

Independent

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14 soldiers martyred as terrorists attack security forces' vehicles in Gwadar

RAWALPINDI (APP): At least 14 soldiers embraced 'shahadat' when two vehicles of security forces moving from Parni to Ormara in Gwadar District, were ambushed by the terrorists, Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Friday.

"Sanitization operation is being carried out in the area and perpetrators of this heinous act will be hunted down and brought to justice," an ISPR press release said.

"Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," it added.

CM slams attack on security forces vehicle: Terrorism incidents conspiracy to spoil peace of Balochistan: Domki

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has strongly condemned the attack on vehicle of security forces in the area between Parni and Ormara.

In an official statement issued here on Friday, the Chief Minister said that the attack on jawans deputed for protection of life and property of the masses is a cowardly act.

He expressed sorrow and condolence with the bereaved families of those martyred in the attack.

The Chief Minister said that the incidents of terrorism are conspiracy of spoiling peace in the province. Mir Ali Mardan Domki also said that we would not let destroy peace that was restored after great sacrifices.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting regarding progress of filling up of vacant seats for marginalized areas in civil bureaucracy through special examinations as well as rotation policy.

General elections' decision will be implement in the country: Anwar-ul-Haq

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar has said that he will implement the court decision regarding the holding of general elections in the country.

All political parties will get a level playing field in the elections: PM

He said that the consultation was definitely done, but the date of the elections was given by the Election Commission.

Illegal immigrant Afghans can return to their homeland and get a visa, said care taker prime minister. Talking to private TV, the caretaker prime minister said that no party has been stopped from holding rallies, they have to stay within the law.

To a question, he said illegal immigrants, Afghans can return to their homeland and bring visas.

The goal of deporting illegal residents is to regulate them. The government will not take over the business of a foreigner. The return of immigrants who today are bragging will be praised tomorrow. Caretaker Prime Minister said that it is a wrong impression that people's cases of May 9 incidents ended after holding a press conference. There are many people who are suffering cases despite condemnation. There is a big difference between detention for investigation and enforced disappearance. He said you cannot say that security agencies cannot interrogate. Do not call those who are picked up for investigation as missing persons. On another question, Anwar Haq Kakar said that the fate of Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board will decide after the World Cup.

PTI chairman files bail plea in SC in cipher case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman PTI Imran Khan has filed bail plea in Supreme Court (SC) in cipher case.

Chairman PTI has submitted bail plea under article 185 of the constitution.

The petition said cipher case was instituted on political grounds. High Court could not bring the political grounds of the case under consideration.

The petition further said the ill-intent of FIA which is subordinate to interior ministry is very clear. Cipher and foreign funding cases indicate malafide intent of FIA.

The court was requested to release the accused on bail in the case.

Asad Qaiser arrests from Bani Gala

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser has been arrested from Bani Gala.

Asad Qaiser has been arrested on charges of corruption. Anti-corruption officials have arrested him from Bani Gala.

Asad Qaiser Guju Khan Medical College Swabi is nominated for corruption in procurement of medical equipment.

Newly-appointed NHA Chairman assumes charge

ISLAMABAD (APP): Newly-appointed National Highway Authority (NHA) Chairman Arshad Majeed Mohmand on Friday assumed charge of his office.

Earlier on his arrival at the NHA headquarters, he was warmly received by the staff and officers. Arshad Majeed Mohmand, a Grade-21 officer of the Pakistan Administrative Service, has served as Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum, besides on key positions in KP and Baluchistan.

Bugti lays SBP annual report in Senate

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti on Friday laid before the Senate the annual report of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on the country's economy for the year 2022-23. The Interior Minister also tabled in the House the Annual Report for the year 2022 of the Election Commission of Pakistan and the Federal Public Service Commission's Annual Report for the year 2021.

PTI lawyers welcome election date decision

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawyers welcomed the election date announcement.

Addressing a press conference, Shoaib Shaheen and Barrister Gohar heaped praise on the Supreme Court.

They lashed out at the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for what they called defying its duty.

ECP notifies Feb 8 as date for polls SC orders govt to ensure elections on February 8

Chief justice says court doesn't want to leave any "grey area"

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has remarked general election will take place on February 08 by the grace of Almighty Allah.

He gave these remarks while presiding over 3-member bench of Supreme Court (SC) during the hearing of multiple pleas seeking timely elections within 90 days of the dissolution of the assemblies.

The document signed by president Arif Alvi on holding polls within 90 days in the country was presented in the SC.

A reply duly signed by officer of grade-22 from President house was filed in the court. President assented to February 8, 2024 for holding general election. Election Commission (EC) presented the notification on holding election on February 08 in the SC.

The court disposed of all the petitions with the order of the court.

The court issued written order for wrapping up petitions seeking holding election within 90 days.

It has been said in written order one Prime Minister (PM) was removed through vote of no confidence in the near past.



ISLAMABAD: The Honorable Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa administering the oath of office to Honorable Justice Irfan Saadat Khan, Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Sindh as Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan at the Supreme Court.

President directs FIO to ensure conflict of interest disclosure before selling policies

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday asked the Federal Insurance Ombudsman (FIO) to ensure that insurance companies disclosed the conflict of interest to the purchaser of the insurance policy before selling the policy as there had been instances of grave mis-selling of policies which required a serious re-look at product structure and front-loaded commission of the agents of insurance companies.

'Heritage channel for regional literature soon', Lok Mela key source for promoting regional languages': Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah Friday disclosed to launch of a dedicated heritage channel to promote the regional literature of Pakistan soon which will create awareness among the young generation about their regional languages and rich lingual identities.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah along with Palestinian Ambassador in Pakistan, Ahmed Jawad Rabei inaugurating the opening ceremony of 'Annual Ten-Day Folk Festival Lok Mela at Lok Virs'.

Talking to PTV news channel, he said that Heritage channel will showcase and celebrate the Pakistan's rich culture in a way that reflects the views of the Pakistani people and the heritage, civilization and cultural history of the country. We aim to engage the general public in a modern and lively manner through content that reflects the views of the Pakistani people and the heritage, civilization and cultural history of their country, he added.

Replying to a question about the folk mela started in Islamabad, he said the skills of the country. He said that this unique event has become a symbol of the federation's recognition and patronage of our rich cultural diversity and the active participation of the people. He further said that traditional Mela is a part of government priorities as it aims to encourage initiatives related to public welfare, promotion, and development of Pakistan's culture, and to provide meaningful and wholesome entertainment opportunities to the citizens.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking to media persons after inaugurating ceremony of Free Diagnostic Lab set up by JDC Foundation Pakistan.

Alliance with Tehreek-e-Insaf has not been decided: Bilawal

KARACHI (Online): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that the decision of alliance with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has not been taken.

All political parties, including PTI, should join the democratic charter.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that you all have a blessed election month, the election will be held on February 8, and the PPP will form the government.

It would have been better if the Supreme Court (SC) did not have to inter-

vene for the election, the People's Party did not get a level playing field in any election, so they do not have hope. He expressed these views while talking to journalists in Karachi. In response to a question asked about the eviction of immigrants, he said that no political party can support any illegal activity.

Bilawal Bhutto said that we are currently seeing the genocide of Palestinians on social media, the rulers of the world are silent but the people are not. According to spokesperson Bilawal House,

Bilawal Bhutto also visited the residence of former President People's Party Central District Sohail Ansari.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also issued a condolence message for the late Sohail Ansari's widow Nasira Sohail and said that the late Sohail Ansari endured the hardships of the dictators era. He said that Sohail Ansari held the flag of Bhuttoism till his last breath, his struggle is exemplary for the PPP workers, his sacrifices for the supremacy of democracy and constitution will not be forgotten.



ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott and Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi during 9th Islamabad Literature Festival at Fatima Jinnah (F-9) Park in Federal Capital.

Solangi for media's role to reverse negative impacts of climate change

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister of Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Friday urged official media to join hands with private media houses to create awareness about negative impacts of climate change.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of establishment of climate change desk at PTV, he said today the first step had been taken by PTV management for which it deserved appreciation.

Lauding the PTV management for acting swiftly, he said that the climate change desk has been established and connected with regional stations and dedicated reporters have been appointed.

The minister urged the private media to adopt this model on coverage of climate change issues.

The minister issued directives to Ministries of Climate Change and Information and Broadcasting to work together on this front.

He said that Information Service Academy should start providing training to reporters, researchers on this subject.

Murtaza Solangi also called for mobilization of social media and other digital platforms in fight against climate change. He said that the journalists working in climate change desk should visit the regions affected by climate change and meet the local people.

Ji Emir for establishment of Pak-Afghan commission on repatriation of refugees

ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Sirajul Haq has proposed the establishment of a Pak-Afghan commission aimed at formulating a viable plan for the repatriation of Afghan refugees to their home country.

In his address to a gathering on Friday, he warned against the propagation of propaganda and conspiracies by adversaries of both nations regarding the refugee issue. Haq welcomed the Election Commission's election schedule, which was released following a meeting with the president and in compliance with the directives of the Supreme Court.

He emphasized that both the parliament and the top court should issue clear guidelines for the execution of all future elections, strictly adhering to the timeline stipulated in the constitution.

Expressing the desire for the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to operate independently in both administrative and financial realms, Haq underscored the need for the commission to ensure that every contestant adheres strictly to the election code of conduct. The Ji chief demanded the rulers of Muslim world make practical step to save Gaza from Israeli atrocities.

AJK PM meets with UNFPA delegation to discuss dev. projects

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): The Country Director of UNFPA, Dr. Luay Shabaneh on Friday led a delegation to call on the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu Kashmir, Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, in the federal metropolis to discuss UNFPA's projects in the AJK State.

Dr. Shabaneh briefed the Prime Minister on UNFPA's ongoing projects in AJK, which are focused on accelerating action to end children's marriages, controlling population growth, and curbing mortality rates at birth. He also expressed

UNFPA's willingness to play a more significant role in the development of various sectors in Azad Kashmir and announced the launch of a comprehensive package for this purpose next year.

Prime Minister Haq appreciated UNFPA's contributions to public welfare projects in the region and assured the delegation of his government's full cooperation and support. He also directed the formation of a special contact group to coordinate all matters with UNFPA.



LAHORE: Sardar Awais Laghari meeting with President PML-N Shabbaz Sharif.

Only PML-N has ability to steer country out of crises: Nawaz

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid and former prime minister Mian Nawaz Sharif has said that his party has the ability to steer the country out of crises and put it on the path to development.

Talking to the party workers at Jati Umra here on Friday, he said the time was not far away when

problems of the people would end, the country would be freed from the vortex of inflation and unemployment and Pakistan would once again take the path of development.

Nawaz Sharif said that the PML-N had always served people with dignity and dedication and preferred national interest over personal interest.

Public holiday on Nov 9 on account of Iqbal day

LAHORE (Online): Federal government has announced public holiday on November 9 in the perspective of Iqbal Day.

The cabinet division accorded approval to public holiday on November 9 due to Iqbal day.

Notification of gazetted holiday has been issued. "November 9, Thursday, will be a public holiday across the country."

Pakistan needs super system, not superstar, for prosperity: Tareen

HAFIZABAD (INP): Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) chief Jahangir Tareen stated on Friday that the country doesn't need a superstar; instead, it requires a super system for its development and prosperity.

Tareen's statement was evidently directed at the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman. While addressing a rally in Hafizabad, Tareen offered hope to the people of Pakistan, urging them not to be disappointed, as the need of the hour was to unite all political parties. He deplored the damage caused to Pakistan due to the conflicts among political groups, and stressed that it was not the personalities.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Finally, a date

A meeting held between the Election Commission of Pakistan and President Arif Alvi has yielded a specific date for the next general elections: Feb 8, 2024. Earlier in the day, the ECP had informed the court that it had scheduled the date for Feb 11, but was told to consult the president.

The agreement has come as a relief to those who believed that polls would not be held anytime soon. No doubt, it is very welcome news, even if it means that the ECP will once again be breaking its word as the date represents a slight delay from the "end of January" timeline, which the electoral body gave in late September and affirmed last week.

It also represents a 95-day violation of the deadline to hold elections according to the Constitution. The court, while hearing the matter, had rubbished the assertion of the law ministry and ECP that the president had no authority to give election dates.

It seems this matter has now attained finality. While dictating the court's order, Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa said that whatever date is decided by the ECP and the president will have to be implemented. "The final date for polls will be announced from the Supreme Court," he said.

This should be the cue for the ECP and all political parties to begin election preparations in earnest. The former has three months to ensure a "free, fair, impartial and inclusive election".

It seems like a tall order, given the prevailing political climate and parties' repeated complaints about being denied a level playing field. The political parties, too, need to regroup, vet their candidates, organise campaigns and start mobilising voters for the big day. Because so little has been done in preparation for the exercise up till now, they have a long and bumpy road ahead of them. The Supreme Court has given them a head start, and they should take advantage of it.

Now that the fog has lifted, the ECP will be under constant scrutiny. It wilfully violated the Constitution on multiple occasions this year, justifying each violation with the excuse that it was necessary in order to hold elections that could pass a high standard of fairness.

If, after all these violations, the participating parties are still denied an equal opportunity to present their case to the public, then all of it will have been for nothing. It must, at the very least, demonstrate that it was acting in good faith.

There is also talk about giving the delay in elections legal cover under Article 254. However, this should not mean that those who conspired to violate the Constitution are let off without penalty. The consequences must be severe and exemplary for all involved.

Growing millions



Zubeida Mustafa

One of the major factors contributing to the environment crisis in Pakistan is the unbridled population growth rate. Environmentalists generally focus more on issues such as climate change and global warming caused by carbon emissions, which are the result of industrialisation, deforestation and water mismanagement. It must, however, be noted that rapid population increase is at the root of all these evils. Moreover, it also has a negative impact on human development, both individually and collectively.

More shocking than the country's astounding fertility rate is the government's indifference vis-à-vis the demographic problem. We are way behind many developing states that have a phenomenal record in curbing their population growth rate. We are the fifth most populous state in the world today. I believe this is the major cause of our underdevelopment as it is not possible to meet the basic needs of the whopping numbers who constitute Pakistan today, plus the six million or so who join their ranks every year.

The census in 2023 recorded our population at 241m, an increase of 33m in just six years since the previous head count of 2017. The growth rate was 2.55 per cent. Unless drastic measures are taken the numbers will grow. As Thomas Malthus has reminded us again and again, population grows geometrically while food production increases arithmetically. If this pattern continues for

too long then famine, conflict and epidemics intervene to restore the balance.

To give one an idea of how this is reflected in the people's lives take a look at this data. Today, the Total Fertility Rate (the average number of children that married women of reproductive age have) stands at 3.6. It should be 1.9 if we want our population size to be stationary. The contraceptive prevalence rate is 34pc, which includes the 10pc who claim to use conventional methods that are not reliable. Worse still is the high unmet need of 17pc, denoting couples who do not want to have more children but do not have access to contraceptives. The government has failed in all respects due to a lack of political will, corruption and ineptitude. Also at work is the planners' inability to understand the relationship between family planning and the empowerment of women. The fact is that underpinning our population programme is the low status of women in Pakistan. That creates pressure on mothers of girls to continue bearing children until two sons are born. Sons are regarded as status symbol for a family.

Interestingly, some NGO members in the family planning sector tell me that the latest trend among women who have had some education and are working is to opt for a small family, even if it means forgoing sons. The problem is that even these women generally have no control over decision-making in their homes and are as powerless in the latter as they are in society. Hence their wish with regard to family size does not prevail. It seems so unfair that women have to submit to their menfolk's diktat even though the burden of pregnancy and child-rearing falls on the

mother.

Yet our population planners are blind to this new trend. Small wonder the focus is heavily on women who are at the receiving end of all counselling on the use of contraceptives and the importance of planned families. Why are men not mobilised and made aware of how our rapidly growing population is creating problems for them as well as for the country?

There is growing evidence that mindsets can be changed by talking to people and giving them the space to talk about their views regarding their problems and how they can be resolved. This dialogue is important if solutions to people's problems are to be found and awareness created. True, these are issues of a very personal nature but they have a direct bearing on people's lives.

Hence the need of the hour is to make the subject of family planning a priority and part of the national discourse. Its implications must be discussed freely in all private and public forums. The focus should be on the 6m babies born each year. They have basic rights which neither the state nor the parents can fulfil. That makes their lives brutish. The newborns add to the backlog of poverty, illiteracy and disease, and also make development an impossible task. Ironically, this is happening in a country that is already child-unfriendly and where children are maltreated and abused.

Were the caretaker government to launch a national discourse on the population issue on various public platforms and get population departments to pull up their socks, a useful beginning could be made. -- Courtesy Dawn

Sectarian harmony



Jan-e-Alam Khaki

Gilgit-Baltistan was recently in the news because of a sectarian standoff. Luckily, the ulema in GB agreed to put their sectarian differences aside and help the regional government maintain law and order. The move reflected the wisdom of the religious leaders of two communities, who in the spirit of true Muslim brotherhood, decided to resolve mutual differences through dialogue and discussion.

But putting aside sectarian strife means that it has only been suppressed temporarily. How can communities in GB (and maybe elsewhere) resolve thorny faith-related issues on a long-term basis?

As an editorial in this paper rightly points out: "Communal differences may only be a trigger for the protests, as there are several underlying factors in GB fueling disaffection in the region." Among these underlying factors is the sociocultural landscape.

GB comprises several breathtaking valleys. The region may appear like a monolith, but in fact, it is not one. Its population comprises various, distinct cultures in terms of language, outlook and faith traditions. Its religious landscape comprises four major Muslim communities — Sunnis, Shias, Ismailis and Noor Bukhshis, often found in clearly defined areas. However, many villages and towns host mixed populations. There are many intercommunal marriages, but the atmosphere is generally very peaceful. For example, in my village in Hunza, there were a few members of the Sunni community and

around a dozen Shia families some decades ago, but incidents of violence were unheard of.

They were well integrated in the same village as was the case in other villages of GB. Issues would randomly crop up in the relatively urban city of Gilgit where many communities live and earn, vying for a few jobs. The area is now a hotbed of political activity often influenced by the political orientations of southern Pakistan. This external factor often makes GB, metaphorically speaking, a 'seismically active' zone. The rise and fall of rival political parties have a direct bearing on GB politics.

Added to this factor is the contentious issue of GB's political position. Afzal Shigri, who belongs to the area, rightly calls it "a constitutional black hole", which is neither fully integrated with, nor fully independent of, Pakistan, but often referred to as a 'disputed area', leading to a confused political status.

It has no representation in the federal constitutional bodies, such as the National Assembly or Senate, or access to Supreme Court, due largely to disputed relations. For as long as the area was undereducated, there was little turmoil. But gradually political consciousness rose and as of now, there are more educated and enlightened youth. As they become intellectually astute, they also acquire political sensitivity and are, therefore, in ever-louder voices, demanding a constitutional status for GB.

Sectarian differences also erupt on the pretext of some provocative issue or the other, or because of adverse statements from popular religious leaders, and can add to existing tensions. Historically, differences over the interpretations of faith have existed for a long time. Though in many regions these dif-

ferences have subsided, and there is some semblance of communal harmony, contentions still exist. However, people have learnt to manage their disagreements to live peacefully.

Together, these matters exacerbate sectarian strains in some places, and have even made religion an ultra-sensitive subject though it does not affect any community's interests directly as state policies are based on non-sectarian strategies. Religion, which should, first and foremost, try and achieve the objective of bringing humanity together, has now become for many, including in GB, a factor in discord.

In my opinion, the first step towards peace would be for the ulema of all schools of thought to refrain from stirring up emotions with rhetorical and hyperbolic speeches that can lead to ill feelings for each other. We should resist the temptation to scratch old wounds, which can kindle new conflicts. The good news is that many seasoned ulema are now taking a more positive approach towards other communities, and hopefully, this trend will persist into the future.

GB, in sum, is on the highway of development — this is a strong motivation for higher education, women empowerment, greater upward mobility of its educated class, the cost-effective use of agricultural products. So, staying on this path of development is in the best interest of all communities. Therefore, communities should be proud of helping, rather than, hurting each other in the 21st century's global village. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

SBP, AMF ink MoU to facilitate cross-border remittances

Independent Report

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) on Friday inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate cross-border remittances between the Arab region and Pakistan through formal channels.

The MoU was signed by Director General Chairman of the Board of AMF Dr Abdulrahman Bin Abdullah Al Hamidy and SBP Governor Jameel Ahmad in a ceremony hosted by the Arab Monetary Fund in Abu Dhabi, an SBP press

release here said.

The AMF and the SBP, under the MoU, would establish a framework of cooperation between Buna, the cross-border payment system operated by the AMF owned Arab Regional Payments Clearing and Settlement Organization (ARPCSO) and Pakistan's Instant Payment System Raast.

"The initiative will benefit individuals as well as businesses not only through instant, safe and cost-effective cross border payments, but also by strengthening economic,

financial, and investment ties between the Arab countries and Pakistan," the press release said.

Dr. Abdulrahman Hamidy, commenting on the MoU, said that the strategic collaboration with Raast underscored Buna's commitment to continue connecting different regions together and reinforcing economic, financial, and investment ties between the Arab region and its main global partners. "This resonates with the shared vision of innovating cross-border payment solutions to offer safe and efficient cross-

border instant payments access for individuals and corporates," he added.

Vowing to increase cross-border remittances by reducing costs and processing times, Dr Hamidy said that the initiative confirmed the global character of Buna which adhered to the highest compliance standards to connect the Arab region with its main global partners in line with the vision of its founders.

The SBP governor, speaking at the occasion, termed the MoU a significant strategic achievement.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatisation, Fawad Hasan Fawad chairing a meeting with FA on FWBL.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary of the Board of Investment at the Prime Minister's Office, Muhammad Sohail Rajput, engaged in a productive meeting with the esteemed delegation led by Chief Representative, Yasumitsu Kinoshita from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

NDRMF, OGDCL sign MoU

ISLAMABAD (APP): To promote socially responsible and environmentally friendly practices in the field of oil and gas exploration and production in line with the sustainable development goals, the National Disaster Risk Management Fund Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) agreed to work on joint projects. An MoU signing ceremony in this regard here, in which Bilal Anwer CEO NDRMF and Ahmed Hayat Lak Managing Director/CEO of OGDCL signed the

agreement. Under this partnership, NDRMF intends to establish its linkages with OGDCL for larger cooperation and capacity development activities for socially responsible and environmentally friendly adaptations in the field. Collaborating for knowledge exchange and capacity building in the areas of climate change, and disaster risk reduction, through the holding of seminars, workshops and events on areas of mutual interest will play a vital role in achieving the objectives.

HESCO recovers 151 million rupees in recent actions

HYDERABAD (APP): Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) recovered more than 151 million rupees during the ongoing operation against defaulters and electricity thieves in the region, on 02 November, out of which 150.1 million rupees were collected from defaulters and more than one million rupees were received as fines. According to the HESCO spokesperson, in recent actions, the power supply was disconnected from four transformers.

MoNFSR says: Enough wheat stole of 6.9mmt in country for local consumption

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ministry of National Food Security and Research has said that there was enough wheat stock of 6.934 million metric tons in the country to tackle local dietary needs, besides keeping the strategic stocks as well as maintaining supply and demand smooth in local markets to provide the commodity at reasonable

prices. In a statement issued on Friday, the MoNFSR said, "Out of the total stocks, Punjab's wheat reserves comprised over 4.021 million tons, whereas Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has 0.227 million tons of grains that were enough to meet local consumption of flour and other byproducts during the season."

BOI Secretary hails JICA's role for Pakistan economic development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary of the Board of Investment, Muhammad Sohail Rajput on Friday appreciated the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for its cooperation in different sectors for economic development of Pakistan. He was talking to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) delegation, led by Chief Representative, Yasumitsu Kinoshita which called on him, said a

press release issued here. The BOI secretary said that JICA's mission was to play a pivotal role in bolstering Pakistan's economic infrastructure, enhancing the investment landscape, and fostering regional connectivity for a brighter future.

The meeting marks the beginning of a promising journey to fortify partnership and explore new avenues of collaboration between BOI and JICA.

Rupee sheds 89 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Friday witnessed 89-paise depreciation against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs284.31 against the previous day's closing of Rs283.42. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs282.35 and Rs285.1 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs1.65 to close at Rs302.08 against the last day's closing of Rs300.43, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

PSX gains 466 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) gained 466.28 points, a positive change of 0.89 per cent on Friday, closing at 53,123.04 points against 52,656.76 points the previous day.

A total of 509,113,372 shares valuing Rs.15,586 billion were traded during the day as compared to 475,085,837 shares valuing Rs. 14,578 billion the previous day.

PTCL accords grand reception to newly elected office bearers of CBA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's largest telecommunications and ICT services provider, PTCL held a grand reception in honor of the office bearers of PTCL Workers

Itihad Federation, the Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA), who recently won it through a nationwide referendum. The ceremony

democratic tradition of protecting employee rights, and integrating their voices in crucial policy-making to ensure their well-being. At the ceremony, PTCL management warmly welcomed the newly elected CBA, who expressed their happiness and hoped for the continuation of cooperation between the



was graced by the presence of the guest of honor, Syed Sagheer Bukhari, Senior Programme Officer at the International Labour Organization (ILO), Country Office Pakistan, along with senior PTCL officials and newly elected office bearers and labor leaders from across the country.

The recent referendum is a continuation of PTCL's

union and PTCL for their shared growth and prosperity. Senior Programme Officer, International Labour Organization (ILO), Country Office Pakistan, Syed Sagheer Bukhari cited ILO conventions on workers' rights and quoted examples of how unions and administrations worldwide ensure mutual growth and prosperity through effective cooperation.

Naqvi expresses concern over massive increase of burning crops stubble in Indian Punjab

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has expressed his deep concern over up to 740 percent increase over burning of crops stubble in the Indian Punjab.

In a statement on Friday, he said that according to an authentic report of American institution NASA, an alarming increase has occurred with regard to burning of crops stubble in the Indian Punjab. According to the pictures

released by NASA, a 740 percent increase in the burning of crops stubble incidents in only a single day is highly alarming. The reports of NASA and pictures give ample proof of Indian apathy.

The CM stated that smog has risen to an alarming level owing to burning of crops stubble on such a mega scale in the Indian Punjab. The prime reason for the rise of smog in Lahore is due to burning of crops stubble at a mega scale in the Indian Punjab. The continuous increase in

the pollution rate in Lahore owing to Indian environmental aggression is highly worrisome and alarming, he added.

The CM apprised that the Punjab government is adopting every step which is humanly possible to combat the hazards of smog. Eyes, breathing and E&T ailments are on the rise due to smog. The people especially children and elders should use masks so as to protect themselves from the detrimental effects of smog, he added.

Factories causing air pollution be sealed: LHC

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has ordered to seal factories causing air pollution. A single bench of LHC led by Justice Shahid Karim took up the petition filed by a citizen Ferooz Haroon for hearing Friday.

Commissioner Lahore Muhammad Ali Randhawa also appeared in the court. The court while ordering to seal the factories causing air pollution remarked the factories which are emitting black smoke be sealed. These will not be

de-sealed unless owners of these factories submit affidavit. They should give this affidavit that if violation is committed again then factories will be demolished.

Commissioner Lahore told the court action will be taken indiscriminately against vehicles emitting smoke. We have directed traffic police vehicles causing smog be impounded.

The court remarked during the hearing of the case now we are going on right track.

Five vehicles with smuggled goods seized

DG Khan (APP): Anti smuggling squad recovered multiple kinds of utility items worth about Rs. 10 million during a crackdown here on Friday.

The squad being constituted by DPO seized about five vehicles plying on different routes and foiled smuggling. DPO Ahmed Mohiuddin said in this regard that as many as 384 bags stuffed with non-custom paid items including dry milk, cigarettes, gutka, alcohol, Chinese salt, Iranian shopping bags etc.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali addressing inaugural ceremony of a road inside Johns Cathedral church at Peshawar cantonment.

KP Governor inaugurates road at Johns Cathedral church

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali here on Friday inaugurated a road inside Johns Cathedral church at Peshawar cantonment which completed at a cost of over Rs7 million.

He said our relations with Christian community was based on respect, and the minorities communities settled in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were highly respectable for others.

The Governor said the services of Christian community were highly praiseworthy for the country including Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, says an official statement.

The Christian community is very peaceful that always played a significant role in the province's development and their welfare and uplift was top priority of the Government. The constitution of Pakistan has ensured protection of the personal and religious rights of all minorities, he said. He said, this is our duty to stand with the state of Pakistan and to serve it with best of our abilities and professional commitment.

PIA's flight schedule not restored fully, 19 more flights cancel

KARACHI (Online): The flight schedule of PIA could not be fully restored, 19 more flights were canceled today (Friday), while the number of canceled flights of PIA has reached 754 in 17 days.

The canceled flights today include PK 368, 369 from Karachi to Islamabad and PK 536, 537 from Sukkur.

Dammam to Karachi PK 242, Islamabad to Sukkur PK 631, 632 have also been canceled while Islamabad to Quetta flights PK 325, 326 could not fly.

13 more dengue cases reported in 24 hours

RAWALPINDI (APP): As many as 13 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 2,382 in the district.

District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mahmood, Friday said among the new cases, eight cases had arrived from Potohar town urban and five from Municipal Corporation Rawalpindi.

He added that 50 patients were admitted to district hospitals of which 40 were confirmed cases while 2,341 were discharged after treatment.

Dr Sajjad informed that the district administration had registered seven FIRs.

CM KP chairs meeting to discuss matters relating to evacuation of illegal foreigners

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Caretaker Chief Minister, Muhammad Azam Khan here Friday chaired a cabinet meeting to discuss matters relating to the evacuation of foreigners residing illegally in the province.

The meeting was attended by caretaker cabinet members, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Additional Chief Secretary for Interior Abid Majeed, relevant administrative secretaries and officials.

The meeting was briefed about arrangements made for the repatriation of illegal immigrants.

Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan expressed his satisfaction with the administration's efforts to facilitate the return of illegal immigrants to

their countries and the facilities being provided to them holding centres.

He commended the role played by various departments and institutions including district administration and police in providing facilities and accommodations to returning migrants.

The Chief Minister directed that voluntarily returning illegal immigrants be treated with respect ensuring special care to them during repatriation. He emphasized the need for maintaining a detailed record of both regular and emergency expenses.

He stressed strict adherence to rules and regulations governing these expenses and the development of mechanisms to ensure transparency.



KARACHI: SSP Irfan Bahadur presents flowers bookie to younger Afghan girl after transported by police in a bus to shift them in a deportation center in Provincial Capital.



ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott addressing during inaugural ceremony of 9th Islamabad Literature Festival at Fatima Jinnah (F-9) Park in Federal Capital.

Punjab Governor says: Overseas Pak playing vital role in the stability of the country's economy

Independent Report
LAHORE: A delegation of overseas Pakistanis from Saudi Arabia called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at the Governor's House, here on Friday.

During the meeting, the delegation expressed satisfaction over the political and economic stability in Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that overseas Pakistanis are the valuable asset for the country, who are playing an important role in the stability of the

country's economy by sending remittances. He said that whenever the country faced difficult times, be it floods or earthquakes, Pakistanis living abroad always came forward and helped their countrymen.

The Governor Punjab said that economic and political stability in the country is the harbinger of a bright future. He said that the journey of development will start again in the country. He further said that the young generation is the most valuable asset of the country.

International News

Putin says some Western weapons for Ukraine are ending up in the Taliban's hands

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday that some Western weapons supplied to Ukraine were finding their way to the Middle East through the illegal arms market and being sold to the Taliban.

"Now they say: weapons are getting into the Middle East from Ukraine. Well of course they are because they are being sold," Putin said. "And they are being sold to the Taliban and from there they go onto wherever."

Since Russia sent troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24 last year, Western powers have sent Ukraine tens of billions of dollars worth of weapons in an attempt to defeat Russian troops. Ukraine says it keeps

tight control over any weapons supplied to it, but some Western security officials have raised concerns and the United States has asked Ukraine to do more to tackle the broader issue of corruption.

In June 2022, the head of Interpol, Jürgen Stock, warned that some of the advanced weapons sent to Ukraine would end up in the hands of organised crime groups.

A report about the Ukraine war and the illegal arms trade by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime said in March that there was "currently no substantial outflow of weapons from the Ukrainian conflict zone."

"However, every precedent suggests that, especially if the threat is not addressed proactively and imaginatively, when the current war ends, Ukraine's battlefields could and will become the new arsenal of anarchy, arming everyone from insurgents in Africa to gangsters in the streets of Europe," the report said.

The eight biggest Western donors to Ukraine led by the United States have made military commitments to Ukraine totalling at least 84 billion euros (\$90 billion), according to the Kiel Institute for the World Economy, which tracks donors. U.S. military support includes 160 155mm howitzers, 109 Bradley fighting vehicles, more than 111 million rounds of small arms ammunition and 38 high mobility artillery rocket systems.



A man carries away an injured girl following an Israeli strike on the Bureij refugee camp, in Gaza Strip.

Hezbollah leader says Hamas Oct 7 assault was '100pc Palestinian'

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Celebratory gunshots rang out over Beirut as thousands packed into a square in the Lebanese capital's southern suburbs on Friday to watch a televised speech by Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of the Lebanese Hezbollah group. It was Nasrallah's first public remarks since the beginning of the Israel-Hamas war, sparked by the Palestinian militants' deadly Oct 7 incursion into southern Israel.

The speech came a day after the most significant escalation in clashes between Hezbollah and Israeli forces on the border since the war started and on the same day as a visit to Israel by the top US diplomat. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to urge protections for civilians in the fighting with Hamas, as Israeli troops tightened their encirclement of Gaza City.



Members of Tunisia's parliament hold the Palestinian flag as they observe a minute of silence for civilian deaths in the Gaza Strip.

Bahrain halts trade ties with Israel; envoys return

Monitoring Desk
MANAMA: Bahrain's parliament said on Thursday that the Gulf state's ambassador to Israel had returned home and economic ties had been suspended in protest over the Israeli aggression in Gaza.

However, the government did not confirm the moves, and Israel said it had received no word of any such actions, saying its relations with Bahrain were "stable".

In its statement, the parliament—a consultative body with no powers in the area of foreign policy—said the moves "confirmed Bahrain's historic position in support of the Palestinian cause".

"The Council of Representatives affirms that the Israeli ambassador in the kingdom of Bahrain has left Bahrain and the kingdom of Bahrain has decided on the return of the Bahrain ambassador to Israel," the parliament said in a statement. "The cessation of economic relations was also decided," it said, without making clear who had made the decision.

Abdulnabi Salman, parliament's first deputy speaker, confirmed the decision, saying the "ongoing conflict in Gaza cannot tolerate silence".

Israel's foreign ministry said in a statement: "We would like to clarify that no notification or decision has

been received from the government of Bahrain and the government of Israel to return the countries' ambassadors. Relations between Israel and Bahrain are stable." The parliament's statement was not carried by the kingdom's state television or its official news agency.

Any suspension of diplomatic and economic ties, if confirmed, would mark a significant setback for Israel.

Bahrain, which is home to the US Navy's Fifth Fleet, is a signatory of the Abraham Accords, a series of normalisation agreements between Israel and several Arab nations signed in 2020.

Fire at drug rehabilitation centre in Iran kills at least 32: report

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: At least 27 people died in a massive fire that broke out at a drug rehabilitation centre in northern Iran early on Friday, the judiciary said.

"Twenty-seven have died and 12 others were taken to hospital after a fire erupted at a drug rehabilitation centre in Langarud," a city in Gilan province north of Tehran, said the judiciary's Mizan Online news website, quoting provincial chief

justice Esmail Sadeghi. The cause of the fire was not immediately clear but Sadeghi said an investigation "was under way," according to Mizan, which said the centre could accommodate up to 40 people.

Local ISNA news agency shared footage of the fire which lit up the night sky and sent huge plumes of smoke into the air.

Other images showed the heavily damaged site after the fire was contained.

Japan, Philippines agree to hold talks on reciprocal troops pact

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: The leaders of Japan and the Philippines on Friday agreed to start negotiations on a reciprocal troop access deal, strengthening military cooperation amid rising maritime tensions in the region and an increasingly assertive China.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said he and President Ferdinand Marcos Jr had agreed to work together closely with the United States, and, in a veiled reference to China, shared concern about "unacceptable" attempts to "unilaterally change the status quo by force" in the East and South China Seas. "A further decision was made to start negotiations on a reciprocal access agreement and we agreed to further strengthen trilateral cooperation," Kishida, who was on an official visit to the Philippines, told a joint press conference.

Both the Philippines and Japan, two of the United States' closest Asian allies, have taken a strong line against what they see as aggressive behaviour by China.



Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida signs the guestbook beside Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos at Malacanang Palace in Manila, Philippines.

Islamophobia won't be allowed to take root, says US President

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden said on Thursday that his administration wouldn't watch silently as Muslims in America are targeted by hate-mongers.

The White House announced on Wednesday the administration will develop a strategy to counter Islamophobia in the United States. "We can't stand by while hate against Muslims, and those wrongfully perceived to be Muslim, including Arabs and Sikhs, is given oxygen," President Biden said in his statement.

"Silence is complicity. We won't be silent," he said, adding that his administration was developing a national strategy to counter Islamophobia and related forms of hate. Vice President Kamala Harris said taking on hate was a national priority and that's why "we are developing a strategy to combat Islamophobia". "This action is the latest step forward in our work to combat a surge of hate in America," she said.

The strategy is a joint effort led by the Domestic Policy Council and the White House National Security Council. It aims to create a comprehensive and detailed plan to protect Muslims and those perceived to be Muslim "because of their race, national origin, ancestry, or any other reason, from discrimination, hate, bigotry, and violence."

IMF assured of no 'new tax amnesty' as talks underway

LAHORE (INP): The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has assured the International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission visiting Pakistan of not introducing 'any new tax amnesty scheme' as talks underway for the next installment of \$710 million this week.

An IMF review mission landed in Pakistan on November 2 and reviewed the country's progress on targets set in a \$3 billion programme approved in July this year to bail out the struggling economy.

The IMF executive board had approved the nine-month standby arrangement (SBA) with Pakistan "to support its economic stabilisation programme". Following the approval by IMF board, the lender disbursed an installment of \$1.1 billion to Pakistan. If the second quarterly review is successful, it will allow for the release of the second tranche worth \$710 million.

Sources said that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), in its first meeting with IMF review mission, presented a report regarding the tax performance of July-September. The report encompassed revenue target, payments of refunds and tax rebates as dictated by the IMF during its previous meeting with Pakistan delegation. The report mentioned that the target of income tax refunds during the period of July-September has been achieved. The revenue board also assured the delegation of achieving the revenue target of Rs9.415 trillion. Moreover, the review mission was also assured of not introducing 'any new tax amnesty scheme'.

The FBR report stated that income tax refund payments were being gradually reduced according to the plan.



EDG/PIO Tariq Mehmood Khan in a group photo with a delegation of Rawalpindi Islamabad Bureaus Journalists Association (RIBJA) at PID Headquarters, Islamabad.

Wasi called upon youngsters to contribute towards Pak dev goals

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Youth Affairs and Minister of State for Tourism Wasi Shah on Friday urged the young minds of the nation to contribute their fresh ideas and innovations to achieve the country's development goals.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that the interim government is launching various projects to provide a better life to the youth and will use their youth power for the social economy of the country.

"Creating more jobs and promoting entrepreneurship culture for youth empowerment is the top priority of caretaker government", he added.

He said that the youth population is the lifeline of this country, adding that they are the future of the nation, so their education and understanding of national politics, democracy and economy must be comprehensive.

Replying to a question, he said the youth must struggle to achieve success as hard work is the path that leads to glory, adding, that if Pakistan wants to move forward and make progress then its key is in the hands of youngsters.

He said that the youth of Pakistan are our most valuable asset and the young minds of Pakistan are eager and eager to contribute to the development of the country, adding that Pakistan has a rich and diverse cultural heritage which is fostered by the youth. To another question, he said that our country is blessed with great tourism potential and it is the role of youth that can bring a sense of responsible tourism among the masses as young content creators must provide positive guidance about Pakistani tourist spots to the world.

He urged the corporate and private sectors to play an active role in developing talent among the youth.

ECP terms PTI spokesperson's statement uncalled for and baseless

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday dismissed in unequivocal terms that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) spokesperson's media statement was totally baseless and in contrast with the facts, especially regarding the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commission in general.

In a statement, an ECP spokesperson noted that issuance of such statements, while the general election date had been determined through consensus, was an abortive attempt to disrupt the current congenial atmosphere.

He reminded the PTI that the Election Commission did demonstrate exceptional impartiality during by-elections on July 17 and October 16, 2022. He said the Commission had so far substantiated its commitment to electoral transparency, through its initiatives and actions.

He advised the PTI to fully focus on preparations for the general elections.

China aims to build innovation system for humanoid robots by 2025

ISLAMABAD (APP): China will strive to establish a preliminary innovation system for humanoid robots by 2025, amid the country's push to develop the future industry, according to a recent guideline.

The country will boast several small and medium-sized enterprises that specialize in the humanoid robot market and have cutting-edge technologies, and two to three humanoid robot companies with global influence by 2025, according to the guideline issued by China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

By 2027, China will see a secure and reliable industrial and supply chain system and related products will be deeply integrated into the real economy, the guideline stated.

Specifically, the country will work on consolidating the production of basic components and promoting software innovation in terms of product development, while creating scenarios for manufacturing and other related sectors.



ISLAMABAD: People are visiting clothes Section at Weekly Friday Market of Sector H-9 in Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Leader of the House in the Senate, Mohammad Ishaq Dar exchanging views with Jane Marriot, British High Commissioner to Pakistan during meeting held at Parliament House.

COMSTECH hosts reception in honour of Ethiopian Envoy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator General of COMSTECH Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary has hosted a reception to honour Ethiopian Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula for his remarkable efforts to cultivate strong bilateral relations between Ethiopia and Pakistan.

The reception was attended by Senator Mushahid Hussain, DG Africa Shaiq Ahmed Bhutto and other notables including parliamentarians, government officials, diplomatic corps, civil society and media persons.

A special ceremony was also held at COMSTECH to highlight and appreciate the initiatives taken by Jemal Beker Abdula in last one year to strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries in diverse areas.

Addressing the ceremony, the ambassador expressed gratitude to the COMSTECH coordinator general for acknowledging his efforts and role in connecting the people of the two countries. He also thanked the Government of Pakistan, the business community, media and civil society for extending unwavering support to him in implementing the needful initiatives for bringing the two big nations more close.

The ambassador appreciated the genuine warmth and hospitality extended to him by the Pakistani people during his one-year stay in the country.

"Traveling through cities like Karachi, Lahore, and Faisalabad, I witnessed diverse cultures, yet a common thread of hospitality tied this nation together," he stressed.

He said the Embassy of Ethiopia in Pakistan had recently celebrated its first anniversary, marking a successful period of strengthening bilateral ties.

"One of my primary endeavors was to bridge the gap between the people of Pakistan and Ethiopia. I focused my efforts on fostering connections, particularly through Ethiopian Airlines."

PIO ensures fair distribution of ads

ISLAMABAD (APP): Principal Information Officer (PIO) Dr Tariq Mehmood Khan on Friday said every possible measure was being taken to ensure fair distribution of advertisements while efforts were underway to ameliorate the process.

According to a news release, he made these remarks in a meeting with the Rawalpindi Islamabad Bureaus Journalists Association's (RIBJA) delegation that was led by Sardar Shaikat Mehmood. The delegation congratulated Dr Tariq Mehmood Khan on assuming the post of PIO and apprised him about the problems faced by newspapers.

The PIO assured the delegation that he was well aware of the problems faced by regional newspapers and these problems would be solved on priority.

Murtaza Malik, Asia Khattak, Fayyaz Chaudhry, Malik Asif, Waqar Chaudhry, Arshad Dev Safzai and Bilal Uzmi were also part of the delegation.

Health minister condemns D.I.Khan blast

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan on Friday condemned the bomb blast in Dera Ismail Khan.

In a message, he prayed that Allah Almighty rest the departed souls in eternal peace and grant patience to the bereaved. He also prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

Dr. Nadeem Jan has alerted the management of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) and Federal Government Polyclinic Hospital.



ISLAMABAD: Activists of Quaid-e-Azam Employees Welfare Association are shouting slogans during protest outside University top show solidarity with the oppressed Muslims of Palestine.

Aneeq, Indonesian ambassador discuss strengthening Quranic teachings, interfaith dialogue

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed on Friday held a meeting with the Ambassador of Indonesia, Adam Mulawarman Tugio and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Being the countries with the largest Muslim population, both leaders agreed that Pakistan and Indonesia should make joint efforts to promote Quranic teachings in society in their true spirit.

They also discussed various issues related to promoting the culture of dialogue to solve the challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah.

They emphasized the need for the effective role of clerics and scholars to enlighten the new generation with religious teachings and to deal with problems of the present age.

The two leaders expressed their determination to benefit from each other's experiences and promote relations at the public level.

Lok Mela Kicks off in Islamabad with Spectacular Display of Pakistani Culture

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a spectacular display of Pakistan's cultural richness and unity, the National Folk Festival (Lok Mela) Islamabad commenced today at the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) with the theme "Peace and Harmony through Cultural Diversity."

The festival promises to be a vibrant celebration of the nation's heritage, bringing together people from all walks of life.

The festival will run until November 12 and will feature provincial pavilions, shopping stalls, food vendors, musical performances, highlighting the diverse cultures and traditions of all four provinces, as well as Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir.

The Minister for National Heritage & Culture, Jamal Shah, expressed his enthusiasm for the event, emphasizing its role in fostering national cohesion and promoting cultural diversity. Shah also announced that all festival activities would be conducted in support of the Palestinian people, with a special stall dedicated to collecting funds for Palestine.

The Visitors to the festival can look forward to a wide range of cultural activities, including traditional dances, folk music performances, arts and crafts demonstrations, and a delectable selection of dishes from all corners of Pakistan. An open mic program will also provide a platform for talented singers to showcase their voices. The Lok Mela will run from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm, with an affordable entry ticket priced at just Rs 150.

Threatening text from Israeli org received by Faryal

ISLAMABAD (Online): An Israeli organization has sent a threatening text to Faryal Makhdoom wife of former boxing champion Amir Khan.

Faryal Makhdoom is a staunch supporter of Palestinians and she has been sharing posts in favor of Palestinians on social media since eruption of war between Israel and Gaza.

She is running a successful makeup company. She shared a screenshot of a recent WhatsApp message on Twitter, which she received from an Israeli organisation with a phone number from the United States.

The message said "Let's make this quite simple. If you support Israel and cease posting about Palestine, we will ensure you are rewarded lucratively."

Shah urges heritage channel to preserve Pakistani folk literature

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister Jamal Shah stressed the need to establish a heritage channel under the Culture Division to preserve and promote the collection of folk literature of Pakistani languages, especially children's folk literature.

Chairing a meeting to discuss the literary folklores collected during a recent National Conference on Children's Folk Literary Heritage at Pakistan Academy of Letters, the Caretaker Federal Minister Jamal Shah stressed the importance of teaching children. He pointed out that by introducing children to their environment and culture at a young age, they can make more informed and practical decisions in life.

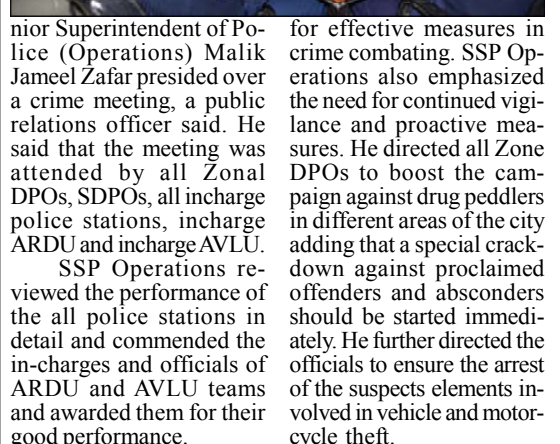
During the meeting, the Advisory Committee for Children's Cultural Educational Content delved into the literary folklores collected at the two-day National Conference on Children's Folk Literary Heritage held at the Pakistan Academy of Letters, the Caretaker Federal Minister Jamal Shah stressed the importance of teaching children. He pointed out that by introducing children to their environment and culture at a young age, they can make more informed and practical decisions in life.

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SSP Operations commends for effective measures in crime combating

ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the SSP Operations reviewed the crime situation in the federal capital and commended the performance of the police officials.

During the meeting, the SSP Operations reviewed the crime situation in the federal capital and commended the performance of the police officials.



Lack of quorum leads to adjournment of Senate's session

ISLAMABAD (APP): Lack of quorum on Friday forced Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Janjani to adjourn the session till Monday.

Senator Fida Muhammad pointed out the quorum soon after the Chairman gave floor to Sherry Rehman.

The Chairman ordered to ring the bell for five minutes. Count was made but the house was not in order which led to adjournment of the session till Monday's evening.

Earlier, speaking on point of order that Senator Mohsin Aziz said that although they (senators) represented their respective province in the House but they also took oath to protect the constitution. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan played front role in war against terrorism and Afghan war, he said.

He said both the provinces remained under development as compared to other provinces. It needed to have special incentives to bring them at par with other developed areas, he said.

Mohsin Azia appreciated the current caretaker government for controlling dollar price increase, curtailing smuggling, repatriation illegal anti to their countries, anti power and gas theft drive.

Certificates distribution ceremony of wireless training program held

ISLAMABAD: According to details, following the special directives of the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, a course on the maintenance of basic wireless communication equipment was organized in collaboration with the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), a public relations officer said.

He said that, this initiative was aimed to enhance the preparedness of the Islamabad Capital Police wireless staff for maintaining and repairing fundamental wireless communication equipment.

In this regard, a certificate distribution ceremony of wireless training program was held at Police Lines Headquarters Islamabad. The ceremony was attended by the CPO Safe City/Traffic, DSP Telecommunication, INL program officers, field engineers, and other participants.

Moreover, INL officers and CPO Safe City/Traffic distributed certificates among the course participants and expressed their optimism about the future prospects of these training programs.

