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dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Islamabad

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Senate passes resolution urging SC to reconsider its decision about military courts

Invalidation of jurisdiction of army courts likely to facilitate abettors of terrorism, reads resolution; Resolution says decision is legally flawed, shouldn't be implemented; Military courts played a pivotal role in delivering justice: Senators

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Monday passed a resolution, urging the Supreme Court (SC) to reconsider its decision about military court trials. The resolution, which was moved by Senator Dilawar Khan in the House, said: "The Senate of Pakistan calls upon the apex court to reconsider its decision, urging alignment with the national security paradigm and sacrifices of the martyrs in order to address the concerns raised regarding the ramifications of the judgment on the security and stability of the nation. "The invalidation of the jurisdiction of army courts is likely to facilitate

vandals and abettors of terrorism and anti-state activities. Military courts have played a pivotal role in delivering justice, particularly concerning acts of terrorism, often instigated by neighbouring adversaries within Pakistan's borders," it added. The resolution further said, "Resonating the concerns and sentiments expressed by various stakeholders in particular and public in general, regarding the recent judgment of the Supreme Court that declared Section 2(D)(1) & 59 (4) of the Army Act unconstitutional; "Taking exception to overriding an Act of Par-

liament, which was well within the previous and existing scheme of constitutional and legislative framework and duly enacted under the legislative competence of the Parliament. Prima facie an attempt has been made to rewrite the law by impinging upon the legislative authority of the Parliament. "It reiterated that the trial of those accused of violence against the armed forces under the Army Act "is an appropriate and proportional response in line with Pakistan's existing constitutional framework and statutory regime. Within the country's constitutional framework, the

trial of individuals accused of anti-state vandalism and violence under the Army Act serves as a deterrent against such acts; "Firmly standing with the families of martyrs, who have made significant sacrifices for the country, and have expressed feelings of insecurity and treachery due to this decision. Their concern that absence of military court trial is likely to encourage or embolden those responsible for acts of terrorism due to lack of stringent justice in regular courts, is fully endorsed.



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting on the matters related to the Federal Board of Revenue.

PM directs formulation of inclusive, comprehensive strategy to uplift FBR

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday directed the authorities concerned to formulate and present a comprehensive strategy, based on input from all the stakeholders, with a view to improve the performance of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to mull over the measures for improving the FBR's performance, said the utilisation of the modern technology was inevitable to improve the taxation system. The meeting was briefed on the measures to widen the tax net and digitisation of the taxation

system. The participants also deliberated over different proposals aimed at restructuring the FBR. The prime minister said that the revenue collection was just like a backbone for the national economy. He told the meeting that various effective measures had been taken recently to curb smuggling, though it required more hard work to achieve the desired results.

Caretaker Finance Minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar, Advisor to PM Ahad Cheema, FBR chairman, federal finance secretary and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.

Sarfraz emphasizes Police to carry out duties for rule of law without discrimination

Inaugurates Islamabad Capital Police Traffic Office

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, the Interim Federal Minister for Interior Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti inaugurated the Islamabad Capital Police Traffic Office Faizabad. The event was attended by Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, senior police officers and a large number of officials. The ceremony was graced by Interim Federal Minister for Interior as the chief guest. A smart contingent unit of the police force presented a guard of honor to the Chief Guest. The newly established Traffic

Office aims to streamline traffic-related affairs and facilitate the citizens of Islamabad. Interim Federal Minister for Interior Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti emphasized the importance of upholding the law without any political interference, urging the officers to prioritize public service.

He commended the dedication of the Islamabad Capital Police officials in maintaining smooth flow of traffic in the capital during challenging weather conditions and public events. During his address, Interim Federal Minister for Interior stated, "Law is

equal for everyone; ensure its enforcement without any bias. Let your commitment to public service be your motto. You have been chosen by Allah for this service; take pride in your responsibilities."

ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan highlighted the achievements of the Islamabad Capital Police in efficiently managing traffic during adverse weather conditions and construction activities. He praised the use of modern technology, including citywide surveillance cameras, to enforce traffic laws and issue e-challan for violators.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Higher Education Commission, Dr Mukhtar Ahmed, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Caretaker cabinet nods to Imran Khan's jail trial in US cipher case

ISLAMABAD (INP): Just a day before the high court is due to take up for hearing the intra-court appeal filed by former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan against holding his trial in the US cipher case inside the Adiala Jail, the caretaker federal cabinet on Monday approved the Ministry of Law's summary for holding the trial in the jail. The trial will be held tomorrow (November 14). The summary sent by the law ministry said that the Interior Ministry and the Official Secrets Act Court Judge Abul Hasnat had recommended holding trial of the former prime minister inside the jail. The summary further

read that the recommendation had been made in view of security threats to the PTI chairman. Copies of the Special Branch's threat report and the judge's recommendation were also attached to the summary. A division bench of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) had a week ago issued notices to the authorities concerned on an appeal, seeking trial of former prime minister Imran Khan in the cipher case in an open court. The IHC division bench was hearing the former prime minister's intra-court appeal against a single-member bench's decision that had approved his jail trial.

Rs34 bln recovered from defaulters in Power theft crackdown

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a bid to curb power theft, the Power Division has recovered a total of Rs 34 billion from the individuals caught during the countrywide crackdown, reported on Monday. According to the details, the government and military leadership of the country in September decided to initiate a countrywide crackdown on power thieves. As per Power Division reports, a total of 197 government employees — from the relevant institutions — found involved in the electricity theft were suspended, while at least 25,142 individuals were arrested in the countrywide power theft crackdown.

Rs 34 billion were recovered during the crackdown which minimizes the losses of power division by more than Rs 12 billion. Meanwhile, the annual loss in the national grid for the current year is estimated at Rs 589 billion out of which Rs 199 billion is attributed to different regions such as ex-Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FTA), Balochistan, Tubewells, and Azad Kashmir.

However, during the crackdown against electricity theft, Rs 46 billion was recovered from electricity pilfers.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfriz Ahmed Bugti inaugurating the newly built Islamabad Traffic Police Headquarters.

SC seeks assistance on legal matters

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has given one week time to lawyer Kamran Murtaza for its assistance on legal questions in the matter of population census in Balochistan. The appeal plea against population census in Balochistan came up for hearing before a 3-member bench of SC presided over by Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan Monday. The court is-

sued notice to Attorney General and Advocate General. The counsel Kamran Murtaza argued that Chief Minister (CM) Balochistan kept on avoiding to participate in the meeting of Council of Common Interests (CCI) for 3 to 4 hours. The composition of CCI was not complete. CM Balochistan was brought to CCI August 5 meeting forcibly.

Uzbekistan's Deputy PM for Trade arrives in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Uzbekistan's Deputy Prime Minister for Trade and Investment Dr Jamshid Khodjaev on Monday arrived in Pakistan on a two-day visit. The visit is aimed at further strengthening bilateral trade and investment ties between the two countries, said a press release. During the visit, Dr

Khodjaev will meet senior government officials to discuss ways to enhance cooperation in a range of sectors, including trade and investment. He will also lead a delegation of Uzbekistan's business leaders for meetings with their Pakistani counterparts to explore new opportunities for investment and collaboration.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce & Industries, Dr. Gohar Ejaz receiving Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan for Trade and Investment Dr. Jamshid Khodjaev at Nur Khan Airbase.

Two soldiers martyred in N. Waziristan

RAWALPINDI (Online): A fire exchange took place between Security forces and terrorists in general area Mir Ali, North Waziristan District on Monday. Pakistan Army Troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location resultantly one terrorist was killed. However, during intense fire exchange, Sepoy Abdullah (age: 25 yrs, resident of: Mardan) Sepoy Muhammad Sohail (age: 19 yrs, resident of: Tharparkar), having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat. Sanitization of the surrounding areas is being carried out to neutralize any terrorists found in the area.

He will also lead a delegation of Uzbekistan's business leaders for meetings with their Pakistani counterparts to explore new opportunities for investment and collaboration.

Court declares Moonis PO

LAHORE (Online): Accountability Court (AC) Lahore has declared Chaudhry Moonis Elahi proclaimed offender in Gujarat corruption case. Judge Nasim Ahmad Virk took up for hearing petition filed by NAB Monday. NAB took the plea Chaudhry Moonis Elahi has neither been arrested nor has he joined investigation. The court has issued non-bailable arrest warrants of Chaudhry Moonis Elahi. The court should order to declare him proclaimed offender. The court declared Chaudhry Moonis Elahi proclaimed offender besides summoning record of his properties.

Solangi, CM KP discuss elections, cooperation in media sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Monday called Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (Retd) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah and discussed with him the upcoming elections, cooperation in the media sector and other important issues including the problems of the journalists. During a telephonic talk, he congratulated Syed Arshad Hussain Shah on assuming the charge of caretaker chief minister KP.

Both the federal minister and the caretaker CM KP expressed their determination to provide all possible support to the Election Commission to make the electioneering process fair, transparent and impartial. Solangi said that the Caretaker Government fully believed in freedom of expression and would provide all possible facilities to the media during the elections. The caretaker government was fulfilling its responsibilities under the Constitution and equal opportunities were being provided to all political parties. Syed Arshad Hussain assured that the problems of journalists of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would be resolved on a priority basis.



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchanging views with Rear Admiral Sajer Bin Rafeed Al-Enazi Eastern Fleet Commander Royal Saudi Naval Forces at Naval Headquarters Islamabad.

1 in 3 children exposed to severe water scarcity: UNICEF

ISLAMABAD (APP): The climate-changed world with dwindling water supply and inadequate water services is also changing children, altering their mental and physical health. One in three children or 739 million worldwide already live in areas exposed to high or very high water scarcity, with climate change threatening to make this worse, according to a new UNICEF report.

Further, the double burden of dwindling water availability and inadequate drinking water and sanitation services is compounding the challenge, putting children at even greater risk. The report, a supplement to UNICEF's Children's Climate Risk (2021), also outlines the myriad of other ways in

which children bear the brunt of the impacts of the climate crisis — including disease, air pollution, and extreme weather events such as floods and droughts. From the moment of conception until they grow into adulthood, the health and development of children's brains, lungs, immune systems and other critical functions are affected by the environment they grow up in. For example, children are more likely to suffer from air pollution than adults. Generally, they breathe faster than adults and their brains, lungs and other organs are still developing. "The consequences of climate change are devastating for children," said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell.

Newly appointed KP CM formally assumes charge

Independent Report

PESHAWAR: The newly appointed caretaker Chief Min-



ister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Justice @ Syed Arshad Hussain Shah on Monday formally assumed his duties. Upon his arrival at the Chief Minister's Secretariat, the senior officials of the Secretariat welcomed him, while a police contingent presented him a guard of honor. The Chief Minister held an introductory meeting with the staff of the secretariat where he was briefed about the affairs of the Chief Minister's Secretariat.

Pakistanis will not accept 'selected raj' anymore: Bilawal

MITHI (INP): As general elections draw close, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari announced Monday the people will not accept "selected raj (selected government)" anymore — a term used for the previous Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government. Addressing a public rally in Mithi, Bilawal said: "People bore selected raj for five years, but now any selected raj is unacceptable."

Without naming any party, the PPP chairman said that people would respond to those who were getting their election results made while sitting in the room. Slamming the PTI, Bilawal said people would answer those who attacked the state installations on May 9 in the upcoming general elections — slated to be held on February 8, 2024. "On the other hand, we have friends, if they think that they will contest elections by copying the PTI, they will fail."

He said: "People will defeat Mahengai-league on February 8." The PPP leader further said that people will give a "surprise" in the next elections. Addressing the rally, the PPP chairman hoped that "jialas (the term used for PPP workers)" would become prime minister and chief executive of Punjab this time. Bilawal vowed to complete the unfinished mission of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto — who was hanged to death on April 4, 1979, in a murder case but his party terms it a "judicial murder".

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OIC inaction

Not much was expected from the joint OIC/Arab League summit held in Riyadh on Saturday to discuss the blood-soaked tragedy underway in Gaza. And sure enough, the presidents, princes and potentates that hold sway over the Muslim world lived up to expectations, with no clear action plan emerging to stop the massacre.

As the Muslim world's rulers discussed the matter in a luxurious conference centre, the hungry, destitute and bloodied people of Gaza — dazed after burying their loved ones and neighbours day after day — waited for the next Israeli missile to strike. In Riyadh, there were calls for a ceasefire and condemnation of Israeli violence, but beyond that little of substance, as the Palestinian president demanded an end to this "genocidal war", while urging the US to use its good offices to ask Tel Aviv to stop the Gaza slaughter.

It is unlikely that those who matter in Washington or Tel Aviv will heed this request. Algeria, on the other hand, wanted Muslim and Arab states to suspend ties with Israel, while Iran recommended a boycott of Israel and the designation of the Israeli military as a "terrorist group".

There were few takers for these proposals. It is indeed tragic that despite the murder of over 11,000 Palestinians in the Israeli onslaught, the high and mighty of the Muslim world — with their standing armies, tens of billions of dollars and vast economic clout — could not even agree to a common framework that would clearly communicate to Israel and its powerful backers that the massacre of Palestinians must stop.

If Israel were to be convinced by strongly worded statements and impressive conferences, the Palestine question would have been solved decades ago.

Meanwhile, the extermination of the Palestinian people continues, as the world looks on, as if tuned in to some grisly reality show — the livestreaming of a virtual genocide. Israel has upped its attacks on Gaza's hospitals, all in the name of getting Hamas.

In the eyes of the Jewish state and its staunch defenders, slaughtered Palestinian babies appear to be a fair price to pay to avenge Israel's wounded pride in the aftermath of Oct 7. Yet even some of those who had rushed to be by Israel's side after the Hamas attack are beginning to have second thoughts; the French president has said Tel Aviv must stop killing "babies and women".

Sadly, those who have the power to stop this butchery are either aiding Israel's bloodthirsty campaign, or making weak entreaties for the massacre to be toned down.

However, hundreds of thousands of common people, with no political power but with great moral clarity in Sana'a, New York, London and other cities, are demanding an end to the massacre. Will the callous global elite listen to their voices?



Huma Yusuf

World War III will get us before climate change. This is an increasingly common refrain, an understandable response to tragic and terrifying world events. As the Israel-Gaza war dominates headlines, it's not surprising that developments in the lead-up to the annual UN climate change conference, COP28, have been sidelined. But one disaster does not negate another, and we will equally have to contend with conflict and the consequences of climate change. For most Pakistanis, the latter is arguably more immediately existential.

The World Meteorological Society in May this year reported that the world would by 2027 breach the 1.5 degrees Celsius climate threshold agreed at the 2015 Paris climate summit, meaning that average global temperatures are likely to rise by more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. That's three years away. How old will you be? Your children?

Facing failure in the face of this key target, global climate leaders are seeking success elsewhere. Attention is turning to climate adaptation — the need to adjust social, economic and ecological systems to adapt to the reality of climate change and its impacts. Climate efforts so far have coalesced around mitigation (reduction of GHG emissions), but there is growing recognition that as we seem incapable of giving up our addiction to fossil fuels, we must learn to adapt to the consequences of burning them. According to a recent UN report, developing countries need \$387 billion a year to adapt

Climate adaptation

to climate change, an amount that has increased by \$47bn since the last count. The UN report found that the adaptation financing need was 10 to 18 times more than current international public finance flows, which have dwindled in recent years. According to former climate minister Sherry Rehman, Pakistan alone needs \$348bn by 2030 to build climate resilience. But as of November 2022, the country had only received \$86.2 million since 2016 in bilateral grants with a climate adaptation focus. The numbers are stark enough that the president-designate of COP28 last week conceded that adaptation doesn't get adequate finance.

Pakistan has already recognised the need to prioritise adaptation (floods that put over one-third of your land mass under water would do that). The climate change ministry in July published Pakistan's first-ever National Adaptation Plan (NAP). The plan was 11 years too late as per the country's own climate strategy, but timely in the run-up to COP28.

Covering the seven-year period to 2030, NAP aligns with UN's best practice approaches and climate adaptation frameworks. Its recommendations also align with key findings of a recent McKinsey report that advocates for a systemic approach to climate adaptation. That approach highlights the importance of "a climate risk management mindset; technological and behavioural adaptation levers; economic and societal adjustments; and governance, institutional support, and commitment".

McKinsey's economic and societal adjustment bucket calls for "compensating mechanisms for vulnerable communities and institutions" and under its governance category it pushes for community awareness and engagement. Pakistan's NAP echoes these principles

with recommendations for evidence-based decision-making, the need to act locally, and a major emphasis on inclusion and equity (particularly for women, youth and marginalised communities), and with clear language promoting social justice and insisting that no one be left behind.

Here's the elephant in the room. These principles are not the reality of our society. Inclusion and equity are an afterthought when it comes to other areas such as access to healthcare, justice, rule of law, education or public finances. Adaptation strategies will indeed work best when developed and implemented locally, but how will that work in a country that shuns and disempowers local governments? And women and marginalised communities are no doubt most at risk from climate impacts, but given how we violate their rights in normal circumstances, why would we behave differently when faced with heat, floods or fire?

Critiques of climate adaptation approaches are still too high level. McKinsey celebrates that 84 per cent of the parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change have adaptation plans, but points out these are not grounded in the physical risks they ameliorate, do not articulate financing needs, and are yet to be executed. Even critiques of NAP focused on the lack of details around financing mechanisms and the scant specifics on implementation. But there is little mention of the disconnect between adaptation attitudes and societal attitudes more broadly. Without meaningfully changing ourselves and our society, we will not successfully adapt to a climate change-affected world. -- Courtesy Dawn

Afghan refugees



Arif Hasan

The manner in which Afghan refugees are being repatriated from Pakistan is unfortunate. Under the Citizens' Act, anyone born in Pakistan is a Pakistani citizen. If you apply this law, relatively few Afghans will be repatriated. According to international law, only those who are not registered as refugees can be deported, and that too under specified conditions (which are not being followed), one of which emphasises safeguarding their dignity.

Disturbing news is emerging from the Afghan detention centres and from thanas that are involved in "rounding them up". There are cases where minor children have been sent to locations in Afghanistan while their parents have been left behind. There have been cases where women and their babies have forcibly been put on a bus to Afghanistan without a male relative.

Meanwhile, corruption is rampant. I personally know of cases where Rs20,000 per month is paid to a middleman who guarantees that repatriation will not take place. In addition, the staff of state agencies do not allow persons at the detention centre to meet their family or lawyers, and there have also been cases where the deportees, both old and young, have been beaten up by police and Rangers for no obvious reason.

The majority of the deportees have been born in Pakistan, and they have never seen Afghanistan in their lives. Also, they have no families left in Afghanistan. They are especially concerned about

their women, who will not be able to work or study in Afghanistan and will be discriminated against in other ways after they have enjoyed a more liberal society in this country. A number of musicians, singers, and artists are equally afraid for their lives and punishment from the Taliban regime.

Karachiites have many complaints against the Afghans, and they seldom differentiate between Afghans and KP's Pakhtuns. They claim that Afghans introduced the culture of guns and drugs in the city and that other groups had to resort to the same tactics to protect themselves. They also claim they have become big shareholders in Karachi's businesses. They finance construction companies, real estate purchases, and even small entrepreneurs in setting up roadside businesses. They claim that much of the finances for all this have come from the Afghan transit trade and from supplying Nato troops in Afghanistan. With these enormous earnings, the Afghans have purchased textile, electronic goods, used clothes and shoes and a number of other markets in the city. They also charge for arranging protection for roadside Pashto-speaking rehrihs. All this has made them major players in Karachi's economy. They also work as building site labour and as coolies at Karachi's wholesale markets which is their main occupation.

The strongest support for Afghan repatriation understandably comes from Sindhi nationalists. Migration to the province (especially to its urban centres) has changed its demography, and if it continues, the Sindhi-speaking population might well become a minority. The migrants have occupied land in the urban areas and are also becoming middlemen to service agricultural pro-

duction. However, it must be remembered that almost all of these "crimes" against the original population of Sindh were the result of government policies that were designed with the approval of powerful Sindhi politicians and implemented by senior Sindhi bureaucrats. Three remarkable books (The Case of Sindh by G.M. Sayed; The Case of Karachi and Sindh Under One Unit both by Prof Aijaz Ahmed Qureshi) tell us the whole story. Unlike the 1947 migrants, the Afghan migrants had no hand in developing these policies.

The Afghan re-patriation has divided the progressives of Sindh into pro- and anti-repatriation groups. This is unfortunate and needs to be reconciled. There can be a case made for Afghan repatriation, but on humanitarian and legal grounds, it needs to be revisited. Persons who have been born and grown up in this country should not be deported. The same applies to women who have been born in Pakistan and who face a bleak future in an anti-women country. Similarly, artists and entertainers should not be sent back for they will not only lose the opportunity of performing but also fear for their lives.

However, more important than anything else is that the repatriation process should respect the human rights of the deportees and with proper documentation. Given the brutal nature of our state and the strong anti-women bias of our elite policymakers, this is difficult but should be attempted. Also in dealing with the repatriation process it should be remembered that it is more than possible that Pakistan will require the support of the Afghan nation in the not-too-distant future to stabilise itself. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

SAPM explores opportunities for Pakistani workforce in Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (SAPM on OP&HRD), Jawad Sohrab Malik, initiated a five-day visit to Saudi Arabia aiming to foster collaboration and explore employment opportunities for the Pakistani workforce in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The SPAM's first official visit to Saudi Arabia will focus on major mega-development projects that are set to open vast

employment avenues, for unskilled professionals in general and skilled professionals in particular from Pakistan. The visit is aimed at initiating several groundbreaking projects that are expected to significantly impact the labour market. Among the key projects that will be part of the discussion, for seeking employment opportunities for Pakistan migrant workers, during the visit are: Red Sea Project, Development Plan of Extension of the Holy

City of Makkah, Jabal Omar, Recreational Tourism Projects, New Taif City, The NEOM Project, Qiddiva Project - The Capital of Entertainment Sports, Diriyah Gates, AIUla - UNESCO World Heritage Site, Hammaya Program, King Salman Park and Green Riyadh.

These projects offer extensive employment opportunities, especially in fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, media policy, strategy and research, health and safety

specialists, project coordination & managerial strategy, financial modelling, eco-system-based management specialists, senior water scientists, climate action directors, managers of geothermal energy, solar generation specialists, and more. During the visit, the discussions will also revolve around the evolving labor market trends in Saudi Arabia. The SAPM, during his meetings with Saudi Arabia's Minister for Labor,



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed chaired a meeting on Public Investment Management Assessment (PIMA) and Climate-PIMA.

Minister briefed on PIMA, Climate-PIMA

ISLAMABAD (Online): The caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed was briefed on Public Investment Management Assessment (PIMA) and Climate-PIMA, and the suggested action plan by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The briefing was given during a meeting chaired by the Planning Minister attended by Secretary Planning Ministry, Member Climate Change & Food Security, Chief Growth &

Employment at Planning Commission, Joint Chief Economist (Ops), Joint Chief Economist for Macroeconomics at Planning Commission and other relevant stakeholders. During the meeting, Chief Growth & Employment gave a detailed briefing highlighting the various aspects of PIMA and Climate-PIMA and its action plan. The action plan underscores the importance of a Climate Responsive Public Investment Framework,

integrating climate considerations into the planning and execution of all development projects. This approach aligns with the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), signifying Pakistan's dedication to climate-smart policies and practices. The Planning Minister asked the stakeholders to improve the effectiveness of public investment by improving procedures and financing mechanisms.

Mobilink Bank carries the day at Veon's Ignite Awards held in Istanbul

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading digital microfinance bank, Mobilink Bank, outperformed at Veon's

people's lives by creating opportunities for increased digital inclusion and by driving economic growth across countries that are



Ignite Awards held in Istanbul by winning in three of the most highly contested categories, including 'Double-Digit Growth', 'Financial Services', and 'Diversity and Inclusion'. The Bank's recognition at the group level and enviable accomplishments across various categories mirror its steadfast commitment to excellence. Mobilink Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and online services across seven countries. As part of its digital operator strategy, VEON is transforming

home to more than 8% of the world's population. Ghazanfar Azzam, President and CEO Mobilink Bank, received the awards on behalf of the institution and delightfully dedicated it to his team for sustaining the Bank's upward growth trajectory. "This goes out to my team for its remarkable professionalism, commitment to excellence and penchant for innovation," shared Ghazanfar Azzam. "Mobilink Bank's robust financial performance, affordable, and accessible financial services and a strong workplace culture are the outcomes of years of our hard work."



Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hassan Fawad chairs a meeting with management of HHBFCCL.

CDNS secures Rs 35 bln in Islamic finance bonds

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has secured Rs 35 billion in Islamic finance bonds in the mid of second quarter of the Current Fiscal Year 2023-24. The National Savings has issued Islamic bonds for the promotion of the Islamic finance system, which will help the development of the Islamic economy in the country, a senior official of the Directorate of National Savings told APP here on Monday.

Replying to another question, he said the CDNS had collected an investment of Rs 16 billion in July 2023-24 through Islamic investment bonds. He added that the directorate had set a target of Rs 75 billion for the new financial year 2023-24 for Islamic finance bonds. Replying to another question, he said the CDNS aimed to introduce new dimensions in the Islamic finance sector. He informed that CDNS had achieved the set target of Rs 60 billion in the fiscal year (2022-23) for Islamic investment to introduce the new products in the market.

SNGPL disconnects another 87 connection

LAHORE (APP): The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) in its ongoing crackdown against gas pilferers, disconnected another 87 connections besides imposing a fine of Rs 4.9 million in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad.

According to a spokesman for the company, in Lahore, the regional team disconnected 18 connections on illegal use of gas while two in Bahawalpur.

SBP Dy Governor says: SBP to facilitate business community

FAISALABAD (APP): International Director State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will make best efforts to facilitate the business community in stabilizing the national economy on a solid and sustained basis. This was stated by SBP Deputy Governor Saleemullah while addressing a reception hosted by Mian Muhammad Adrees, former FPCCI President FPCCI, FCCI and former

International Director Lions Club in his honour. The function was also attended by leading businessmen and bankers in addition to the members of FCCI. Speaking on the occasion, Mian Muhammad Adrees appreciated the services of Saleemullah said that he had already served Faisalabad and his prudent decision making was being still remembered.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): The shipping activity reported at the port where four ships namely, Clipper Fair, Silver Eleanor, Sea Bulk and Nikitiis, scheduled to load/offload Rice, Steel coil, Palm oil and Coal, berthed at Multi-Purpose Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal, Grain Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Sunday. Meanwhile two more ships, MSC Abyand Alberta also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port during last 24 hours.

CM seeks carbon credits plan to accelerate tree plantation

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LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has sought a comprehensive carbon credit plan for afforestation and valuable carbon exchange.

credits can be obtained. These sectors include waste management, transportation, renewable energy, industry and land use, among others. It was underscored

that the acquisition of carbon credits is intricately tied to activities such as the preservation of forests and the proactive management of environmental pollution. An important

aspect highlighted in the meeting was the practice of countries with higher carbon emissions channelling investments into afforestation and environmental.

CM Punjab reviews health reforms

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi chaired a special meeting focusing on health reforms here on Monday.

During the meeting, the Secretary Health provided a comprehensive overview of initiatives aimed at enhancing emergency facilities. The meeting affirmed the principled decision to implement a Ventilator Management Information System, enabling the tracking of ventilators as required. The Punjab Information Technology Board's assistance will facilitate real-time identification of both in-use and available ventilators through a dedicated app, ensuring prompt allocation during high-demand situations in hospitals. Furthermore, it was agreed to establish a linkage between DHQ Hospital Kasur and General Hospital Lahore. As part of the stroke management campaign, capacity building for 1122 rescuers will be a priority.

Dr. Qasim Bashir, Head of Neurology at Services Institute of Medical Sciences, presented a detailed plan on stroke management.



LEEPA VALLEY: Younger girls students are attending class at open air school during the extreme cold weather due to unavailability of school building of Government Girls Primary School Moji Chitya area of the Kashmir.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali takes oath from caretaker Provincial Ministers.

LHC orders to immediately change DG environment

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has ordered to immediately change DG Environment for not making better arrangement for eradication of smog.

The court remarked is there only this solution with government to announce holidays in Punjab for eradication of smog.

A single bench of LHC led by Justice Shahid Karim heard the petitions filed by Haroon Farooq and others in eradication of smog case Monday.

Commissioner Lahore and other officers appeared in the court.

Three killed over land dispute

SARGODHA (APP): A man killed his mother, sister and brother-in-law over land dispute here at Chinni mohalla under the jurisdiction of city Bhakkar police station.

Police said that Muhammad Akram (32) s/o Yasen had a land dispute with his family. On the day of incident, he strangled his mother Zaitoon bibi (70) to death, clubbed his sister Amina (34) to death and killed his brother-in-law Asim (33).

Five development schemes worth Rs 7.073b approved

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) Punjab approved five developmental schemes of Rs 7.073 billion.

The schemes include: Road Development, Urban Development, and Local Government sectors with an estimated cost of Rs 7073.47 million in its 26th meeting of current financial year 2023-24 chaired by P&D Board Chairman Iftikhar Ali Sahoo here on Monday. The approved schemes are: Construction of ByPass from Royal

Hotel (N-5) to Sarwar Chowk via Adda Mai Wali Masjid, Length=13.70 Km, District Sahiwal at the cost of Rs 1667.762 million; Repair/Rehabilitation of road from Sohawa Chakwal Road to Khol Hameed Incl Link from Mohra Kalayal to Mohra Jariyan, Length 9.50 km, Tehsil Gujjar Khan, District Rawalpindi at the cost of Rs 530.763 million; Repair/Rehabilitation of Road from Gujjar Khan to Pir Phulal Road.

Religious leaders unite in urgent appeal for peace in Gaza

LAHORE (APP): Religious leaders from across the nation, representing diverse faiths and beliefs, on Monday joined forces to make a global appeal for an immediate end to Israel's aggression and brutality in Gaza. Addressing a unified audience at the Palestine Conference here at Cathedral Church, they urged the world powers to immediately play their role

in ending the persecution of the oppressed Palestinian people. Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, and Archbishop Dr. Sebastian Francis Shaw were among the prominent figures who emphasized that the ongoing situation in Gaza was not a matter confined to followers of any specific religion but a violation

against humanity itself. Ashrafi who is also the Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and the Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Islamic Countries, stated that Saudi Arabia and the Muslim world were actively playing their role against Israeli aggression, urging the global community to step forward to end Israeli oppression.

Hanif Abbasi acquitted in riots case

RAWALPINDI (Online): PML-N leader Hanif Abbasi has been acquitted in riots case.

The court announced the decision after five years of the registration of case in police station city against Hanif Abbasi.

The other accused in the case were Chaudhry Tanvir, Daniyal Chaudhry, Sarfraz Afzal and Chaudhry Ibrar. All other accused except Hanif Abbasi were acquitted from this case. Hanif Abbasi was charged with staging rallies against the arrest of Capt (Retd) Saifdar.

ANF recovers 225 kg drugs in 10 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 10 operations managed to recover 225 kg of drugs and arrested eight accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that in an operation at Allama Iqbal International Airport, 59 hashish-filled capsules were recovered from the possession of a passenger, leaving for Bahrain on flight number GF-768.

81 heroin-filled capsules were recovered from a passenger at Multan Airport. The accused, a resident of Lahore, was leaving for Sharjah by flight number PA-812. 105 kg hashish was recovered from an accused resident of Quetta in an operation conducted on Hazarganj Road Quetta. Five kg of hashish hidden for smuggling was recovered in an uninhabited area of Zakhakhel Khyber. Over 4.2 kg of Ice drug was recovered from the trolley bag of a foreigner at Jinnah International Airport. The accused was leaving for Bangladesh by flight number FZ-336.

Home dept identifies 22347 illegal foreigners in major cities of KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The Home and Tribal Affairs Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has compiled data of illegal foreigners including Afghans residing in major cities of the province and sent it to the Ministry of Interior. According to the report of the Home Department, as many as 22347 Afghans were still

residing illegally in 32 districts of the province including 17832 in Peshawar, 1523 in Khyber, 1228 in Kohat, 607 in Lower Waziristan and others in Batagram, Tank, Torghar, Kohistan Swabi and Mansehra. The Home Department said that so far 206,018 people of 16,530 Afghan families have voluntarily.

International News

Biden, Qatari emir discuss Gaza, agree all hostages must be released

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: U.S. President Joe Biden spoke on Sunday with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani about developments in Gaza and "urgent ongoing efforts" to secure the release of hostages being held by the Hamas militant group, the White House said.

Biden "unequivocally" condemned the holding of hostages by Hamas, including many young children, one of whom is a 3-year old American citizen whose parents were killed by the group on October 7th, the White House said in a statement. "The two leaders agreed that all hostages must be released without further delay," the statement said. Hamas fighters surged across the border from Gaza into Israel on Oct. 7, killing about 1,200 people and taking more than 200 hostages, according to Israeli officials. Only four hostages have been released to date. The Israeli bombardment of Gaza has since killed more than 11,000 Palestinians, around 40% of them children, according to counts by health officials in the Hamas-ruled territory.

Reuters last week reported that Qatar, where several political leaders of Hamas are based, has been leading mediation efforts between Hamas and Israeli officials over the hostages.

Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, told CNN's "State of the Union" earlier on Sunday that "active, intensive negotiations" were underway involving Israel, Qatar, Egypt and the United States on securing the release of more hostages, but it was not clear if all were alive.

"The goal here is to do what is necessary at the negotiating table to ensure that we get the safe return of all of the hostages, including the Americans," Sullivan told CNN, noting that nine Americans were missing, along with one person with permanent resident status in the United States.



A Woman cries as she stands by the rubble of a destroyed building following Israeli bombardment in Khan Yunis in southern Gaza Strip.

Israeli strikes on Gaza hospitals suspend prisoner swap talks

Monitoring Desk
GAZA STRIP: Amid Israeli bombardment, two major hospitals in northern Gaza — Al Shifa and Al Quds — closed to new patients on Sunday, with staff saying that a lack of fuel and medicine meant those already being treated could die.

Hospitals in the north of the besieged Palestinian enclave are blocked by Israeli forces and barely able to care for those inside, medical staff said.

Intense fighting raged around Al Shifa hospital where doctors said thousands of Palestinians were trapped in dire conditions. Soon after the strike, Hamas said it is suspending negotiations for exchange of prisoners because of Israel's handling of the Al Shifa Hospital, a Palestinian official told Reuters.

Fears have intensified for patients and people taking refuge in Al-Shifa and other healthcare facilities in Gaza, and medical aid group Doctors Without Borders warned that without a ceasefire or evacuation the hospital "will become a morgue."

Other buildings serving as shelters have also been hit, including a strike on a UN compound in Gaza City that the United Nations Development Programme said caused "a significant number of deaths and injuries."

US and South Korea sharpen deterrence plans over North Korean nuclear threat

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: The United States and South Korea on Monday updated a bilateral security agreement with the aim of more effectively countering North Korea's evolving nuclear and missile threats.

The move followed high-level military talks in Seoul, where the allies also discussed enhancing three-way defense exercises with Japan and improving information-sharing on North Korean missile launches.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin was in Seoul for annual security talks with South Korean military officials, including Defense Minister Shin Won-sik, which were focused on boosting nuclear deterrence against North Korea. They also talked about how the allies could coordinate over broader geopolitical issues, including Russia's war on Ukraine and China's regional assertiveness, Austin said.

Tensions between the Koreas are at their highest point in years as the pace of both North Korea's weapons tests and South Korea's combined military exercises with the United States have intensified in a cycle of tit-for-tat.



U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, right, and his South Korean counterpart Shin Won-sik shake hands for a photo during a signing ceremony of the 55th Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) at the defense ministry, in Seoul, South Korea.



People try to douse a fire inside a bus allegedly torched by protesters during a nationwide transport blockade called by an opposition party, in Dhaka.

Bangladesh unrest leaves another garment worker dead

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Hundreds of Bangladeshi garment workers rallied on Sunday, demanding fair wages after dismissing a pay offer as too small, as the death toll from the violent protests rose to four.

Jalaluddin, 42, a garment worker who was injured in clashes with officers earlier this month in Gazipur, north of the capital Dhaka, died from his injuries. His death takes the number killed in the protests to four, according to police officials.

"He died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He was injured during a protest several days ago," said police inspector Bacchu Mia. Jalal's brother-in-law Rezaul Karim told reporters he had been shot in the stomach by a shotgun, and had been brought to Dhaka for treatment.

South Asia worst in world for water scarcity: UN

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: More children in South Asia are struggling due to severe water scarcity made worse by the impacts of climate change than anywhere else worldwide, the United Nations said Monday. As of 2022, 739 million children were exposed to high or extremely high water scarcity, with 436m children mostly in low- and middle-income countries — living in areas of "high or extremely high water vulnerability."

The term is defined as a combination of high or very high water scarcity and low or very low drinking water service levels. Extreme water vulnerability is one of the key drivers of deaths among children under 5 from preventable diseases, the Unicef report stated. The most impacted regions are countries in the Middle East and North Africa and South Asia regions. The eight-nation region of South Asia is home to more than one-quarter of the world's children. Climate change is a key driver in water scarcity, leaving an additional 35 million children vulnerable to water stress by 2050.

UK PM Sunak sacks interior minister Suella Braverman over comments on pro-Palestine protests

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak sacked his interior minister Suella Braverman on Monday after her criticism of the police's handling of a pro-Palestinian march divided his party and threatened his authority. Under fire from opposition lawmakers and members of the governing Conservative Party to eject Braverman, Sunak seemed to have brought forward a long-planned reshuffle to bring in allies and remove ministers he felt were not performing. Following her dismissal, Braverman said "it

has been the greatest privilege of my life to serve as home secretary." "I will have more to say in due course," she added. Last week, Braverman defied Sunak by publishing an article accusing the police of adopting "double standards" in its treatment of protests — an argument opposition Labour said inflamed tensions at a pro-Palestinian demonstration on Saturday. Then more than 140 people were arrested after far-right counter protesters skirmished with police, who tried to keep them away from the 300,000 pro-Palestinian marchers.

US conducts airstrikes against Iran-backed groups in Syria, retaliating for attacks on US troops

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The U.S. military conducted airstrikes on two locations in eastern Syria involving Iranian-backed groups, hitting a training location and a weapons facility, according to the Pentagon and U.S. officials. It marks the third time in a bit more than two weeks that the U.S. has retaliated against the militants for what has been a growing number of attacks on bases housing U.S. troops in Iraq and Syria.

Argentina's presidential rivals clash in key voter battlegrounds

Monitoring Desk
BUENOS AIRES: As Argentines prepare to elect a new president, the two hopefuls vying for the keys to the Casa Rosada palace are focusing on undecided voters in key battlegrounds, with campaign pushes around capital Buenos Aires and central Cordoba province that could tip the balance in a tight race. Center-left Peronist economy chief Sergio Massa faces libertarian outsider Javier Milei in the Nov 19 vote, with polls suggesting a likely photo finish. Two wildly different visions for South

America's no 2 economy are on offer. Milei offers potentially painful shock therapy for the embattled country that has run out of foreign currency reserves, has inflation over 100% and is set for a recession. Pragmatist Massa is pledging a unity government and more gradual change to solve the crisis that has worsened on his watch. "People want to know who is the least bad of the two," said 31-year-old psychologist Fatima Gonzalez from the populous Buenos Aires province around the capital of the same name.

Privilege motions against President NBP, DG CAA referred to committee

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Monday referred a privilege motion lodged by Independent Senator Naseebullah Bazai against the President of the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges.

Senator Bazai, who heads a sub-committee addressing NBP employee issues, visited the bank's head office along with two other committee members.

He called for the removal of the NBP president, alleging a lack of respect for members of the Senate.

Other committee members including Senators Tahir Bizenjo (NP) and Shafiq Tareen (PKMAP)

also criticized the NBP head's behavior, advocating against assigning important portfolios to individuals with such attitudes.

Leader of the House, Senator Ishaq Dar, condemned the NBP head's conduct and suggested summoning officers to Parliament in the future with a proper mechanism in place.

Other senators, including Senator Kamal Ali Agha, also supported taking appropriate action against the NBP head and making him an example.

Minister for Interior Sarfraz Bugti emphasized the supremacy of Parliament and expressed the intention to raise the issue with the Prime Minister personally.

Chairman Senate, Sadiq Sanjrani referred the motion to the committee.

He instructed the Senate Secretary to send the motion to the Principal Secretary of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Finance for action against the official.

Another privilege motion against Director General Civil Aviation Authority regarding his misconduct with Senators Saleem Mandviwala and Faisal Saleem Rehman and Syed Muhammad Sabir Shah was also referred to the committee. A privilege motion of PPP Senator Taj Haider against misconduct of police official with him was also referred to the committee.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani in a meeting with the delegation of Parliamentary Reporters Association (PRA) at Parliament House.

CDA initiates studies for recycling of Solid Waste

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has initiated studies for recycling and disposal of the Capital's Solid Waste intending to reduce environmental pollution which is posing a threat to the health of the general public.

"The detail of studies included waste characterization studies, waste generation studies, situational analysis report, municipal solid waste (MSW) collection, haulage, treatment and disposal, rapid assessment report of landfill sites Islamabad and commu-

nication and behaviour change strategy," an official told APP. The Urban Unit Lahore carried out studies during the period from January to March 2023 with a total cost of Rs. 21.926175 million. However, this is an unfortunate fact that CDA has been unable to develop an international system for solid waste disposal, in the capital owing to land availability and legal issues.

The authority is working on developing a system whereby it will be initiating a mechanism of solid waste minimization, reuse, segregation at source

and recycling of waste keeping in view the standards for optimum disposal using the method of landfilling. These activities will take an approximate time of one year.

It is also pertinent to mention here that CDA launched a pilot project to segregate solid waste last year to reduce environmental pollution and use items for recycling on a commercial basis.

It is a critical requirement since it enables recycling, reuse, treatment, and scientific disposal of different components of waste.

Delegation of students from University of Faisalabad visits Safe City Islamabad

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: According to the details, following the special directives of the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the SSP Safe City welcomed the delegation of University of Faisalabad students, a public relations officer said.

He said that the delegation visits the command and control center, the data hub unit, modern technology-equipped cameras, and the Police operations center hall. They were fully briefed about the procedures and advantages of this project.

Furthermore, the student delegation was in-

formed that Safe City Islamabad is playing a significant role in various departments through modern techniques, including the Police Operations Center, Emergency Control Center, Data Hub Unit, Dispatch Control Center, E-Challan System, and the "Pucar-15" helpline.

The delegation was also apprised of the functionality and benefits of the Safe City cameras in the city. The modern cameras of Safe City are playing a crucial role in ensuring the safety of the city and preventing crimes and safeguarding the lives and property of citizens. 42% of crimes are resolved through the Safe City Command and Control Center.

Face recognition cameras have been installed at the entry and exit points of the city which are playing an important role in identifying suspicious elements, he maintained.



formed that Safe City Islamabad is playing a significant role in various departments through modern techniques, including the Police Operations Center, Emergency Control Center, Data Hub Unit, Dispatch Control Center, E-Challan

The delegation acknowledged the modern technical system of the Islamabad Capital Police and its benefits. The delegation expressed special gratitude to ICCPO Dr Akbar Nasir Khan and his team for this successful visit.

Without paying compensation SC imposes Rs 1 million fine on Punjab govt for constructing road

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has imposed fine amounting to Rs 10 lac on Punjab government for building road without paying compensation to owner of 9 marla land.

The court has directed the amount of penalty be also paid to the owner of land.

The court ordered government of Punjab to pay compensation to owner of land within 30 days as per current rate.

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa took up the case for hearing Monday.

On frivolous litigation the CJP Qazi Faez Isa expressed resentment with Additional Advocate Gen-

eral (AAG) Punjab Baligh uz Zaman.

The CJP while moving to AAG Punjab remarked the petitioner had not gifted land to government nor did the government acquire land as per law. What is duty of AAG. How such frivolous application was filed. Why did you file petition of such frivolous case in SC.

The CJP inquired how did the government build road on some one's land without permission and without paying compensation. Are we left with only this job that we should keep on teaching constitution to advocate generals. As to why we should not slap fine on you for such frivolous litigation.



CHARSADDA: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar offering Fatiha at the residence of late caretaker Chief Minister KP Azam Khan.

Zaidong highlights far-reaching impact of Chinese organizational practices on developing nations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong on Monday highlighted the far-reaching impact of Chinese organizational practices on developing nations, catalyzing their robust development. Addressing an event in the framework of the "Dosti Park Club" with the theme of Chinese modernization and diplomacy, the ambassador highlighted the significance of the practices in instilling hope and confidence, especially among countries aspiring to a shared future.

Reflecting on President Xi Jinping's eight ma-

ior steps unveiled during the Belt and Road Forum, Ambassador Zaidong asserted that the steps offered new opportunities for involved countries. He lauded China's accomplishments under President Xi's leadership, particularly the noteworthy achievement of lifting 800 million people out of poverty, surpassing the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals by a decade.

As regards the ongoing discussions on China's modernization, Ambassador Zaidong reiterated his nation's commitment to achieving the common

prosperity of all Chinese citizens and improving the lives of ordinary people. Shifting focus to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the ambassador highlighted its early harvest, citing impressive figures such as \$25.4 billion in direct investment and jobs creation for 236,000 individuals.

Highlighting CPEC's impact on infrastructure development, he noted the completion of 510 kilometers of highways, and build 886 kilometers of national core transmission grid, and 8,020 megawatts of electricity projects.

Caretaker govt's authority excludes extensions, appointments, Kamran

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan (JUIP) Senator Kamran Murtaza on Monday voiced strong opinions regarding the limitations of the caretaker government's authority, asserting that extensions or significant appointments did not fall within its purview.

Senator Murtaza emphasized that Section 230 of the Election Act, 2017 explicitly restricted the caretaker setup from making any major appointments or extensions.

During the session, he also addressed the establishment of a separate min-

istry dedicated to handling affairs related to the minerals of Balochistan.

Expressing his reservations, he questioned the justification behind such a move, calling for transparency and accountability in the decision-making process. On a separate note, the senator raised concerns about the recent abduction and subsequent recovery of Naseeb Ullah Achakzai.

He urged the authorities to enhance law and order in Balochistan, emphasizing the need for improved security measures to safeguard the well-being of citizens.

PM visits late Azam Khan's residence, condoles with his family

CHARSADDA (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday visited the residence of deceased former Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Azam Khan in Parang to condole with his family members. He offered his heartfelt condolence to the sons of the deceased, Behram Azam Khan and Sikandar Azam Khan.

The prime minister offered fatha and prayed for the departed soul to rest in eternal peace and elevation of ranks in paradise.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan visited the Regional Training Institute of Health.

Vandalism case: Court returns Asad's exemption plea with objection

ISLAMABAD (Online): District and Sessions Court Islamabad has returned Asad Umar's exemption from attendance plea with objection in vandalism case.

The case registered against Asad Umar in police station Secretariat came up for hearing before District and Sessions court Islamabad Monday.

Duty Judge Muhammad Sohail conducted the hearing of the case being Additional Sessions Judge Abdul Ghafoor on leave. Amna Ali, counsel for Asad Umar appeared in the court.

During the hearing of bail before arrest plea duty judge inquired where is Asad Umar sahb.

Nadeem visits regional training institute of health

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan Monday visited the Regional Training Institute of Health and received briefing and inspected the attendance sheet.

He expressed displeasure over the absence of the Vice Principal.

He directed to issue explanatory letter on his continuous absence.

3-day expo on Seerat-e-Tayyaba concludes

ISLAMABAD (APP): A three-day educational 'Seerat-e-Tayyaba Expo' concluded in the Federal Capital on Monday, highlighting the importance of being fully aware and guided by the biography of Holy Prophet Muhammad's (Peace Be Upon Him). Under the auspices of US International Schools at Multi Garden B-17, the expo was held at PIPS Schools B-17 Campus Islamabad from November 11 to 13.

A large number of people from various strata of the society, including teachers, students, parents, and political, social and academic personalities from different cities, including Rawalpindi and Islamabad, visited the exhibition to show their love for the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

According to the organizers, the main objective of the exhibition was to highlight the various aspects of the Holy Prophet's life so that the people, particularly the youth, could follow his footsteps. Director of US International Schools Dr Sumira Gull said the students and the staff of different schools put in a lot of hard work of weeks to prepare research papers, models and presentations to

highlight the Holy Prophet's life and teachings. The Makki and Madani periods of the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) life, Ghazwat, Hajjatul Wida, Treaty of Hudaibiyah, Hijrat (Migration), Miraj-ul-Nabi, Ghar-e-Hira and Gha-e-Sor were particularly highlighted through presentations and research papers, she added. An important part of the exhibition was to present in a practical and visual manner the intricacies of the Prophet's blessed life through a number of unique models, Dr Sumira said.

All Pakistan Colleges and Academies Association

Chairman Rana Nasr Mahmood, at the concluding ceremony, appreciated the organizers for holding a unique exhibition, which was a good effort to make the new generation aware of the Seerat-e-Tayyaba.

He said following every aspect of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) would bring about a significant change in an individual's personal life as well as the country's development.

The characteristics like tolerance, patience, struggle, honesty, truthfulness and above all 'the fear of the Almighty' should be inculcated by all for success.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Moulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, Chairman Senate standing committee on religious affairs and inter-faith harmony and members of the committee in a meeting with a delegation of Muslim dialogue network, Norway at Parliament House.

Sea Guardian 2023 to deepen Pak-China multi-dimensional strategic partnership

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan-China Joint Naval Exercise Sea Guardian 2023 will enhance bilateral security cooperation to develop a Pak-China multi-dimensional strategic partnership and also open new avenues for future maritime cooperation against common threats in the region.

It was stated by Pakistan Navy's Commodore Asim Sohail Malik and Chinese People's Liberation Army (Navy)'s Senior Captain Qi Jian in a joint press conference held here on Monday to brief the media about objectives, contours and conduct of the exercise Sea Guardian 2023.

navies against common threats in the region," he added.

Senior Captain Qi Jian, while addressing the press conference, said that the main purpose of the exercise was to enhance bilateral security cooperation to develop a Pak-China multi-dimensional strategic partnership.

The exercise aims at enhancing the capabilities of both the Navies to jointly deal with terrorism and crime at sea and to promote efforts for a safe maritime environment and defence of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he noted adding



Commodore Asim Sohail Malik said that Pakistan and China have always enjoyed strategically unique and strong relationships and this exercise will further strengthen the decades-old and time-tested friendship of both countries. "The exercise will also open new avenues for future maritime cooperation between two friendly

that the exercise is a reiteration of commitment for further enhancing the all weather and time tested friendship of both the countries. Frontline Destroyer, Frigates, Helicopters, Rescue Ship, Submarines and Special Forces from the Pakistan Navy and Peoples Liberation Army (Navy) are participating in this exercise, they informed.

ECP adjourns hearing of contempt of EC case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EC) has adjourned hearing of contempt of EC case against PTI chairman Imran Khan, Fawad Chaudhry and Asad Umar till December 6.

Interior secretary presented written report for not presenting Imran Khan before EC.

A four members bench of EC presided over by Member Nisar Durrani heard the contempt of EC case against Imran Khan, Asad Umar and Fawad Chaudhry on Monday.

Interior secretary Aftab Durrani appeared in EC. Junior lawyer of

chairman PTI also appeared in EC.

He told EC counsel for chairman PTI is engaged in Supreme Court. We request for adjournment of the case or hearing be adjourned for some time.

Member commission said if counsel has to come then all right because we have too to hear delimitation of constituencies.

Member commission said if there are security concerns then we can notify hearing in jail.

Interior secretary said if you want to go to jail then you can notify. We allow that hearing be held in jail.

Violation of section 144: Court accepts exemption from attendance plea of Fawad Chaudhry

ISLAMABAD (Online): Local court of Islamabad has accepted exemption from attendance plea of former minister Fawad Chaudhry in the case of violation of section 144.

The bail petition of Fawad Chaudhry in violation of section 144 case came up for hearing before Additional sessions judge Tahir Abbas Sipra of District and Sessions court.

Advocate Qamar Inayat counsel for Fawad

Chaudhry appeared before court.

The exemption plea of former federal minister was presented in the court.

It was said in bail plea Fawad Chaudhry is in jail on judicial remand, therefore he cannot appear in the court.

The court while accepting exemption from attendance in court plea of Fawad Chaudhry adjourned the hearing of the case till November 23.



ISLAMABAD: Senior Photo Journalist of Online News Network Sultan Bashir receiving certificate from Caretaker Federal Minister for Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah on his best media service and coverage of annual Lok Mela 2023.

Zong 4G celebrates success of Lok Mela

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecommunications company is playing a pivotal role in fostering cultural unity and celebrating Pakistan's rich heritage.

Embracing the theme of "Peace and Harmony through Cultural Diversity," Zong 4G actively contributed to the immersive experience of Lok Mela 2023. Lok Mela served as a unifying platform for artisans, performers, and culture enthusiasts nationwide.

The 10-day event started on November 2 and encompassed diverse activities, including folk music and dance presentations,

demonstrations of traditional crafts, culinary exhibitions, and more.

Zong 4G expresses its appreciation to the organizers for orchestrating an immersive experience that effectively showcased the rich cultural tapestry of Pakistan.

Zong 4G demonstrated a steadfast commitment to fostering cultural unity, emphasizing the festival's reflection of Pakistan's multifaceted traditions.

The company took pride in showcasing the unique tapestry of Pakistan, underlining its dedication to celebrating the nation's diverse cultural heritage.