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TASHKENT: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets with the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the sidelines of 16th ECO Summit.

Threatening statements of Afghan leaders regrettable Pakistan witnessed a sharp increase in terrorism after Kabul takeover: PM Kakar

Asks Afghan interim setup to handover illegal Pakistanis linked with terrorism, act against TTP hideouts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Wednesday demanded the interim government of Afghanistan to hand over the Pakistani nationals who were illegally residing in Afghanistan and were involved in terrorist activities against their own country. Addressing a press conference here at the PM House, the prime minister said the government was ready to receive and accept



any such illegal Pakistanis. PM Kakar also asked the Afghan government to take action against the hideouts of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and its

training centres in Afghanistan and ensure that "they must not be used against Pakistan". Since the interim government took to power in Afghanistan in August 2021, he said Pakistan witnessed an increase in terrorist incidents by 60 percent besides a 500 percent surge in suicide blasts. "Pakistan in last two years has lost lives of 2,867 innocent civilians, for which TTP is responsible which is operating from

President writes to PM stressing right of all parties to contest polls

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi, in a letter addressed to Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday, emphasized holding of free and fair elections, saying that all political parties and leaders have the right to contest polls. "There is a resonance in Pakistan that for free, fair and credible elections, all political parties and leaders have the right to contest and it is up to the people to decide," he wrote in the letter, according to a press release issued by the President's House. The president, in this regard, also forwarded a let-

ter he received from Omar Ayub Khan, General Secretary of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. President Alvi highlighted that democracy was the only viable way forward for the State and the people of Pakistan, the "essence of which lied in giving people the right to partake in political activities and to be able to voice their opinions through a free media". The president stated that it was of utmost importance that the caretaker government under the prime minister's leadership made efforts as a neutral entity to provide a level-playing field for all political parties. "In this context, it was reassuring to hear your recent statements whereby you stated that it was the caretaker government's policy that all registered political parties should have equal rights and opportunities to contest the forthcoming elections," he wrote. President Alvi said that as the office of the President of Pakistan represented the unity of the Republic as Head of State under Article 41 of the Constitution of Pakistan and, therefore, it was duty-bound along with the prime minister and all institutions to protect the rights of the citizens, as enshrined in the Constitution.

Pak, Uzbekistan resolve for early finalisation of Strategic Partnership Agreement

TASHKENT (APP): Pakistan and Uzbekistan on Wednesday reiterated the resolve to finalize the Strategic Partnership Agreement at the earliest to promote regional economic integration. The bilateral ties were discussed in a bilateral meeting between Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, on the sidelines of the 16th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) being held here. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to play an active role for the regional connectivity. The leaders exchanged views on deepening bilateral cooperation in a range of areas including political, trade, economic, security, defence, and connectivity. Expressing satisfaction at the growing level of bilateral cooperation, Prime Minister Kakar stressed the importance of sustaining the momentum. He underlined that the recent operationalization of Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and Transit Trade Agreement (UPITA) would boost bilateral trade and transit trade in addition to streamlining Economic Cooperation Organization Trade Agreement (ECOTA).



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi in a meeting with Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf Saeed Al Malki

Iqbal Day to be observed today

ISLAMABAD: The nation will observe Iqbal Day on Thursday (today) to honor

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia agree to expand cooperation in media, drama fields

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on Wednesday agreed to further expand cooperation between the two brotherly countries in media, drama, and other related fields. The decision was made during a meeting between Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi and Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf Saeed Al Malki here. Special Representative of the Prime Ministry for Interfaith Harmony Allama Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi was also present in the meeting. In the meeting, it was agreed to speed up the implementation of agreements between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in the field of media and communications.



Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar chairing 3rd Senate meeting of Mir Chakar Khan Rind University Sibi

Governor calls for paying full focus on imparting quality education to students

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that the secret of the progress of developed nations lies in acquiring modern education and as such we should also pay full attention to impart quality education to the students. The Governor was addressing the meeting of senate of Mir Chakar Khan Rind University here on Wednesday. Those who were present in the meeting were the Vice Chancellor of Mir Chakar Khan Rind University, Professor Janosh Baloch, Vice Chancellor of Lasbela University, Dr. Dost Muhammad Baloch, Secretary Hafeez Jamali, Principal Secretary to Governor, Hashim Khan Ghilzai, Secretary Janed Anwar Hashmi, Additional Secretary Finance, Mumtaz Langove and other concerned high ups.



QUETTA: Mr. Sami Shark presenting gift regarding Right to Information to Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai

Pakistan neither supplied arms to Ukraine nor does it intend to do so: FO

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan on Wednesday said that rejecting the notions of any discussion on arms supply between defence ministers of Pakistan and Ukraine in their telephonic conversation, said the country neither supplied arms to Ukraine, nor it intended to do so. Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, in a statement clarified that as a matter of policy Pakistan did not supply arms to a region in conflict. "This topic, therefore, was not discussed during the telephone conversation between the Ministers of Defense of Pakistan and Ukraine on 7th November 2023," she remarked. She said that as a matter of policy Pakistan did not supply arms to a region in conflict. "It has not supplied nor does it intend to supply any arms to Ukraine," she remarked. The spokesperson said that Pakistan had stressed the need for a negotiated solution to the conflict in Ukraine.

NEPRA jacks up electricity tariff

ISLAMABAD (INP): In another shock to the already overburdened power consumers, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has notified a hike of Rs0.40 per unit in electricity tariff. According to the notification issued by the power regulatory authority, NEPRA approved hike in electricity in the wake of the monthly fuel adjustment for September. It added that electricity consumers would have to make additional payments in November bills. The increase in the electricity tariff will be applicable to all the consumer categories except lifeline ones and K-Electric users. Earlier in October, NEPRA approved an increase in electricity tariff by Rs1.71 per unit.

Two terrorist killed near Afghanistan border, ISPR

RAWALPINDI (Online): Security forces conducted an intelligence based operation (IBO) in general area Ursoon near Pakistan - Afghanistan border, Chitral District. During conduct of the operation, intense fire exchange took place between troops and terrorists, resultantly two terrorists were sent to hell, while four terrorists got seriously injured. Sanitization of the surrounding areas is being carried out to neutralize any other terrorist found in the area. Locals of the area appreciated the operation by Security forces of Pakistan, who remain determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country.

Youth must comprehend philosophy of self-consciousness of Allama Iqbal: CM Domki

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stressed that youth should comprehend the philosophy of Poet of the East, Allama Muhammad Iqbal and work for the country's stability, development and prosperity utilizing their capabilities and potential. The Chief Minister stated so in a message issued here on the eve of birth anniversary of Allama Muhammad Iqbal being observed on November 9 today (Thursday). Mir Ali Mardan Domki said that Allama Iqbal has always given lesson of courage and bravery to the Muslims. He said that the element of collectivities is seen in poetry of Allama Iqbal.



ISLAMABAD: US delegates meet Mr. Justice Syed Mansoor Shah at the Federal Judicial Academy.

Effective measures taken to stop spread of Congo virus in Balochistan

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the effective measures are being taken to stop spread of Congo virus in the province, and adding he believed that the disease would be eradicated from the province. He said that treatment of all the affected patients is being done at a private hospital of Karachi on the government expenses. The Chief Minister said that health emergency is already imposed in the province in view of Congo virus situation. He mentioned that treatment of the Congo virus infected 13 doctors and paramedics of the Health department is continued in Karachi. In addition to this, two more healthcare workers have been shifted to Karachi by air ambulance.



QUETTA: Renowned cricketer Shahid Khan Afridi meeting with Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan

Imran challenges in SC his indictment proceedings in cipher case

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI chairman Imran Khan has challenged in Supreme Court (SC) the indictment proceedings in cipher case. Legal team of chairman PTI Imran Khan resorted to SC against indictment proceedings in cipher case. Chairman PTI Imran Khan filed the petition in the SC through his counsel Hamid Khan. The petitioner took the plea in the petition that Islamabad High Court (IHC) October 26 order be declared null and void. The court should declare October 23 order of special court on framing indictment against law and constitution. The petitioner is one among some honest and respectable politicians. The petitioner is being subjected to political victimization. The scope of political vengeance has been extended to political party of the petitioner and its allies.

Bilawal says PPP 'parted ways' with PML-N after compromise on 'vote ko Izzat do'

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday said that his party parted ways with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) after the former ruling party compromised on the "sanctity of the vote". "As long as PML-N's narrative [remained] vote ko izzat do (give respect to vote), we kept along but when this narrative changed, staying together became difficult," the former foreign minister said while speaking to the media in Karachi's Ibrahim Hyderi area. Bilawal once again reiterated his stance on the absence of equal opportunities as a political party, saying that the PPP never got a level-playing field in any election.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in meeting with Journalists of national newspapers, news channels and media houses, held at Bilawal House in Karachi.

Judge sitting in chamber is not supreme court: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has observed the judge sitting in chamber is not Supreme Court (SC). He further observed judges sitting in court are SC. The SC proceedings cannot be run while sitting in chamber. Only chamber appeals are heard in chamber. No constitution, laws and rules and regulations allow this to former CJP. He gave these remarks while presiding of SC bench during the hearing of human rights case against Faiz Hameed on the charges of occupation of land. The case came up for hearing before SC bench presided over by CJP Qazi Faez Isa Wednesday. The CJP while moving to the petitioner remarked there are gross allegations in your petition. The counsel for petitioner said the hearing of the case be adjourned for short period. The CJP remarked we will not give adjournment. Make preparations from just now. The petitioner said raid was conducted on my home and office under the order of Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed on May 12, 2017. Our precious goods and record of our private housing society was stolen in the raid. The illegal action against me was aimed at taking control of Top one city. I and my five associates were arrested after raid and were kept in habeas corpus.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Congo virus outbreak

Balochistan is grappling with an outbreak of the Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever, commonly known as the Congo virus. Officials say 20 people have died of CCHF this year, tragically among them a doctor as he was being rushed to Karachi for treatment. Of 200 suspected patients, 73 have tested positive for the tick-borne virus. Twelve healthcare professionals are being treated in Karachi. The condition of four doctors is said to be serious. Mercifully, no case has yet been recorded in the port city. However, the rate at which the infection has spread to healthcare workers in Balochistan is alarming, raising questions about the adequacy of infection-control measures and availability of protective gear. These concerns must be swiftly addressed to protect those who are risking their lives to save others. Moreover, it is imperative that the authorities collaborate with their counterparts in Sindh to establish swift and safe transfers of patients through air ambulances.

Given the severity of CCHF — fatalities can occur in up to 40pc cases — there is an urgent need for the development of a vaccine to prevent its spread. Until then, the only recourse available is public awareness and preventative measures. Those involved in the livestock industry must be informed about the risks associated with the virus to reduce tick-to-human and animal-to-human transmissions.

They must wear protective clothing when handling animals, use approved acaricides on clothing and examine themselves for ticks regularly. Human-to-human transmission can be controlled by avoiding close contact with infected persons, enforcing hand hygiene, and using protective equipment in healthcare settings. The government should act quickly to contain the virus, protect healthcare workers, and ensure public safety. It has enacted some measures, including a temporary ban on the use of private slaughterhouses in populated areas. Time is of the essence, and the lives of healthcare providers, as well as the broader community, hang in the balance.

Food safety



Navaira Ali Bangash

Food safety and nutrition are closely linked. Just as nutrition is crucial to good health, food safety issues are critical for overall health and well-being. In short, it's all about whether or not what we chew, eat and drink is safe for our health. This refers to using ingredients and handling, preparing and storing food in a way that minimises the risk of foodborne illnesses, as biological, chemical and physical contamination can be hazardous. According to statistics, almost one in 10 people globally falls ill after eating contaminated food, while 420,000 die every year as a result of it.

Pakistan made its first food safety law back in the 1960s. Over the years, policymakers established clear standards regarding food safety and protection in the country, with the federal and provincial regulators trying to implement them.

However, in violation of the set standards, the adulteration of packaged food by adding inferior or harmful ingredients to edible products, and the trend of cutting corners and duping consumers have persisted here. Local standards even prohibit the addition of certain food colours or additives to packaged food products. With the laws in place and the regulators apparently enforcing them, and a formal well-documented food sector operating in the country, one would have assumed that ensuring food safety would not be much of a challenge, but

the situation is, in fact, the reverse.

The grey food trade is booming in Pakistan and formal channels suffer. Not only is the smuggling of food items detrimental to an already crippled economy it also raises grave health concerns. Cooking oils, spices and dairy products such as butter and creams are commonly smuggled. The recent influx of Iranian and Afghan food products through illegal trade may appear to offer respite to the food-inflation-struck masses due to cheap rates. But it's important to note that there is absolutely no regulation of the health and safety standard of these food items — with zero tracing, tracking or testing — before they hit the market shelves.

A few years ago, the commerce ministry issued SRO 237 that clearly mentioned that packaged food products should have at least 66 per cent of their shelf life left at the time of import, and added that the ingredients should be printed in both Urdu and English on the packaging, along with the authentic halal certification logo. Sadly, food items that do not conform to the standards set in SRO 237 are being smuggled through Taftan and flourish in markets in Balochistan near the border, and are even accessed by wholesalers and high-end retailers in urban centres.

Inaccurate expiry dates on the packaging are alarming and there is no way of verifying them. Nutrient information in a foreign language is another hindrance. It may sound relatively benign but can lead to harmful health conditions such as prolonged allergies. The use of banned food chemicals may lead to illnesses including food poisoning. The effects of harmful food additives can include palpitations,

urticaria, abdominal pain, diarrhoea and vomiting. Some spices even become carriers for spores and can be responsible for serious outbreaks.

Globally, food scares are not uncommon. Pesticide residues have been previously found in imported rice batches in many countries, leading to temporary bans and stricter regulation of rice imports. The same is the case for many prohibited dyes and food colour. In 2018, Australian cantaloupes laced with *Listeria* caused an outbreak of listeriosis in the countries they were exported to, leading to their recall.

In Pakistan, the smuggled food products situation was improving after SRO 237 was issued in 2019, but in the past few months, these smuggled food items seem to be back.

Porous borders and poor enforcement of food laws have boosted the illicit trade. Stakeholders, policymakers and the government should focus their attention on curbing the illegal inflow of these products from across the border for the sake of public health. Apart from health risks, the economy faces staggering financial losses due to these practices. Pakistan loses \$2.6 billion in tax revenues due to the smuggling of food items. Smuggled food cost is estimated at \$9bn. Uniform legislation should be in place to impose stringent measures. The Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority, Pakistan Customs and the Ministry of Commerce should ensure a stronger crackdown on the grey or black market and tighten border controls to protect the health of the masses. Consumers should also try to learn about product quality and the grave consequences that they are exposed to in case of sub-standard food consumption. — Courtesy Dawn

Reheated soufflé?



Mahir Ali

I was sufficiently intrigued by the preliminary hype to stay up late one night last week for a chance to listen to the latest, and supposedly last, Beatles song as soon as it was aired. Even on the first listen, it came across as underwhelming.

Perhaps the time isn't right for that kind of frivolity. It's nigh impossible to switch one's focus away from the unfolding genocide in Gaza. A very different John Lennon song was subconsciously ringing in my ears: "We don't care what flag you're waving/ We don't even want to know your name.../ We understand your paranoia/ But we don't wanna play your game/ You think you're cool and you know what you're doing/ 666 is your name... And you still gotta swallow your pill/ As you slip and you slide down the hill/ On the blood of the people you kill/ Stop the killing (free the people now)".

That's 'Bring on the Lucie (Freda Peo-ple)' from Lennon's *Mind Games* album, released 50 years ago. And 'Imagine', from a couple of years earlier, is perhaps even more pertinent: "Imagine there's no countries/ It isn't hard to do/ Nothing to kill or die for/ And no religion too". I know it's true/ It's because of you/ And if I make it through/ It's all because of you... Now and then/ I miss you/ doesn't quite measure up. Lyrically, it's even less impressive than the Beatles' first single from 61 years ago, 'Love Me Do'. But, recorded by a bunch of Liverpudlians barely into

their 20s, at least that track boasted a freshness that cannot conceivably be replicated by a pair of octogenarians leaning on a couple of ghosts.

The surviving Beatles last went down this long and winding road in the mid-1990s, alongside the fascinating Anthology series of outtakes and unfinished songs. The archival material was embellished by two 'new' tracks, with the Threeettes, as they were dubbed at the time, adding vocals and instrumentation to two Lennon songs from the late 1970s that he hadn't bothered with for either his 'comeback' album, *Double Fantasy* — released weeks before he was assassinated — or its posthumous sequel, *Milk and Honey*. Alongside the potentially inspiring 'Free as a Bird' and the relatively mundane 'Real Love' on the tape of demonstration recordings that Yoko Ono provided were another two tracks, 'Now and Then' and 'Grow Old With Me'. The latter, riffing off Robert Browning — "Grow old along with me/ The best is yet to be" — might have been a poignant choice, given Lennon's demise at 40, but perhaps also a bit mawkish. It remained untested.

They briefly had a go at 'Now and Then', but George Harrison dismissed it as "rubbish", and that was that. It remained in the vault, but Paul McCartney remained invested in the track, possibly because at the end of their last encounter in New York, Lennon had reputedly faredwell him with the words: "Think of me now and then, old friend."

It isn't clear whether Harrison — who succumbed to cancer 22 years ago — was referring to the lyrics or the quality of the recording. The latter, it turned out, could be remedied. A couple of years ago, the film director Peter Jackson

trawled through the audiovisual footage of the Beatles recorded in 1969, and came up with the fascinating eight-hour documentary *Get Back*. The audio part often involved separating and enhancing the soundtrack with the aid of artificial intelligence.

Jackson had already provided McCartney with Lennon's vocal from 'I've Got a Feeling' to duet with on his live outtings, and just this week the director suggested there could be more where that came from. Let's hope McCartney says no.

Back in the 1970s, when all four ex-Beatles were routinely queried about the prospect of a reunion, there was plenty of ambivalence in their responses. The possibility was never quite ruled out, but on one occasion McCartney quipped, "You can't reheat a soufflé." He was right, but couldn't resist returning to the kitchen.

The unimpressive result has been greeted with plenty of gushing reviews, and Western media has been full of reports about young fans — alongside the baby boomers — lapping up the idea of a "new" Beatles song. That, frankly, hasn't been possible since 1980, and everyone should get over it. The original canon is enough for younger fans to marvel at the Beatles' incredibly innovative trajectory from 1963 to 1969, as reflected in both their original recordings and the more recent remixes and often redundant embellishments. The pair of 1994-95 tracks never quite ended up being counted as bona fide Beatles songs, and no one can seriously consider 'Now and Then' as worthy of inclusion in the Fab Four canon. The band's amazing saga was wrapped up nearly 55 years ago. Let's leave it there. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

MoCC&EC to unveil Pakistan's first policy draft for trading in carbon markets

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) is all set to roll out the first ever policy draft of the country's carbon credits trading in the international market at the highest forum of Climate Change Council headed by the Prime Minister.

This was said by Secretary Ministry of

Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Asif Hyder Shah during the meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change chaired by Senator Seemee Ezdi.

The secretary briefed the committee on Climate Change's two agenda items mainly the Carbon Market Policy guidelines and Pakistan's strategy for COP-28

meeting with special focus on operationalization of the Loss and Damage fund.

Earlier, the chairperson Senate Standing Committee expressed resentment over repeated delays on convening the body meeting due to the letters of postponement sent by the ministry.

She added that the meeting was held after

three months and was the first since the culmination of the previous regime.

She reprimanded the ministry officials for sending her the letters to postpone the meeting.

The secretary mentioned that trading in carbon markets was a tricky subject evolving every year, whereas the country had no such framework in place to deal with it.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatisation, Fawad Hasan Fawad chairs a meeting of SIFC Working Group.

Fawad chairs first meeting of SIFC Working Group

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hasan Fawad chaired the first meeting of SIFC Working Group to discuss impediments in the development of special economic zones (SEZs) with the objective of fast-tracking industrialization. The meeting was attended by all stakeholders in the provincial governments and their industrial zone authorities, an official press release said. The Additional Secretary of Board of Investment (BOI) and Director General of Special

Economic Zones highlighted the major impediments faced by existing ones and the framework requirements of future SEZs, including the development of a 'One Stop Shop' facilitation.

The forum discussed the limitations of the concept of 'One Stop Shop' and pointed out the need of a mutual agreement between the federal and provincial governments for a development framework based on international best practices and standards, with a legal mandate in the constitutional scheme.

Dy Governor SBP says: Measures being taken to develop agri sector on modern lines

FAISALABAD (APP): Deputy Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Salim Ullah has said that the agricultural sector has a key role in the economic development of the country and all possible measures are being taken to develop it on modern lines for food security and economic uplift of the farming community.

He expressed these views during a meeting with University of Agriculture Faisalabad Vice Chancellor of Prof. Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan, State Bank Executive Director

Syed Samar Husnain, Chief Manager SBP Waqas Kashif Bajwa, Additional Director Faisal Ashfaq, Additional Director Dr. Muhammad Saleem, Principal Public Relations Officer Dr. Muhammad Jalal Arif and others attended the meeting.

Deputy Governor SBP Salim Ullah said that they are enabling a regulatory environment, developing market infrastructure, promoting financial inclusion through branchless banking innovations and financial literacy.

Agriculture sector is the mainstay of Pakistan's economy, it is the most important source for employment & income generation for the majority of rural population, which generates nearly one fifth of the total GDP, he added.

He said that bringing modern agricultural trends and research to the doorsteps of farmers is the need of the hour. He said that UAF has a unique position and role in providing manpower and solving the problems of the farming community.



Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, is presenting the commemorative shield to Mr. Philip Ramos, Deputy Speaker of the New York State Assembly. Engr. M.A. Jabbar & Mr. Shaukat Omerson, VPs FPCCI and other prominent business personalities of both the countries were also present on the occasion.

APPAC delegation visits FPCCI to discuss trade, investment ties

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KARACHI: A delegation of the American-Pakistani Public Affairs Committee (APPAC), Wednesday, paid a visit to the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) to discuss trade, investment and economic relations.

President FPCCI, Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, in a statement issued here, apprised that the visiting delegation led by Deputy Speaker of the New York State Assembly Philip Ramos also discussed potential of forging an alliance between trade and business community.

Philip Ramos, at the occasion, proposed a

number of measures aimed at formalizing cooperation between APPAC, NY State Assembly and FPCCI which included the formation of two high-powered committees to explore the opportunities for enhancing investment and economic cooperation and B2B alliances and matchmaking between New York businessmen and FPCCI.

He also assured to lobby with New York State government for humanitarian and economic assistance to Pakistan, look into the advocacy options to facilitate the visa issuance

to businessmen from Pakistan. American-Pakistani Public Affairs Committee (APPAC) will facilitate trade promotion activities of FPCCI delegates in the U.S. while New York Chamber of Commerce will be encouraged to form chamber-to-chamber alliance with FPCCI, he stated.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh stated that New York was one of the most significant states of the U.S. for Pakistan's business community as it is a financial and commercial center of a country that accounts for 17 per cent of the total trade of Pakistan.

US tech entrepreneurs urged to invest in upgrading Pak tourism industry

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the U.S., Masood Khan, has urged Pakistani-American Tech entrepreneurs to invest in promoting Pakistan's tourism and digitalization of its industry.

"With digitalization of necessary information, including bookings, lodging, transportation and availability of accurate information, the tourism sector of Pakistan will witness a transformative

change," he said at a special session of the Annual Open Silicon Valley Forum 2023 in San Francisco, a city in the US state of California.

The subject of the conference was "Exploring Pakistan's Tourism Treasures: From Mountains to Metropolises." "Our joint ventures will help tapping the existing potential of tourism. Your equity participation will pay you off well," Ambassador Masood Khan said.

Chairman TEVTA visited SCCI

SIALKOT (APP): Chairman Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) Brigadier (Retd) Muhammad Sajid Khokhar visited Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI). President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Abdul Ghafoor Malik, SVP SCCI Wahab Jahangir and VP SCCI Amer Majeed Sheikh welcomed the distinguished guests. During an important meeting held here the promotion of technical and vocational education was discussed.

Pak regional exports increase 3 percent in Q1

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's exports to the seven regional countries witnessed an increase of 3 percent in the first quarter of the fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the corresponding months of last year. The country's exports to the regional countries including Afghanistan, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, and Maldives accounted for a small amount of \$981.410 million, which is 13.98 percent of Pakistan's overall exports of \$7018.956 million during

July-September (2023-24), State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

China tops the list of countries in terms of Pakistan's exports to its neighbouring, leaving behind other countries such as Bangladesh and Afghanistan. Pakistan carried out its border trade with the farther neighbour Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, and Maldives. Pakistan's exports to China witnessed an increase of 26.42 percent to \$633.374 million in three months of this year from \$501.000 million during last year while exports to Afghanistan.

CM Azam unveils e-office software system in KMU

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan on Wednesday unveiled E-office software system in Khyber Medical University (KMU). Khyber Medical University has achieved an important technological milestone by officially launching the e-office software developed internally for its own management support that was formally unveiled by Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan in a meeting held at Chief Minister House. He said that the unveiling of the e-office is an important moment in the history of KMU. Apart from VC KMU Prof Dr. Zia Ul Haq, advisor Health Prof Dr. Riaz Anwar, chief secretary KP Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary, Secretary HED

Muhammad Arshad Khan, and Special Secretary Health Habib Ullah were also present on this occasion. In the meeting, the Chief Minister publicly appreciated the tireless efforts and achievements of Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Zia ul Haq and his team. On this occasion, Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa advised that if efforts are made, this e-office system can be adopted in other universities and other organizations of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. VC KMU Prof Dr. Zia ul Haq also gave a detailed briefing to the participants about e-office and explained the features and benefits, and how to run official affairs efficiently. He said that the introduction of e-office

promises to revolutionize administrative and educational processes, and increase transparency, accessibility, and efficiency. The software can also be used as a comprehensive solution to manage various tasks and processes and this e-office system is expected to significantly enhance the university's capabilities. VC KMU appreciated the efforts of Mohammad Sohail Additional Director IT, Shahzad Khan Deputy Director IT and the entire IT team of KMU who played a vital role in the development of this innovative software. The e-office software developed internally at KMU is a testament to the university's dedication, and commitment to harnessing the potential of its own IT resources.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi giving direction regarding standing water in basement of Services Hospital during his visit.

Tackle 'environmental challenges' Public awareness, technological innovations for farmers are key strategies: Minister

LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Minister for Environment, Planning and Forests Bilal Afzal on Wednesday stressed that public awareness, comprehensive approach, technological innovations for farmers, better fuel quality and laws are needed to tackle environmental problems in the country. Talking to a PTV news channel about the current issue of smog in Punjab, he explained that

the current government is showing seriousness and taking substantial steps to tackle pollution across the province. He said that a campaign is also being run on social media to create more awareness about the environmental damage caused by burning solid waste and the effects of crop burning. He said that smog is being generated in India due to the burning of waste in rice factories and increase in air pollution, adding that

Pakistan is using its diplomatic channels and urged the Indian government to ensure that the crops Stop burning which is causing smog in the winter season. He said that both India and Pakistan should recognize the imperative nature of tackling the challenge of crop residue burning, adding that Pakistani farmers are very aware of the problem but crop burning is still alive in India.

Aamer directs authorities to preserve historical record of tribal areas

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Dr. Aamer Abdullah Wednesday said that Tribal Research Cell is an important heritage for the availability of authentic records related to the historical background of the merged districts and former tribal areas of the province while directed the relevant authorities to preserve the available historical record and other written materials in the cell. He said that the authorities should submit a reasonable development

scheme for approval so that to not only ensure the long-term preservation of records available in the research cell, rather make the availability of these historical materials and literature possible for researchers through online facilitation. He expressed these views during a visit to the historical Tribal Research Cell, established under the Home and Tribal Affairs Department in Namak Mandi here. During the visit, the minister inspected various parts of the research cell and checked the historical records and official files of the pre-independence and post-independence periods related to the affairs of tribal areas.



HANGU: Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan laying the foundation stone of the shopping center built for women police at Gandapur Police Training College Hangu.

Peshawar's NAB alerts public to impersonation scams, urges vigilance

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Peshawar has issued a warning to the public to be wary of individuals impersonating NAB officers and making fraudulent calls. A statement from a NAB spokesperson has stressed that NAB officers do not make direct contact to suspects due to a rigorous Standard Operating Procedure for communication. NAB has also escalated the issue to the

Cyber Crime Wing of FIA and other intelligence agencies to investigate the culprits. He mentioned that multiple cases have been reported to the NAB Peshawar Office, where individuals have received calls from various numbers, purporting to be senior NAB officers. These calls, which request money, are fraudulent and appear to be part of a coordinated effort to tarnish the reputation of the institution and its leadership.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister Dr. Amir Abdullah inspecting record on the occasion of visiting the Tribal Research Cell.

Grave yard land occupation case: LHC summons record from anti corruption on bail after arrest plea of Khawar Manika

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has sought record from anti corruption on November 13 in connection with bail after arrest petition of Khawar Manika in grave yard land occupation case. Justice Ali Baqar Najafi took up for hearing the bail after arrest plea from Khawar Manika, former husband of Bushra Bibi Wednesday. Counsel for Khawar

Manika took the plea. Khawar Manika is charged with occupying Auqaf department land. The land is held by Manika family since 1938 and it has never remained with Auqaf department. The court should order to grant bail to Khawar Manika. The court inquired from state counsel has Auqaf department notification of the said land.

Foolproof security devised for 8th desert jeep rally

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Foolproof security is devised for gala of 8th Jeep rally set to open tomorrow (Nov 9) at Thal desert here with great pomp and show on Wednesday. DPO Syed Husnain Haider said the arrangements were being finalized in collaboration with district administration and the tourism department. Around 600 police officer deployed to protect the event. About 24 pickets work setup at different roots including internal and external courses of the rally. Separate duty of traffic police was designated to control and maintain of the traffic flow. The DPO assured of all-out arrangements for making the event successful. The Desert Jeep Rally is globally recognised as trademark of far-flung district of Southern Punjab.

KP govt for inclusion of Potassium Chlorate in import policy order, 2022

PESHAWAR (APP): The Home and Tribal Affairs Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has requested the Ministry of Commerce to include Potassium Chlorate in the import policy order, 2022 and make it import subject to NOC from the Department of Explosives and Home Departments. In a letter to the Federal Ministry, the

provincial government informed that Potassium chlorate is not locally manufactured in Pakistan and is being imported from China, India and the USA without any Customs duty. It said that the chemical is being used in firecrackers, matchsticks and fireworks, adding that there was no regulatory mechanism to check the quality of Potassium chlorate.

LHC allows PTI to hold corner meeting in Shahdara

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has allowed PTI to hold corner meeting in Shahdara on November 19. Justice Ali Baqar Najafi took up PTI candidate from Shahdara Akmal Khans' petition for hearing Wednesday. The petitioner took the plea we want to hold corner meeting in Shahdara area of Lahore in connection with election.

International News

Putin lauds Russia's 'high-tech' military cooperation with China

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday lauded what he described as important "high-tech" Russian military cooperation with China at a meeting in Moscow with a top Chinese general who is a close ally of President Xi Jinping. China and Russia declared a "no limits" partnership in February 2022 when Putin visited Beijing just days before he sent tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine, triggering the deadliest land war in Europe since World War Two. Receiving General Zhang Youxia, vice chairman

of China's Central Military Commission, and Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, Putin sent his best wishes to Xi, saying the two leaders had developed a good friendship and working relations. "Russia and China are not building any military alliances along the lines of the Cold War," Putin told Zhang at his Novo-Ogaryovo residence outside Moscow, adding that the Russian-Chinese relationship was a stabilising force for the world. The United States casts China as its biggest competitor and Russia as its biggest nation-state threat while US President Joe

Biden argues that this century will be defined by an existential contest between democracies and autocracies. Putin, who heads the world's biggest nuclear power, said military cooperation between Moscow and Beijing was increasing and focused on high-tech areas that would ensure strategic security. "Of course, our cooperation, our contacts in the military and military-technical sphere are also becoming increasingly important, as for military-technical cooperation, here, of course, our work in high-tech spheres comes first," Putin said.



Russian President Vladimir Putin meets Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission General Zhang Youxia at the Novo-Ogaryovo state residence outside Moscow, Russia.

Blinken visits South Korea as North Korea, Russia deepen ties

SEOUL: U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in Seoul on Wednesday for talks with his South Korean counterpart, as the allies step up cooperation in the face of growing concerns over North Korea's closer military ties with Russia. The two-day visit, the first by a U.S. secretary of state in two and a half years, is part of Blinken's broader Asia trip that has included meetings with G7 counterparts and talks with Japanese officials in Tokyo, as well as a later stop in India amid the Israel-Hamas conflict. The Seoul visit comes as the United States and

South Korea, along with Japan, have condemned what they say is the supply of arms and military equipment by North Korea to Russia. Washington and Seoul see the closer military ties between the North and Russia, which is thought to be suffering depleting stocks of munitions in its war with Ukraine, as an effort by Pyongyang to secure strategic military capabilities in return. North Korea is preparing to launch a spy satellite after having failed twice this year to put one in orbit. South Korea's spy agency said last week

North Korea was in the final stages of preparations for the launch after apparently receiving technical assistance from Russia. Pyongyang and Moscow have denied claims of arms deals while their leaders pledged closer military cooperation when they met in September in Russia's far east. South Korea's military said on Monday it was on alert over possible North Korea provocations after Pyongyang designated Nov. 18 as "missile industry day" to commemorate the country's launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) last year.

More Palestinians fleeing combat zone in northern Gaza, UN says

NEW YORK: The pace of Palestinian civilians fleeing the combat zone in northern Gaza has picked up as Israel's air and ground campaign there intensifies. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said Wednesday that about 15,000 people fled on Tuesday, compared to 5,000 on Monday and 2,000 on Sunday. The densely populated northern area of Gaza, specifically Gaza City and adjacent crowded urban refugee

camp, are the focus of Israel's campaign to crush Hamas, the militant group that has ruled Gaza for 16 years. The war, now in its second month, was triggered by the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on southern Israel. The number of Palestinians killed in the war passed 10,300, including more than 4,200 children, the Hamas-run Health Ministry in Gaza said Tuesday. In the occupied West Bank, more than 160 Palestinians have been killed in the violence and Israeli raids.



Palestinians flee their homes during Israel's ground offensive, on the edges of Beach refugee camp, in Gaza City.

Children's plight proves world's 'moral failure', says Red Cross

GENEVA: A month after the unrest erupted, the Red Cross demanded on Tuesday an end to the horrific suffering of civilians, and especially children, decrying a "moral failing." "One month on, civilians in Gaza and Israel are being forced to endure tremendous suffering and loss. This needs to stop," the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said in a statement. "Massive bombardments are gutting civilian infrastructure across Gaza, sowing seeds of

hardship for generations to come," the ICRC statement said. The organisation's president Mirjana Spoljaric said she had been particularly shocked to see the suffering that children have had to endure. "Children have been ripped from their families and held hostage. In Gaza, ICRC surgeons treat toddlers whose skin is charred from widespread burns," she said in the statement. "The images of suffering, dead and wounded children will haunt us all. This is a moral failing," she added.

Worst floods in decades kill 29 in Somalia, hit towns across East Africa

MOGADISHU: The worst flooding to hit Somalia in decades has killed 29 people and forced more than 300,000 to flee their homes, the National Disaster Management Agency said on Wednesday, following heavy rains that have inundated towns across East Africa. Authorities have scrambled to rescue thousands of stranded people from the floodwater, which comes on the heels

of the region's worst drought in 40 years. "What is going on today is the worst for decades. It is worse than even the 1997 floods," said Hassan Isse, managing director of the Somali Disaster Management Agency (SOMDA). The death toll and numbers of people displaced were likely to rise further, Isse said, because many people were trapped by floodwaters.

Nigerian court grants ex-central bank head Emeifele bail after five months

ABUJA: A Nigerian court on Wednesday granted bail to former central bank governor Godwin Emeifele, who is charged with procurement fraud and has been in detention since June. Emeifele appeared in court for the first time since August after Judge Olukayode Adeniyi on Monday ordered he should be released unconditionally or be brought to court.



Honorary panel members of the Constitutional Court Jimly Asshiddiqie (C), Wahiduddin Adams (L), and Bintan Saragih (R) preside over a proceeding at the Constitutional Court in Jakarta.

Indonesian chief justice dismissed over ethics breach

JAKARTA: A judicial panel dismissed Indonesia's top judge on Tuesday after finding him guilty of an ethics violation over his role in a ruling that allowed President Joko Widodo's son to run for vice president. Chief Justice Anwar Usman, who is Widodo's brother-in-law, was found guilty of a "gross violation" of the court's ethics code for deciding with the 5-4 majority that changed the rules around candidacy for the presidency and vice

presidency. The ruling, issued just months before general elections in February, paved the way for Widodo's eldest son Gibran Rakabuming Raka to run for vice president alongside Defence Minister Prabowo Subianto. The judicial panel found that in failing to "re-cuse himself from the examination and decision-making process," Usman had violated the "judge's ethical code's principle of neutrality."

Russia's Lavrov assails West over switch to green energy

MOSCOW: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov accused the West on Wednesday of provoking crises on the global oil and gas market by rushing to switch to green energy and imposing pressure on other countries to do the same. "In fact, the reasons for the negative phenomena in the energy sector were the irresponsible actions of the collective West, when it decided to force... the green transition for itself and impose the same green transition.

