of empowerment.

If you are at the mercy of the system, but in your own community are able to exert authority and build legitimacy by explaining the vagaries of that system, you have found a voice — in that moment you are empowered. And so it is that conspiracy theories perpetuate, as we have seen lately.

Most Pakistani political stakeholders are complacent about the constant swirl of conspiracy theories, but should be wary. The political consequences are well known: erosion of democratic systems and an apathy to democracy among a public that believes that the real power brokers are inaccessible and self-serving. Conspiracies are also ultimately reductive, and promote an 'us vs

them' view of the political system and society. Research documents how conspiracy theories can lead to violence because the sense of disempowerment and apathy they engender can only be overcome by revolutionary or violent means (again, remember where the PTI ended up).

A strong civil society offers an antidote to conspiracy theories. As interlocutors between the public and its political representatives, CSOs are well positioned to call out conspiracy from truth. Indeed, their ability to do so directly impacts the success of their activities, which are primarily aimed at improving government policy, service delivery and accountability.

Ironically, some CSOs themselves have been undermined through conspiracy theories: speculations that they are anti-national and beholden to external actors because they receive foreign funding. But they also face criticism on other counts, for example, that they are partisan political actors pretending to act in the public good.

The same efforts required to debunk criticism of CSOs can help counter conspiracy theories and, ultimately, strengthen democracy. CSOs should build their capacity for fact checking and information gathering and dissemination. They should entrench in communities at hyper-local levels so that when they counter theories they do not disempower or discredit marginalised citizens. By improving their own transparency and building cross-sectoral, pan-agenda partnerships, they can comprehensively counter skewed narratives. As political instability persists, it is important to clamp down on conspiratorial fervour, and civil society must play its part. — Courtesy Dawn

The killing air



Omar Mukhtar Khan

According to a recent World Air Quality report, Lahore recently bagged the dubious honour for the most polluted city of the world in 2022. With a population of some 15 million people, 6m foul-air-emitting vehicles, and surrounded by partially regulated industry using tyres and wood as fuel, this is not surprising. However, Peshawar's rating as the fifth most polluted city in the world does come as a surprise, especially when you consider a population of only 4m people, 1m or so vehicles, and limited industry.

The Air Quality Life Index informs us that the life expectancy of citizens of Lahore and Peshawar would increase by six to eight years if we meet the World Health Organisation's air quality guidelines. Further, research on the health impact of air pollution suggests that children, the elderly and immunocompromised people are disproportionately affected by breathing polluted air.

A recent study by the International Growth Centre of the low-income areas of Lahore suggests that awareness around air pollution influences behaviour, and that people are more inclined to use masks or remain indoors during periods of high pollution.

Another study conducted by the Sustainable Energy and Economic Development programme in Peshawar tells us that almost 60 per cent of the air pollution comes from transport-related activities, followed by dust, industry

and household wood burning.

A similar study by Urban Unit, Punjab, suggests that almost 80pc of the air pollution in Lahore emanates from transport vehicles, and the rest from industry and agriculture. Interestingly, however, the focus of the government for reducing air pollution is on agriculture and industry and not transport.

The shift of the needle on air pollution in Peshawar and Lahore shall need top-level political commitment, strong advocacy, administrative measures and financial resources. An excellent example of collaboration to tackle air pollution comes from Peshawar where a civil society initiative, ie, the Peshawar Clean Air Alliance, and the Environmental Protection Agency are collaborating with the Bank of Khyber and North Western Hospital to promote awareness and research on the issue.

In the short term, the governments need to explore following steps. One, install standard air monitors covering the cities holistically and make results publicly available for informed decision-making by the public about their daily activities. Two, ensure the availability of Euro-IV or V-compliant fuel in Peshawar and Lahore, at least during the smog season. This step is expected to have an immediate impact on air quality during the worst-affected months from November to February.

Three, diesel-emitting public transport and three-wheelers are the worst polluters; enforcing a couple of diesel-free days every week on the main city roads would help greatly in this regard. Four, the government should enforce the use of buses for school pickup and drop-off, or at least carpooling. The same measures should be

taken for secretariat, hospital and factory staff.

Five, the government should explore odd and even number vehicle days on the roads, thereby reducing the number of vehicles on the roads on any given day.

Six, the government should launch a massive awareness campaign informing the public about air quality status in the city, the impact on health and its economic costs to citizens, the government's efforts and the efforts expected of the people, the behavioural changes required, such as wearing masks, using public transport, etc.

In the long term, the government should focus on ensuring a shift to Euro-IV or V-standard cleaner fuel for the entire year; improving public transport connectivity all over Peshawar and Lahore so that people start using public transport more frequently; discouraging diesel-based public transport and allowing the retirement of these vehicles in the next five years; improving fuel and public transport standards, for which it needs to strengthen the vehicle emissions testing regime to ensure vehicles emitting hazardous pollutants are not allowed on the road; and embarking on a massive afforestation campaign, especially in Peshawar, in order to minimise dust-related air pollution.

We hear about air pollution every winter during the smog season but once the smog season is gone, the very useful noise around air pollution also subsides. It is time that people raised their voices so that all political parties make addressing air pollution an election campaign issue and governments take concrete steps to address air pollution before it is too late. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Clean energy Pakistan's top priority: Caretaker Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Change at the country level, he said. Caretaker Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali has said that clean energy is the top priority of Pakistan. He stated this while talking to the Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan Jacob Linulf who visited the Power Division here Monday, said a press release.

The minister said that the world was witnessing a much-needed transition towards clean energy in the wake of climate change. Pakistan, being more vulnerable to impacts of the global climate change, has also to adapt to and mitigate the Climate

Change at the country level, he said.

He said that the government of Pakistan had recently approved the National Electricity Plan 2023 which provided guidelines, implementation mechanisms and tools for the realization of the National Electricity Policy goals for the power sector.

The Plan 2023 targets to have a share of 40 percent from renewables (including hydropower) by 2025 and 60 percent by 2030, he told. The minister said that Denmark's support based on their expertise and experience would certainly be beneficial for Pakistan

in making the transition towards cleaner and greener energy mix and in fulfilling Pakistan's commitments towards Climate Change targets and Sustainable Development Goals.

The brief of the update on Danish Energy Transmission Initiative (DETI) project was also discussed in the meeting. The ambassador expressed his aim to take the cooperation between the two countries to the next level.

The minister discussed the possible plan to expand sustainable energy, particularly focusing on wind and

solar energy.

Power Sector plays an important role in Climate Change mitigation and accordingly the government is giving top priority to just energy transition in Pakistan.

He said that the true success of the transition was to have the real impact in the area of sustainable energy. The aim is to gradually decrease the tariff and move towards utilization of indigenous resources, he expressed.

The minister stressed on the importance of mapping out a plan in collaboration with Denmark as it has already completed its energy transition.



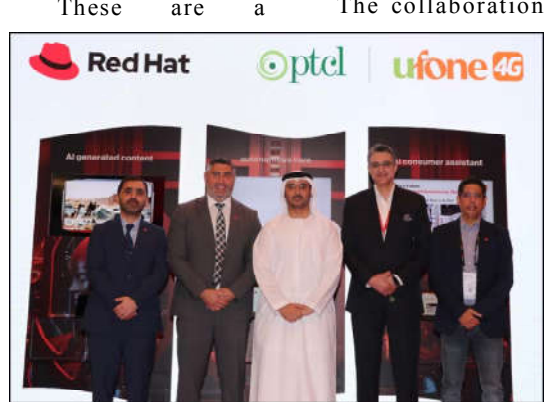
ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali in a meeting with the ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan, H.E. Jacob Linulf and his delegation.

PTCL Group adopts Red Hat hybrid cloud solutions to power digitalization

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading telecom and ICT services provider, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G) announced today that it is leveraging Red Hat OpenShift, the industry's leading hybrid cloud application platform powered by Kubernetes and Red Hat Application Foundations. These are a

Hat OpenShift, creates a platform that streamlines execution across the application lifecycle.

This helps reduce Capex and Opex expenditure, improve efficiency with faster rollouts and automated pipelines, thus allowing businesses to accelerate innovation for gaining a competitive advantage. The collaboration



comprehensive set of components for developing and modernizing software to strengthen the Group's digitalization ambitions. Red Hat Application Foundations can be used with applications that run on-premises or in the cloud when combined with Red

will not only help PTCL Group transition its legacy applications towards a more robust and scalable microservices-based architecture, but also provide advanced cloud services for its customers.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships namely, SSL Mumbai, Asia Inspire and Victoria Kosan, carrying Container, Palm oil and Chemicals, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal and Engro Vopak Terminal respectively during last 24 hours.

Meanwhile three more ships, AAI Evolution, Bellini and PVT Flora with Wheat, Gasoline and Chemicals are also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port during the same period.

A total of eight ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Amala and Rhapsody left the port on today morning, while three more ships, SSL Mumbai, Woohyun Sky and Indian Goodwill are expected to sail on today afternoon.

Cargo volume of 81,402 tonnes, comprising 78,916 tonnes imports cargo and 2,486 tonnes export cargo carried in 33 Containers (0 TEUs Imports and 33 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours. There are twelve ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them two ships, Discovery and Nordic Basel & another ship.

PPL's AGM approves 15 percent cash dividend

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) on Monday approved financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, together with the auditor's report and also approved a final cash dividend of 15 per cent on both ordinary and convertible preference shares in its 72nd annual general meeting at a local hotel.

The total dividend

paid for the year was 25 per cent.

Presiding over the meeting, Chairman PPL Board of Directors Shahab Rizvi welcomed shareholders to the meeting. He appreciated management and staff's efforts in achieving extraordinary financial results as well as operational milestones during 2022-23 despite a challenging business

Food Minister for creating awareness about water conservation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for National Food Security and Research Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik on Monday emphasized the pressing importance of disseminating awareness regarding water conservation among the masses in order to achieve sustainable growth in the agricultural sector and bolster overall economic development. Addressing the inaugural session of "PRE-COP28 Accelerating The Water-Food-Clim Nexus Transformation Pathways for Pakistan", he

said that every member of society has to play its due role in conserving precious water and its resources to maintain food safety and security in the country.

British High Commissioner Jane Marriott OBE, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Henny Fokel De Vries, Ambassador of Poland Maciej Pisarski, Deputy High Commissioner Australia High Commission Danielle Cashen, Mission Director USAID Kate Somvongsiri and Director General International Water

SBP maintains policy rate at 22% owing to global uncertainties

KARACHI (APP): Despite expectations of downward inflationary outlook in the coming months, the State Bank of Pakistan, Monday, cautiously decided to maintain the policy rate at 22 percent owing to recent volatility in global oil prices as well as the increase in gas tariffs. The Monetary Policy Committee of SBP, which met here to decide about the policy rate, noted that encouraging Kharif crop estimates, narrowing the current

account deficit, stabilising foreign exchange reserves, improved fiscal and primary balance and downward inflation expectations were some positive developments, said a statement issued here. The MPC expects inflation to decline significantly in October 2023 and onward, owing to downward adjustments in fuel prices, easing prices of some major food commodities, and a favorable base effect. "However, global oil prices remain quite volatile and the

conflict in the Middle East makes its outlook even more uncertain," the MPC observed and emphasized on continuing with the tight monetary policy stance in the light of these developments.

The MPC also noted that targeted fiscal consolidation in the first quarter, improvement in market availability of key commodities and the alignment of interbank and open market exchange rates may offset the impacts of oil and gas price hike.

Gold rates dip by Rs.1,200

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.1,200 and was sold at Rs.212,100 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs.213,300 the previous day of trading.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.1,028 to Rs.181,842 from Rs.182,870 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.166,688 from Rs.167,631, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.2,550 and Rs.2,186.21 respectively.

Tractor assembling witnessed 6.71pc growth in two-months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Local tractor assembling, during the first two months of the current financial year, grew by 6.71 percent as compared to the corresponding period of last year. During the period under review, the local assembling of jeeps and cars decreased by 53.91 percent as about 14,328 jeeps and cars assembled as against the assembling of

31,085 jeeps and cars. As against the corresponding period of last year, domestic jeeps and cars assembling reduced by 39.01 percent in August 2023 as compared to the same month of last year. During the period from July to August 2023, about 6,217 tractors were locally assembled as against the assembling of 5,826 tractors of the same period of last year.

Punjab approves 4-month budget; election to be on time: Amir Mir

Caretaker Punjab cabinet approves Rs 2076.2b budget for another four months

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Information Minister Amir Mir said on Monday that in its 31st meeting, caretaker provincial cabinet approved budget of Rs 2076.2 billion for the next four months i.e. November 2023 to February 2024.

Addressing a press conference after the cabinet meeting here, he added that Rs 351 billion have been earmarked for development expenditure, while Health sector would get Rs 208 billion, Education sector Rs 222.2 billion, Services sector Rs 218.5 billion, while Rs 83 billion allocated for wheat loan and Rs 80 billion for debt repayment to federal institutions. The budget also includes Rs 400 million for the evacuation of foreigners residing illegally in Punjab after October 31.

police cops and more than 145,000 Rangers and Army men would perform their duties. Accusations by political parties are common before elections, he responded to a question.

He mentioned that previously, the caretaker government had presented the budget for the last four months in June, which was approved for expenditure until October 31.

In the preceding four-month budget, Rs 325 billion were allocated for development, of which Rs 131 billion have been utilized. In the upcoming four months, Rs 10 billion would be spent on agricultural projects, Rs 2 billion on information technology projects, Rs 10.2 billion on construction and repair of roads and buildings, and Rs 50 billion for social protection initiatives. This budget covers the period from November 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024, he maintained.

Chief Minister along with cabinet members took place to review election preparations.

The Chief Election Commissioner expressed satisfaction with the performance of the caretaker government of Punjab, citing that Mohsin Naqvi's government as an exemplary model for caretaker chief ministers in other provinces. He reiterated that elections would be held on schedule, and both the Punjab government and the Election Commission would collaborate to ensure transparent elections.

The upcoming elections in Punjab would encompass 141 constituencies of the National Assembly and 297 constituencies of the Punjab Assembly, with 50,000 polling stations established in Punjab. Additional security measures would be implemented at sensitive polling stations.

Amir Mir said that elections would be held on time. Out of 50,000 polling stations in Punjab, 7,000 have been declared sensitive. During the election, more than 260,000

He told media men that a meeting between the Chief Election Commissioner and the

The Punjab government would provide staff to address any shortage reported by the Election Commission.



LAHORE: Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi signing documents of provincial budget with a total outlay of Rs 2076.2 billion for another four months.

Court sends Parvez Elahi to jail on judicial remand in illegal appointments case

LAHORE (APP): A local court on Monday sent former chief minister Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi to jail on 14-day judicial remand in a case of illegal appointments in the Punjab Assembly.

Earlier, the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) Punjab officials produced Parvez Elahi before duty Judicial Magistrate Amir Raza on expiry of his physical remand term.

The ACE requested the court to extend Parvez Elahi's physical remand for another 10 days. The ACE's prosecutor argued

that the candidates were appointed in violation of the merit in the Punjab Assembly, during Parvez Elahi's tenure. He submitted that the case was registered after inquiry.

He submitted that physical remand was required for recovery of Parvez Elahi's mobile phone, and its forensic audit. He also submitted that all preparations were in place to take Parvez Elahi to his house in Gujrat in connection with investigations but his health deteriorated and he was taken to the doctor.

Dera police repulse terrorist attack on police station

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The district police have repulsed a terrorist attack on a police station late Saturday night.

According to police, about 40 unknown militants stormed Hathala police station with modern weapons late at night.

The police promptly and effectively retaliated and an exchange of fire continued for around 40 minutes.

As a result, the attack was successfully repulsed by the valiant police personnel however the terrorists managed to escape while taking full advantage of the darkness. No casualty occurred due to the attack.

Kashmiris to commemorate Jammu Martyrs Day on Nov 6 with due respect and honor

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Adequate arrangements are being made to observe Jammu Martyrs Day on both sides of the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir and rest of the world on 6th of November with due solemnity and reverence to commemorate the supreme sacrifices of lives given by the Muslim inhabitants of Jammu on this day of November 6th in 1947 while migrating to then newly-born homeland Pakistan.

At least seven lakh of Muslim residents of Jammu city and surroundings were mercilessly killed during a

week-long ruthless genocide maneuvered and executed by the despotic ramed dogra ruler's force and gangsters besides the armed Hindu fanatics in the first and second week of November 1947.

These martyrs included 2.50 Muslim inmates of Jammu city and adjoining areas who were martyred by the dogra forces and their armed gangsters 6th of November 1947 while they were moving for migrating to the adjoining Sialkot city of the newly-born separate homeland of the Muslims of the subcontinent - Pakistan.



LAHORE: Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman distributing National Christian Award amongst the participants on their best performance in various fields.

CJ, PHC stresses for impartiality of judges

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Chief Justice, Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Ibrahim Khan here on Monday stressed for the impartiality of Judges to ensure justice to the people.

He said at the reception hosted by the District Bar Association in his honor, Justice Ibrahim emphasized the fundamental importance of the rule of law and the separation of powers in their system.

The ceremony was attended by judges from

the High Court and lower courts, members of the Pakistan Bar Council and the KPK Bar Council, as well as senior and junior lawyers, police officers, and administrative officials.

The CJ pointed out the vital role judges for stegthenging judiciary system of the country.

He stated that judges could not conceal anything from lawyers and that they were ready for accountability while operating within the realm of the law.

Man died of electrocution in Pindigheb

ATTOCK (Online): A man has died of electrocution in village Kunnt in the limits of Pindigheb Police station on Monday, Police and hospital sources said.

According to the sources, 25 years old Muhammad Khalid was working on the roof of his under construction house when he accidentally touched the electricity line passes through roof resultantly he received electric shock.

LHC seeks more arguments on petitions about sugar pricing

LAHORE (APP): A Lahore High Court (LHC) division bench on Monday adjourned the hearing of petitions, challenging the Punjab government's notification authorising the cane commissioner to fix sugar prices, till November 7.

The court sought more arguments from parties on the next hearing. The bench, headed by Justice Ali Baqar Najafi, heard the petitions filed by

sugar mills against the notification. During the proceedings, the counsel for sugar mills argued that the cane commissioner could control sugar prices only whereas price controlling and price fixing were two different things. The market forces determine the prices of sugar and the cane commissioner did not have any power in this regard, he added.

International News

Xi stresses Chinese women to start 'new family trend'

Monitoring Desk
HONG KONG: Chinese President Xi Jinping said women have a critical role and must establish a "new trend of the family", as the nation grapples with an aging population and record decline in the birth rate.

Xi in comments, published by the state news agency Xinhua on Monday, said the role of women had been part of a discussion with the new leadership team of the All-China Women's Federation, which operates under the Communist Party.

Doing a good job in women's work is not only related to women's devel-

opment, he said but also related to "family harmony, social harmony, national development and national progress".

It is necessary to "actively cultivate a new culture of marriage and childbearing and strengthen guidance on young people's view on marriage, childbirth and family," he said.

Factors including high childcare costs, career hindrance, gender discrimination and not wanting to get married have deterred many young Chinese women from having children.

The number of births is closely tied to

marriage rates because official policies make it hard for single women to have children.

China's National Bureau of Statistics in January reported the first population drop in six decades and the country's population is rapidly ageing.

In the last two years, authorities across China have unveiled measures to lift the country's birth rate including financial incentives and boosting childcare facilities.

The state media has often linked population development to the strength and "rejuvenation" of the country.



China's Central Military Commission Vice Chairman Zhang Youxia and Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu arrive for the Beijing Xiangshan Forum in Beijing, China.

Looking for loved ones amidst Gaza debris

Monitoring Desk
GAZA: Bombarded Gazans searched for loved ones and heard news of family members killed as communications gradually returned to the enclave on Sunday after a near total blackout as Israel's troops and armour pushed into the besieged enclave.

The fighting intensified on Friday night as Israeli forces waged ground operations in Gaza in what Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described as the second phase of the war aimed at "crushing Hamas".

Shaban Ahmed, a public servant who works as an

engineer and has five children, described the Israeli attacks as "doomsday".

"This morning, Sunday, I discovered that my cousin has been killed in an air strike on their house on Friday," Ahmed, who stayed in Gaza City despite an Israeli warning to evacuate south, told Reuters.

"We only knew today, Israel cut us off from the world in order to wipe us out, but we are hearing the sounds of explosions and we are proud the resistance fighters have stopped them at meters distance," Israel's chief military spokesperson has declined to say

whether Israel was behind the telecommunications blackout but said it would do what it needed to protect its forces.

Israeli air strikes have been pounding Gaza City since Oct 7, and according to Ahmed, the strikes on Friday from air, sea and the ground continued non-stop for hours.

The health ministry in Gaza said on Sunday a total of 8,005 people there had been killed since Oct. 7.

Palestinians were struggling to find loved ones in the bloody chaos as the growing humanitarian crisis squeezed Gaza.

UK to hold emergency response meeting on threat of terrorism

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Britain will convene a meeting of the government's COBRA emergency response committee on Monday to discuss the domestic security risk from the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents have surged in Britain since a deadly rampage by Hamas gunmen in Israel on Oct. 7 sparked retaliatory attacks on Gaza. Massive pro-Palestinian demonstrations have been held in London and other major UK cities, while Jewish groups have held vigils for hostages who were taken by the militants.

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"We have to make sure that British systems are safe and secure from the threat of terrorism as the government always does," higher education minister Robert Halfon told Times Radio.

Britain's MI5 intelligence agency currently regard the threat to the country from terrorism as substantial, meaning an attack is likely.

There are two higher categories of threat level - severe, meaning an attack is highly likely, and critical, meaning an attack is highly likely in the near future.



Rescue workers and police officials stand next to damaged coaches following a collision between two passenger trains in Vizianagaram district in the southern Andhra Pradesh state, India.

Mexican president blasts critics after deadly hurricane

Monitoring Desk
MEXICO: The death toll from a devastating hurricane this week in the Mexican beach resort of Acapulco has risen to 39, the government said on Saturday, as President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador accused his opponents of exaggerating the scale of the disaster.

Hurricane Otis pounded Acapulco with winds of 165 miles per hour (266 kmph) on Wednesday, flooding the city, tearing roofs from

homes, stores and hotels, submerging vehicles, and severing communications as well as road and air connections. The government, which previously reported 27 deaths with four others missing, has so far released little information about the dead and injured. Looting has continued and residents in hard-hit neighborhoods, struggling to find food and water, have accused the government of not delivering sufficient aid.

Two killed, 18 hurt in Florida gunfight

Monitoring Desk
FLORIDA: Gunfire erupted in the midst of Halloween festivities early on Sunday around a clutch of bars and clubs in the Florida city of Tampa, leaving at least two people dead and 18 others injured, police said.

Videos posted on social media site X showed a chaotic scene of crowds of people running through the streets with the sound of at least a dozen shots ringing out. The videos showed police scrambling to give aid to costumed victims bleeding on the sidewalks.

The images came as a grim reminder of the last year's tragedy in Seoul when a stampede during Halloween festivities left nearly 160 people dead.

However, police said a fight between two groups broke out around 3am in the historic neighborhood of Ybor City, where hundreds of people filled the streets.

As soon as the shooting began, people ran for their lives and the clubs and bars were closed.

Deaths in India train collision rise to 13

Monitoring Desk
ANDHRA PRADESH: At least 13 people were killed and around 50 injured when two trains collided in south-east India, officials said on Monday, updating an earlier toll of eight.

The accident occurred late on Sunday after one of the passenger trains overshoot a signal between the towns of Alamanda and Kantakapalle in Andhra Pradesh state.

A preliminary investigation found that "human error" had led to the collision, the railway ministry said in a statement.

"Thirteen passengers

have been killed and 50 others are injured. Rescue operations are going on," top local government official Nagalakshmi S. told reporters.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he had spoken with the country's railway minister about the "unfortunate" derailment. "Authorities are providing all possible assistance to those affected," Modi wrote on social media.

India has one of the world's largest rail networks and has seen several disasters over the years, the worst in 1981 when a train derailed while crossing a bridge in Bihar state.

China fetes American veterans of World War II known as 'Flying Tigers'

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China on Monday feted two American veterans of World War II as Washington and Beijing look to past collaboration for inspiration on improving today's strained ties.

Mel McMullen, who is in his late 90s, and Harry Moyer, who turned 103 on Monday, are among the few surviving members of a U.S. Army Air Force command that helped China battle Japan and became popularly known as the Flying Tigers.

Hundreds of Serbian police deploy in border zone with Hungary after deadly shooting among migrants

Monitoring Desk
BELGRADE: Hundreds of Serbian officers were dispatched Saturday into a border area with Hungary, where they detained several people after a shooting between migrants killed three people and injured one, police said.

Reports of violence and gun battles have become common near the border between Serbia and European Union member nation Hungary. Thousands of migrants have been camping in the area, looking for ways to cross with the help of people smugglers.

Interior Minister Bratislav Gasic, who visited the area, pledged that "we will not move from here until every person responsible for any criminal act or incident is removed."

Police actions are aimed at "curbing irregular migration and raising the level of security in this part of the country, where clashes among migrants are

frequent, not rarely with the use of firearms," the force said in a statement. Police said they detained two people Saturday from Kosovo who are suspected of smuggling migrants and supplying them with weapons. Officers also found 54 Turkish passports, the statement added.

Late on Friday, police reported detaining four Afghan and two Turkish nationals suspected of unlawful possession of guns and explosives. It was not immediately clear whether any of the detained people will be charged with the shooting that took place earlier on Friday.

The suspected clash between groups of migrants happened in abandoned farming warehouses near the village of Horgos. Police said the injured migrant received medical aid and an investigation was ongoing to establish what happened. The nationalities of the victims and the injured migrant, as well as other details, were still unclear, they said.

Senate voices concern for Gaza, calls for immediate ceasefire, humanitarian aid

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Monday expressed concerns over Israeli atrocities against innocent people of Palestine and urged for immediate ceasefire and providing essential humanitarian aid to alleviate their suffering. The House reiterated the necessity for international bodies to uphold justice and support the establishment of a free Palestine.

The special session was requisitioned to debate the current situation in Palestine and the House started debate on a motion under rule 218 which was jointly moved by Senators of all political parties in the House.

The motion condemned the Israeli atrocities and aggressive actions against the innocent Palestinians and willing violation of Geneva Convention and UN Resolution on Palestine, and especially barbaric Israeli airstrikes on Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza hence

hundreds of innocent people, patients and hospital staff were died.

It also reiterated the government of Pakistan to describe efforts made by Pakistan in this scenario. Taking part in debate, Leader of the House Senator Ishaq Dar brought attention to the urgent Gaza issue, underscoring his proactive efforts to address the matter. He revealed that he had dispatched a letter on October 19, advocating for a Senate session dedicated to the Gaza crisis.

The Senator emphasized the pressing need for immediate action, urging all stakeholders, including the United Nations and other international agencies, to actively engage in resolving the conflict and supporting the people of Palestine.

Highlighting the escalating humanitarian crisis, he stressed the importance of granting the people of Palestine the fundamental right to live in peace within

an independent state. Expressing solidarity with the Palestinian cause, Senator Dar condemned the relentless Israeli bombing, which had led to the tragic loss of over 8,000 lives, predominantly comprising innocent children and women.

He lamented the recent bombing on a hospital, resulting in the devastating loss of more than 500 individuals, including patients and medical staff, calling it a stark violation of humanitarian norms. In response, Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Shahzad Waseem, emphasized Pakistan's deep historical and religious affiliation with Palestine, condemning the atrocities committed against the innocent Palestinian populace.

He echoed the sentiments of the global community, emphasizing the need for unrestricted protests, both within Pakistan and abroad, to highlight the gravity of the situation.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi giving award to Senior Journalist Mr. Hanif Khalid along with Governor Sindh Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori and President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry Ahasan Zafar Bakhtawari during the 40th Life Time Achievement Award Ceremony for Senior Journalist Mr. Hanif Khalid (Resident Editor Daily Jang) and other Business Role Models organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Court gives one week time to federation to file reply on the matter of audio leaks

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has given one month time to federal government to file reply on the matter of audio leaks.

Justice Babar Sattar remarked how is electronic surveillance being conducted. Who is doing it. Pakistan Communication Authority (PCA) is saying it has not given permission to any one. The audio of judge of Supreme Court (SC) and family of former chief justice leaked. Doing it without taking state into confidence is horrific decision. Who is competent authority with reference to audio tape.

It has been said in

Prime Minister (PM) office report it does not see daily matters of secret agencies.

Justice Babar Sattar of IHC heard the petitions against summoning of Najam ul Saqib son of former Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) by parliamentary committee in audio leaks case and summoning of Bushra Bibi in FIA on the matter of audio leak of Bushra Bibi with Zulfi Bukhari by clubbing the both.

Amicus curie Raza Rabbani filed written reply saying court should not see this matter. The matter should have been returned to committee. With the dissolution of assemblies, all

the orders of committees become ineffective.

Attorney General (AG) Mansoor Awan said no investigations have been made so far in respect of audios which are mentioned. It is not known government agencies have noted them or otherwise. Let thing become clear who recorded audios.

The secret agencies which have such capability can tell about them in in-camera proceedings. Parliamentary committee should not have started proceedings against petitioners. The petition has become ineffective after dissolution of parliament. Please wrap up it.

Pakistan, US enjoying long-lasting educational ties: Masood

WASHINGTON (INP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan has stated that Pakistan and United States have long-standing educational ties and have been making efforts to strengthen their partnership in critical areas.

Interacting with a group of 15 mid-career Pakistani professionals in Washington, from public and private sector, who are currently visiting the United States under Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program and pursuing their studies in various disciplines in leading US universities.

He said it is a great opportunity for Pakistani students and professionals to visit the United States and benefit from globally recognized seats of learning and hone their skills for better service delivery.

On Pak-US relations, the Ambassador said that the two countries have recalibrated their relations after post-withdrawal period and have been making efforts to strengthen their partnership in critical areas.

The Ambassador urged the public sector professional to keenly observe study and learn best practices, being followed by the US public sector institutions for improved service delivery.

The Program brings mid-career professionals from developing countries, including Pakistan, to the United States for a year of study and professional experiences.

It is part of the Fulbright exchange and fellows are selected based on their potential for national leadership and commitment to public service.



MOHENJO DARO: A tourist delegation from Russia are visiting and expressed keen interest in the historical ruins of the World Heritage Monuments of Mohenjo Daro

Caretaker education minister orders departmental action against officers, staff over absence

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Minister for Education and Women Development Rana Hussain on Monday ordered a departmental action against the officers and staff of the Director School Education Primary Karachi office.

She issued the instructions during her surprise visit to the Director School Education Primary Karachi office over the absence of the officers and the staff.

The Minister reached the director's office in the morning and found absent officers and staff.

She said that visits to the offices would continue.

Students of coastal areas of Balochistan can apply for HEC Scholarship

ISLAMABAD (APP): Students of coastal areas of Balochistan province have been called to submit applications for the "Coastal Region Higher Education Scholarship Programme for Balochistan" being executed by the Higher Education Commission (HEC).

"The outstanding students of Gwadar, Lasbela/Hub, Kech (Turbat) and Awaran, districts of Balochistan who intend to pursue undergraduate studies in HEC-recognized public or private sector universities or degree awarding institutions (DAIs) of Pakistan can apply for the scholarship programme in all areas of disciplines", an official of HEC informed.

As per the eligibility criteria, the applicant must possess the domicile/local certificate of Gwadar, lasbela/Hub, Kech (Turbat) or Awaran District of Balochistan.

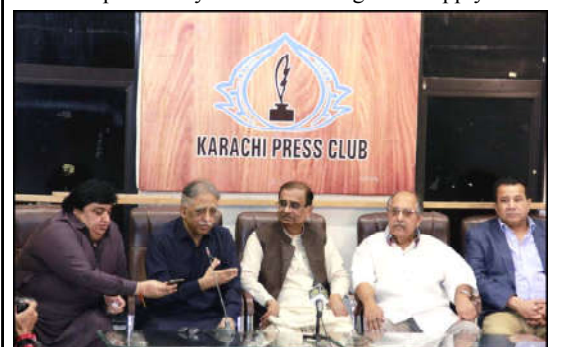
The applicants must have completed 12 years of education with at least 50 percent marks in both Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) or equivalent.

The applicant must have completed SSC and HSSC or equivalent from a college/institute located in any of the defined districts of Balochistan.

Students already enrolled in any BS programme maximum of one academic year/session prior to the announcement of the scholarship are also eligible to apply.

The age of the applicant should not exceed 22 years as on the closing date and those who are already availing of any other HEC/Government scholarship are not eligible to apply for this scholarship.

The applicant will have to meet HEC's and the relevant university's criteria for admission while relevant waiting students are not eligible to apply.



KARACHI: Muslim League (PML-N) leader and Former Sindh Governor Zubair Mehmood along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Karachi press club on Monday.

District Accounts Officials holds open court in Nawabshah

HYDERABAD (APP): On the directives Sindh Chief Minister an open katchery was arranged for matters pertaining to the District Accounts Office (Treasury Office), to listen to the problems and issues of government employees and pensioners.

Additional Secretary Finance Ghulam Ali Soomro, Deputy Inspector General Treasury Habibur Rehman Arain, Deputy Commissioner Zahid Hussain Rind and Assistant Accountant General Sindh Adeel Ahmed listened to the issues of government employees and pensioners and issued instructions to concerned officials to resolve the same.

The retired govt employees from the departments of education, health, revenue, public health, police and other departments submitted their applications regarding LPR, gratuity, Commutation, family pension, and GP Fund, which had not been paid for years. While addressing, Additional Secretary Finance said that such open katcheries are being arranged on the directives of caretakers in all districts of Sindh Province to listen to the grievances of government employees and pensioners, to resolve the same and take action against the negligence of the concerned officials.



KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi meeting with the members of National Ideas Bank (NIB) at Governor House

CEC, CM Punjab jointly chair meeting about election

LAHORE (APP): Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja convened a meeting on Monday with Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi and cabinet members to deliberate on ensuring free, fair and impartial elections.

The meeting, jointly chaired by CM Punjab Mohsin Naqvi and CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja at the CM Office, was also attended by ministers. A comprehensive review was conducted, assessing the arrangements made by the

Election Commission and gauging the readiness of the Punjab government for the upcoming general elections. Participants were briefed on the security measures in place.

The caretaker Punjab government and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) affirmed their commitment to ensure peaceful, impartial, and fair elections. It was decided that the Punjab government would designate a focal person for coordination with the ECP.

Mayor Karachi condoles death of son of Maulana Tariq Jameel

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab expressed condolence on the death of the son of prominent religious scholar Maulana Tariq Jameel.

In a condolence message on Monday, he said that he is deeply saddened by the death of the younger son of Maulana Tariq Jameel, may Allah rest his soul in peace and give patience to the family members of the deceased to bear this love loss.

PTI chairman moves court for weekly telephonic conversation with sons

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a recent development, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman filed a petition in the official secret act court requesting to allow weekly conversation with his sons.

On behalf of the PTI chairman, the petition was filed by the advocate Shiraz Ahmed Ranjha before the official secret act court, requesting to allow the former prime minister to talk with his sons weekly on the telephone.

In the petition, the advocate requested the

Commissioner SBA visits Jam Datar shrine

HYDERABAD (APP): Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Syed Muhammad Sajjad Haider Monday visited the shrine of saint Syed Ali Asghar Shah famed as Jam Datar and laid a chadar at the mazar and offered Dua.

The commissioner was accompanied by Additional Commissioner-1 Subhash Chandar, Deputy Director Information Ghulam Abbas Goraho, Sajjada Nasheen of Dargah Faqeer Naveed Hussain Vistro, Manager Auqaf Department Ahmed Khan Brohi and other officials.

Robbers arrested, looted valuables recovered

KARACHI (INP): The local police conducted a swift operation and apprehended all five accused individuals allegedly involved in the egg dealer robbery that took place at Karachi's Shah Faisal Colony, ARY News reported on Monday.

According to the details, the accused reportedly looted Rs 1,300,000 cash and mobile phones from the egg dealer shop located at Shah Faisal colony was arrested.

DC urges religious scholars, property dealers to help in repatriation of illegal Afghans

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Tariq Qureshi on Monday presided over a meeting of religious scholars at his office in the shahbaz building Hyderabad which was attended by Haji Gulshan Elahi, Maulana Saeed Ahmad Sanjrani and others.

On this occasion, DC Hyderabad appealed to the religious scholars to play their full role for the repatriation of the illegal Af-

Customs foil smuggling bid of prohibited injections, drugs worth millions

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Customs on Monday claimed to have foiled a smuggling bid of prohibited injections and drugs, and arrested three allegedly involved accused.

According to a spokesman, the Customs authorities on a tip off intercepted a bus going to Karachi from Gwadar, during its checking recovered 2200 prohibited injections and 14.85kg marijuana.

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Control room established for repatriation of illegal foreigners

KARACHI (APP): A control room has been established at the Commissioner's office for the repatriation of illegal foreigners from the Karachi Division.

In pursuance of the decision taken in a meeting held under the chairmanship of Caretaker Sindh Home Minister, a control room having telephone numbers 021-99205645 and 99022477 was established at the office of Divisional Commissioner Karachi for monitoring of repatriation process of the illegal foreigners.

The Assistant Commissioner (Revenue) Khalid Abdul Maroof was nominated as the focal person and Assistant Yousuf Khan as In-charge of the control room. All the Deputy Commissioners of the Karachi Division were also asked to establish a control room at their respective office to monitor the repatriation process of illegal foreigners.

They were also directed to prepare a communication plan for swift and efficient transportation of illegal foreigners from their residing places to holding points at the Chaman border.

Police arrested 1196 accused last week

KARACHI (APP): Karachi Police in its drive against criminals arrested more than 1196 alleged accused during the last week from different parts of the megalopolis.

According to a spokesman for Karachi Police on Monday, about 37 injured accused including 50 were arrested in 34 encounters while three accused were killed. Police recovered 47 different types of illegal arms and ammunition and 23 motorcycles from the accused after encounters. In its drive against drug peddling in the city, the police seized 59.886 kg hashish, 1.370kg heroin.

Justice Mansoor issues dissenting note in NAB amendment case

ISLAMABAD (APP): Supreme Court (SC)'s Justice Mansoor Ali Shah on Monday issued 27-pages dissenting note in judgment pertaining to the NAB amendments.

Justice Shah wrote that judiciary could review a legislation only when it contradicted with fundamental human rights.

It said that examining the legislation by keeping the interest of the legislators in front was tantamount

to undermining the parliament and democracy.

The note said that the court had to give judgments according to the constitution and law even if it goes against the public sentiment. The balance between the institutions could be maintained only if there was a mutual relationship of respect, it said, adding that the judiciary should show tolerance as long as the constitutional limits were not violated.

China, Pakistan to hold Arabian Sea joint military drills in November

ISLAMABAD (Online): China and Pakistan will hold their third joint naval exercises next month in the north of the Arabian Sea, the Chinese defence ministry said. The Sea Guardians-3 drills will focus on formation movements, inspection and capture, mutual landing of helicopters, joint search and rescue, as well as anti-submarine operations, the ministry said.

"The theme of this joint exercise is 'jointly responding to maritime security threats'," said ministry spokesman Senior Colonel

Wu Qian at a press briefing. The two countries are aiming to further deepen the "China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and traditional friendship", and improve the level of actual combat training between the two militaries, he said.

Last month, the PLA Air Force's J-16 fighter jet and Pakistan's J-10C and JF-17 fighters took to the skies over northwest China for Shaheen-X, a joint air exercise aimed at validating interoperability in the face of "realistic contemporary air combat scenarios".

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KARACHI: Karachi Council of Foreign Relations (KCFR) held a talk on Pakistan - Germany Relations at Quaid e Azam House Museum. Mr. Alfred Grannas, Ambassador of Germany, Ms. Nadira Panjwani, Chairperson KCFR, Rudiger Lotz, Ph. D. Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany with board members was also present.