

Independent

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PM sees killing of Palestinian children as 'holocaust'

Says govt committed to ensure children's inclusive development, safety, education & health

ISLAMABAD (INP): Interim Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar says a professional army never targets civilians and children, expressing deep concern over the tragic events evolving in Gaza, particularly the "holocaust" of Palestinian children.

During his address at the launch of "Zara Alert App" in Islamabad, PM Kakar reiterated the government's commitment to safeguarding children's rights. He urged all segments of society to actively contribute to the improvement of children's well-being, emphasising the government's continuous efforts towards their welfare.

Highlighting the importance of children as the future's assets, Kakar stated that the implementation of the app would play a crucial role in safeguarding their rights.

He condemned the ongoing massacre of children in Gaza, stressing that the killing of innocent children by the Israeli army reflected a severe violation of international laws and human rights.

Expressing deep concern over the plight of Gaza's children, the interim prime minister urged an immediate halt to the holocaust.

He stressed the need to view the situation in Gaza through the lens of human rights rather than religious colours, predicting that the ongoing crisis in Palestine could become a crucial factor in future conflicts.

APP adds: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday said the government was determined to ensure inclusive development, education, healthcare, participation, dignity and security for "all our children, as envisaged in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child".

He said the children were the most precious asset of any nation and the sole guarantee for its future prosperity.

Addressing an event in connection with the Universal Children's Day, the prime minister said the government was fully devoted to the well-being and safety of the children.

The government and non-government organizations and the society as a whole should contribute towards the noble cause of safeguarding the children rights and to make their future safe and prosperous, he added.



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar launches ZARRA mobile app on the eve of Universal Children's Day



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with a delegation of children representing four provinces, as well as, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir nominated by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President says Pakistan committed to taking steps for rights, well-being of children

ISLAMABAD (Online): A delegation of Children nominated by UNICEF met with President Arif Alvi in regard of International Children's Day.

In the meeting, the delegation also shed light on various problems and challenges faced by children.

President Dr. Arif Alvi said that Pakistan is determined to take steps for the rights and welfare of children. Steps are being taken to equip children with education, skills and training. There is need to provide comprehensive education to special children in regular schools.

President further said that equipping special children with skills will help them get employment. Children asked President various questions about climate change, girl education, special children and other challenges they face. Children told President about their experiences in the meeting.

Children emphasized the need for measures to provide a productive environment to grow and flourish in life. Later, children also attended a hearing conducted by President in a case related to banking sector.

The children's delegation was representing children from all four provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The delegation was led by 16-year-old Taqwa Ahmad, UNICEF's first youth advocate in Pakistan.

Nawaz Sharif allowed to record statement in Toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Accountability Court (AC) while accepting the plea for recording Nawaz Sharif statement in Toshakhana vehicles reference has adjourned the hearing of the case till November 30.

Judge Muhammad Bashir of AC took up the Toshakhana case against Nawaz Sharif, Asif Ali Zardari and others for hearing Monday.

The pleaders of Asif Ali Zardari, Khawaja Abdul Ghani Majeed, Anwar Majeed and Yousuf Raza Gillani appeared in the court. The court marked the

Free, transparent election to resolve country's problems: Bilawal

NEWSHERA (APP): Chairman, Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari here Monday said that a free, fair and transparent election would resolve all the country's problems.

Addressing a big party workers convention here, Bilawal Bhutto expressed the hope that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) would ensure a free and transparent election. He said that PPP after winning elections would address problems of the shabby economy, unemployment and poverty. Bilawal said his party would come into power

Free, transparent election to resolve country's problems: Bilawal

with power of votes. He said that his party has empowered farmers, labourers and poor women through different projects including Benazir Income Support Programme. Bilawal praised the KP people's sacrifices in the fight against terrorism, saying the complete elimination of terrorism was a must for the progress and prosperity of Pakistan. He said that democracy could only strengthen with democratic values and political tolerance rather than creating division and hatred in society.

Sarfaraz Bugti says Govt wants to solve Chaman sit-in issue through negotiations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti on Monday said that the government wanted to solve the Chaman sit-in issue through negotiations.

Responding to concerns raised by senators regarding the sit-in staged by local residents and businessmen against the recently implemented border regulations, the minister said, "We held a detailed discussion with the representatives of the sit-in, and our preference is to resolve the issue through negotiations."

The minister said that it was not possible to allow around 40,000 people to the cross border daily without proper travel documents.

The government wanted to implement a unified document regime in line with previous practices, he added.

Bugti said the Afghan nationals would only be permitted to enter Pakistan through legal documents. The minister outlined plans to regularize borders with Afghanistan, similar to the Torkham and Wagah borders, emphasizing the government's commitment to treating all borders equally.

He said that it was not possible for the government to allow foreigners to travel and establish businesses anywhere in Pakistan without following proper procedures. Earlier, senators had drawn attention to the sit-in issue at Chaman by local residents and businessmen, expressing concerns about its potential adverse impact on the livelihoods of nearly 40,000 people who rely on daily border crossings.

The senators called for an urgent solution that effectively balances security concerns with the economic well-being of the affected population.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti chairing a meeting of ministerial committee on enforced disappearances.

A terrorist killed as police, FC repulse attack

TANK (APP): A terrorist was killed as police and Frontier Crops (FC) repulsed a terrorist attack on a check post within the limits of Gomal Police Station here Sunday night.

According to a police spokesman, militants stormed the Kot Azam post within the limits of the Gomal police station with heavy weapons late Sunday night, but the attack was foiled as valiant police and FC jawans promptly responded, forcing the militants to flee.

After the attack, a search was conducted during which the body of a terrorist was found with a M4 rifle, eight magazines and one walkie-talkie set.

He said that all the police and FC personnel stationed at the post remained safe.

Rs 40 billion recovered in six-week of anti-power theft campaign: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Power and Petroleum, Muhammad Ali on Monday said the recovery of approximately Rs 40 billion had been actualized over the past six weeks during the current campaign against power theft.

Responding to a motion under 218 in Senate regarding the rise in the electricity and gas tariffs, he said that around Rs 40 billion had been recovered during the last one and half month directly or indirectly. The motion was initiated by JI Senator Mushtaq Ahmed.

The minister acknowledged the reduction in line losses and a higher recovery ratio during this period. Affirming higher electricity rates than neighboring countries, he attributed this to past contracts, line losses, and unpaid bills. Despite these challenges, he emphasized the effectiveness of the aggressive anti-power theft campaign in mitigating losses.

The minister also discussed the lack of investment in electricity distribution and transmission, and the country's total transmission capacity of 26,000 MW, and the quarterly adjustments of electricity prices based on fuel costs.

PM designates parliamentary affairs minister to look after non-assigned ministry portfolios

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Prime Minister has designated the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs to look after parliamentary business pertaining to Senate, in respect of ministries, divisions and offices whose portfolio rest with the prime minister, the PM Office said Monday.

The parliamentary affairs minister has been designated as the Minister-In-charge.

An office order of the Prime Minister's Office with subject "Conduct of parliamentary business in the Senate" also mentioned the list of ministries and divisions which have not been assigned ministers and thus their portfolios rest with the prime minister.

These offices include the President's Secretariat, Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Secretariat, National Security Division, Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division, Housing & Works Division, Inter Provincial Coordination Division, Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Division, and the States and Frontier Regions Division.

Policy decisions on major issues, mandate of an elected govt: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Monday said that it was the mandate of an elected government to make policy decisions on major national issues.

Responding to a motion suggesting that State Bank take steps to demonetize Rs 5000 currency note, as a reason of inflation and corruption, he said: "Can the government, with limited duration and powers, should make policy decisions? It would be appropriate if we wait for the next parliament to decide on the

issue." He called for a comprehensive debate on the important issue in the presence of the caretaker Finance Minister.

The minister said Rs 5000 current notes were issued in May 2006, and currently, around 905 million currency notes of Rs 4525 billion were in circulation in the country. Solangi clarified that the State Bank of Pakistan issued or discontinued currency notes as per the State Bank Act. He also said that during the tenure of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government, the SBP had been granted more autonomy.

'Campaign against me an attack on judiciary': Justice Mazhar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Justice Mazhar Ali Naqvi Monday has challenged the proceedings of the complaint against the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC).

He pleaded that disclosed assets cannot be the basis of action against the judge and prayed there was never any notice of his assets from the tax authorities. "The campaign against me is an attack on the judiciary," Justice Mazhar Naqvi said. He said SJC sent notice of further proceedings without fixing the objections and SJC's October 27 press release is a violation of fundamental rights.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani in a meeting with the delegation of Pakistan Humanitarian Forum at Parliament House.

Sanjrani discusses collaborative initiatives with humanitarian orgs. for betterment of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation from the Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF) held a meeting with Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at the Parliament House to discuss various critical issues concerning the underprivileged regions of Pakistan.

The meeting focused on addressing challenges in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and remote areas of Punjab and Sindh.

The delegation comprising PHF Country Director Asif Shirazi, IRC Committee's Country Director Shabnam Baloch, and other key representatives, it engaged in talks regarding the enhancement of public welfare in Chagai, Balochistan, and expedited rehabilitation efforts for flood-affected communities in remote areas of Balochistan.

Recognizing the indispensable contributions of PHF and associated organizations, the Chairman Senate emphasized the urgent need for collaborative efforts

to tackle pressing issues encompassing health, education, poverty, climate change, and natural disasters. Expressing the Senate's unwavering commitment to support initiatives aimed at uplifting the marginalized segments of society, Sadiq Sanjrani hailed the invaluable role of these organizations in serving humanity with dedication. Moreover, the meeting witnessed discussions on legislation proposals facilitating an enabling environment for local and international NGOs, fostering greater cooperation in the education and healthcare sectors.

Later, a delegation from Quid-i-Azam Trust UK, led by its Chairman Raja Ishtiaq also held a separate meeting with the Chairman Senate and underscored the pivotal role of overseas Pakistanis as significant assets to the nation's growth and encouraged their active participation in the investment landscape.

Senate terms quality education as fundamental right of every child

ISLAMABAD (INP): To promote literacy among the children in the country, the Senate on Monday adopted a unanimous resolution, seeking urgent steps and initiatives by the government.

Moved by Senator Sana Jamali, the resolution highlighted the fundamental right of every child to access quality education, emphasizing the need for gender-neutral, geographically inclusive, and socioeconomically equitable educational opportunities. The resolution asked the government to take effective steps to promote the literacy for children and youth in general and girls in particular across the country, and also strengthen the non-formal education (NFE) system on an urgent basis to deliver the programmes.



NAUSHERA: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing to workers convention in City.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Familiar message

Only the state has a monopoly on the use of force, while armed action by non-state actors is out of the question. Moreover, intolerant behaviour against minorities and other disadvantaged groups cannot be countenanced, while religious, sectarian and linguistic differences need to be overcome. This was the gist of the message the army chief gave to an assemblage of divines who had gathered at GHQ on Friday. The COAS also reiterated the salient features of the 2018 Paigham-i-Pakistan fatwa that over 1,800 clerics belonging to all confessional backgrounds had endorsed to shun militancy and extremism. It is assumed the conclave was arranged in the context of the rising terrorist violence across Pakistan, in which large numbers of security personnel, as well as civilians, have been martyred. It is hard to disagree with the message of this meeting, and it needs to be amplified further.

However, it appears that the army chief was preaching to the converted. Pro-state ulama are not the problem; extremist preachers who wish to dismantle the state and replace it with their own polity are the main hurdles to peace.

Along with kinetic operations, it is the facilitators of militancy in Pakistan who must be confronted. For example, amongst the sectarian groups and hard-right outfits in the country, many are sympathetic to the aims of terrorist groups like the TTP and IS-K.

Yet these outfits remain active, free to organise and operate. While sectarian death squads that were very active up till a decade ago may have been neutralised by the state, their political and ideological supporters remain free to preach their toxic views.

Hence the establishment's wish to deradicalise the nation will remain unfulfilled as long as these elements are operating at will. Secondly, a catharsis is needed within the establishment. For decades, the state encouraged jihadi actors, firstly in Afghanistan and then held Kashmir.

Changed geopolitical realities, and the fact that many of these groups went rogue and brought their battle to Pakistan, forced a U-turn, first during the Musharraf era, and then again after the APS Peshawar atrocity. Therefore, the establishment needs to acknowledge that mistakes were made when it supported jihadi actors, and learn from its errors.

Yet beyond the kinetic, legal and administrative actions against extremism, the underlying factors that fuel militancy must also be examined. While there have been numerous cases of 'educated' militants, it is mostly the dispossessed and the disadvantaged that become cannon fodder for terrorist groups. When an uncaring, distant state does nothing for their welfare, many feel that religious militancy is the only solution. Therefore, were the state to ensure rights, education, jobs and above all respect to deprived segments, it could go a long way in quelling militancy.

Decorating Karachi



Dr Noman Ahmed

In a recent meeting, Sindh's caretaker chief minister expressed his resolve to 'beautify' Karachi. Addressing bureaucrats, heads of civic agencies and architects, he spoke about the poor state of the entrance to the city from the airport. It is important to note that the so-called beautification has come about on many occasions with almost negligible results. Despite spending hundreds of millions of rupees, no enhancement in the aesthetics of the urban built environment could be achieved. These attempts should be reviewed in an objective and dispassionate manner before moving ahead with interventions also likely to meet with failure.

During Farooq Sattar's tenure as mayor, the Karachi Beautification Committee, comprising municipal managers, civil society members and architects, was created. One of its tasks was to conduct design competitions for traffic roundabouts — thematic and general monuments were to be crafted for an artistic environment. As a result, dozens of structures were built, but with the exception of a few such as Allah Wali Chowranghi at the Tariq Road and Shahrah-i-Quaideen intersection, most were eyesores wrapped in concrete and steel. A conspicuous flaw was the absence of trees and foliage. Experts say Karachi was nicer without them. In contrast, the simple yet pleasing New M.A. Jinnah Road roundabout is worth emulating; lined with appropriately spaced palm trees it's a precious piece of urban

landscaping.

Another attempt was made during Niamatullah Khan's term. Many municipal agencies were merged to form the now defunct City District Government Karachi. Parks and playgrounds in various localities were among CDGK's feats: some 300 parks were renovated, 24 model parks were developed in different neighbourhoods, including Gulshan-i-Iqbal, North Nazimabad, F.B. Area, Metroville-1 and Nazimabad, and older large-scale parks, such as the Safari Park and Zoological Gardens, were restored considerably.

Positive land-use conversion of the old Sabzi Mandi into a park with executive assistance from military authorities was a step in the right direction. I.I. Chundrigar Road was also revamped by a committee led by the State Bank governor, but the move made little impact due to limited support from powerful stakeholders for this crucial artery.

More recently, in July 2023, a face-lift of Sharea Faisal was announced; with a hefty budget of Rs195.71m, the project aims to improve facilities for pedestrians, landscaping and installation of artistic works along the Metropole Hotel-Jinnah terminal corridor. A wall is being constructed at Moria Khan Goth and another Gaza-like façade is under consideration. Perhaps, the wall's purpose is to 'hide' the mundane and provide a pleasing impression to those entering Karachi from the airport.

Meanwhile, locals are struggling to convey to city authorities that the wall will ruin business and retail activities as it will sever the visual connection between shops and customers. One hopes that good sense prevails and a tree-clad metallic fence is installed at this junction. Also, numerous over-

head pedestrian bridges are in a shambles and the absence of railings and balustrades makes them perilous for users. Concerned agencies must repair them before an accident occurs.

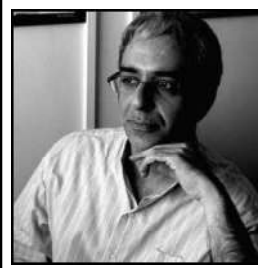
Another variety of bizarre structures built in the name of beautification are the mighty gate complexes found at the entrances of gated communities, defence establishments, universities and educational institutions. Cheap copies of existing monuments in distorted proportions abound; for instance, Bab-i-Khyber is possible in Karachi instead of KP. A dubious real estate developer along the M-9 Motorway is marked by a giant gated complex created to display the financial strength and political clout of the developer.

If our chief minister cares for Karachi, he should expedite the process of preparing the Greater Karachi Region Plan 2047. The process began during the previous government but is facing snags. It must be an appropriate plan that can tackle the aesthetic challenges and offer a range of solutions, incorporate the feedback of beneficiaries and affectees of all developmental works, and be a binding statute.

An empowered and independent urban planning agency should be established to implement it as the present situation of Karachi's management is proof of essential prerequisites being a long way away. These challenges are not insurmountable with the induction of competent planners, architects, engineers, demographers, sociologists, cartographers, IT specialists, field surveyors and others in the proposed agency. The capacity to take on these assignments can be shored up.

-- Courtesy Dawn

South remembers



Zarrar Khuhro

In the world of WhatsApp, Muslim and Arab countries have taken a serious stance against Israel. In that little chamber — isolated from fact, reason and logic — the emir of Qatar has threatened to cut off global LNG supplies if the West keeps supporting Israel the way it always has and likely always will.

More recently, Turkish President Erdogan sent a medical task force, accompanied by a special forces unit and dared the Israelis to shoot at them.

Nothing of this sort actually happened, or is likely to happen outside the world of WhatsApp. In the real world, Saudi Arabia is annoyed the screams from Gaza are interfering with its ongoing coming out party, while the UAE — which spearheaded normalisation with Israel — is pretending nothing is happening.

Iran, for all its bluster, reportedly isn't happy with Hamas taking such action on its own, and as far as Jordan and Egypt go, the less said the better. That leaves Turkey which, despite Erdogan's rhetoric, hasn't yet taken anything that even remotely resembles concrete action.

Instead, we see that states further physically removed from the theatre of murder have shown greater moral fibre: Belgium openly condemned Israel's collective punishment of the Palestinians, while also expressing support for the International Criminal Court's role and its ongoing investigation into the Palestine crisis.

Norway's parliament has called on its govern-

ment to be ready to recognise a Palestinian state, and Spain's lone Belarra, minister for social rights and leader of the leftist Podemos party, has not only called for an end to the genocide but also for Spain to end all diplomatic ties with Israel.

But the strongest response so far has come from Latin and South American states: Bolivia has cut ties with Israel while Chile, Colombia and Honduras have withdrawn diplomats from Tel Aviv. Brazil's left-wing President Lula has said that Israel is "killing innocent people without any criteria".

Even Argentina, which hosts the largest Jewish community in South America, called Israel's attack a "violation of international humanitarian law". Meanwhile, US President Joe Biden carries on quoting 'evidence', that has long since been debunked, in support of Israel's barbarous actions.

What explains the support for the Palestinian cause in so many Latin and South American countries? The Palestinian diaspora has played a part, given that some 700,000 people of Palestinian descent live in that continent — the progeny of those expelled by Israel — with the largest contingent in Chile.

This diaspora has been politically active, has deep cultural roots, and has made common cause with indigenous groups and left-leaning political groups. The links go beyond South America. In fact, one South American activist recalls that during his exile in Germany, it was a Palestinian who taught him the German word for 'refugee'.

Another reason is that the Cold War and its legacy conditioned leftist leaders in the region to support the Palestinian cause; Fidel Castro was the first Latin American leader to snap ties with Israel.

Then there is the shared experience of being ground under the boot heels of empire, an experience that is personal for many of these leaders who have seen the US attempt to depose them and destabilise their countries — ushering in murderous right-wing regimes — in order to serve its imperial interests.

So, you may say that on one level at least it is a shared history and experience that draws them closer. Having suffered colonialism and West-backed dictatorships, the people of these countries un-derstand the Palestinian struggle.

Ideology plays a part too. In Colombia's case, it has been prioritised over strategic interests. By condemning Israel, Colombia has jeopardised its military deals with Tel Aviv, which suspended arms sales to Colombia.

However, before the 'pink tide' swept these states, the right-wing governments that had taken power had tilted towards Israel. Jair Bolsonaro was a prominent supporter of Israel, which has always been a close friend of regressive forces in South America.

Colombia's military — often accused of murder — was well armed and trained by Israel, and when in Venezuela Juan Guaidó attempted to take power in a US-backed coup, Israel was one of the few countries that recognised him as a legitimate ruler. As usual, Israel is not shy to make alliances with even the most anti-Semitic of countries, such as Alfredo Stroessner's Paraguay. A Nazi sympathiser, Stroessner made Paraguay a haven for Nazi war criminals and despite this, was courted by Israel for the simple reason that the left, with its emphasis on decolonisation and rights — was a greater threat to Israel than the Nazis. The world may have willingly forgotten, but the South remembers. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

ML-I project consistently remains on top of govt's priorities: Shahid Tarar

Pakistan, China vow to successful implementation of ML-I project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Communications, Maritime Affairs and Railways Shahid Ashraf Tarar on Monday reiterated that the Main Line-I (ML-I) project has consistently been on top of the government's priorities.

In a meeting with Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, the minister reiterated the current political will to translate these priorities into tangible on-ground developments.

"We are determined to expedite the implementation of ML-I and with the political will in place, we are poised to

transform plans into action." The discussions focused on enhancing bilateral cooperation in the realms of transport and communication, with a particular emphasis on advancing the crucial ML-I project.

During the meeting, both parties engaged in constructive dialogue on various topics of mutual interest, affirming the longstanding friendship between Pakistan and China.

Expressing admiration for the Chinese expertise and participation in the ML-I project, the minister commended the collaborative efforts

between the two countries. Jiang Zaidong highlighted the project's foundation on mutual understanding and underscored its integral role in fostering cooperation and development.

"We are fully committed to working with the Pakistani side, and our joint efforts aim to accelerate the realization of the ML-I project," he added. The meeting concluded with both parties reaffirming their dedication to the successful implementation of the ML-I project, a symbol of the enduring friendship and strategic partnership between Pakistan and China.

LCCI President appointed as board member of Punjab Council of Arts

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Kashif Anwar has been appointed as member Board of Governors of Punjab Council of Arts and an official notification has been issued in this regard.

Director General of Punjab Council of Arts, Information and Culture Department Punjab Dr. Syed Bilal Haider met Kashif Anwar at LCCI on Monday and congratulated him on his appointment.

Dr. Syed Bilal Haider said that the board of directors of Punjab Council of Arts was very important.

Chief Minister Punjab was the Chairman of the boards of governors. He stated that by taking some measures, Pakistan's arts and culture could be turned into a billion dollar industry.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Railways & Maritime Affairs Mr. Shahid Ashraf Tarar hosting a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Mr. Jiang Zaidong at the Ministry.

Pakistan exports textile products worth \$5.565 bln in 4 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan exported textile products worth \$5,565.079 million during the first four months of the current financial year (2023-24), the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

The exports of the product however witnessed a decline of 6.33 percent during July-October (2023-24) when compared to the exports of \$5,940.992 million during July-October (2022-23).

WAPDA launches project for 300 MW floating solar power generation

TARBELA (APP): The Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) Monday has embarked on a groundbreaking project aimed at producing 300 megawatts of cost-effective electricity through solar panels. A delegation from approximately 21 foreign companies keenly interested in securing contracts for the project conducted on-site inspections at the Ghazi Barotha Dam and Barotha Jail locations.

The project, set to be completed within 27

months, secured a substantial financial boost from the World Bank (WB), with a funding allocation of \$326 million. WAPDA has taken significant measures in advancing the initiative, focusing on the utilization of floating solar panels, also referred to as floating solar panels.

Detailed briefings on the project's specifics were presented by the General Manager and Project Director (PD) Tarbela Dam Zahoar Atiq, along with Waseem Raza, Chief Engineer of the Tarbela Expansion Project.

The textile commodities that witnessed positive growth in trade included raw cotton, the exports of which grew by 137.13 percent, from \$9.845 million last year to \$23.346 million this year.

Likewise, the exports of cotton yarn increased by 42.85 percent, from \$285.315 million last year to \$407.564 million this year, cotton carded or combed by 142.76 percent, from \$0.213

International trade data FPCCI supports transparency, security & monitoring: Irfan

INDEPENDENT REPORT KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has said that it is very important to establish transparency, security and monitoring mechanisms in the global trade. It creates confidence among trading nations; and, ultimately enhances bilateral, regional and multilateral trade. He was addressing the high-profile session of the International Centre for Trade Transparency & Monitoring (ICTTM) as a key speaker.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh pointed out that Pakistan needs to adopt Advanced Data Analytics & Modeling for Foreign Trade Data (ADAMfd) — which is an

ICTTM initiative — in particular these have the scope to revolutionize and influence both historical & real-time trade data to decode world-wide trading patterns. ADAMfd platform will ensure transparency, security, and efficiency in international trade operations, he added. It is pertinent to note that Pakistan's apex body, FPCCI and ICTTM have crossed a significant milestone by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) — and, this partnership underscores a shared commitment to enhance the transparency and compliance in international trade, Mr. Sheikh added.



RAWALPINDI: A vendor displaying peanuts to attract the customers at Rawat.

SCCI, Iranian diplomat agree to further strengthen Pak-Iran trade ties

PESHAWAR (APP): Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) President Fuad Ishaq and Consul General of Iran in Peshawar, Ali Banafsheh Khah have agreed to start a series of online meetings to bring Pakistan-Iran business community closer to each other and bringing duties/tariffs structure equal between Pakistan and Iran.

On the occasion, Fuad Ishaq emphasized the need to trade in local currency and sign free trade agreements with Iran,

Afghanistan and China. Consul General of Iran in Peshawar, Ali Banafsheh Khah held a meeting with President of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Fuad Ishaq here at the Chamber House, said a press release issued on Monday. On this occasion, Commercial Attaché Peshawar Consulate Hossein Maliki, Senior Vice President of the SCCI Sanaullah Khan, Vice President Ijaz Khan Afridi, Secretary General Sajjad Aziz and the translator of the Consulate of Iran were present on this occasion.



QUETTA: A school-going boy selling eggs to support his family at a roadside near Koyla Patkha.

Zeba Hai assures APTMA of removing all irritants of EFS for promoting exports

LAHORE (APP): Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Member (Customs) Ms. Zeba Hai Azhar has assured the APTMA of removing all irritants in Export Facilitate Scheme (EFS) and other customs procedures, formalities to facilitate exporters by helping them focus on how to boost exports.

She visited APTMA Lahore office-bearers on

Monday to hold an interactive session on exports and other Customs related issues. She was accompanied by Ms. Rabab Sikandar, Chief Collector Customs Lahore, Ms. Azmat Tahira, Collector Customs Lahore, Mr. Saeed Wattoo, Collector Customs Lahore, Ms. Saima Inam, Collector Customs Sialkot, Asdaq Afzal, Sensor Collector Faisalabad.

Punjab Governor says: Prosperous and sustainable future depends on modern knowledge and research

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman today attended the closing ceremony of All Punjab Universities Innovation Expo 2023 organized by the Punjab Higher Education Commission and provincial universities as a special guest at the Expo Center Lahore. Around 450 research projects were exhibited on this occasion. Chairman Punjab Higher Education Commission Dr Shahid Muneer, Chairman APSUP, Chaudhry Abdul Rahman, Vice Chancellors of Universities, Deans of various departments of the

universities, local industry owners, officials, government policy makers, students and a large number of people belonging to different walks of life were present.

Addressing the ceremony, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that organizing such an exhibition is very important for our educational institutions to understand the modern industrial and contemporary needs and to develop the talent of their students and guide them accordingly.

He said that it is very gratifying that the students have come up with new

projects and ideas, adding that this platform will foster new opportunities for them. He said that the young population is the demographic dividend of the country, and we should capitalise on it. He further said that Pakistani youth are very talented.

Governor Punjab said that in 2013-18, the funding of research grants of universities was increased. The laptop scheme yielded good results.

This reduced the digital divide and created E-employment opportunities for the youth. He said that Pakistani youth have made a name for themselves in gaming apps in the world.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman addressing the closing ceremony of All Punjab Universities Innovation Expo 2023 organized by the Punjab Higher Education Commission and provincial universities.

Naqvi approves package for families of martyred employees of all depts

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, in principle, granted approval for a relief package equivalent to that provided to police martyrs to be extended to the families of officers or employees who sacrificed their lives while serving any government department.

The CM emphasized extending a comparable aid package to injured government employees. Directing the formation of a committee led by the Additional Chief Secretary, Mohsin Naqvi tasked it with reviewing cases and formulating final recommendations.

The 13th meeting of the Cabinet Standing Committee on Finance and Development, chaired by the chief minister, addressed the financial assistance case for the family of Excise Inspector Muhammad Rafi, martyred in the line of duty, and the injured Inspector Sanaulah Bhatti.

Prompted by the incident, the CM ordered an immediate review, approving an aid

package equivalent to the police martyrs package for the family of the late Inspector Muhammad Rafi and the injured Excise Inspector Sanaulah Bhatti. Notably, Inspector Rafi lost his life, and Inspector Bhatti sustained severe injuries and disabilities due to gunfire by drug dealers in Rahim Yar

Khan. Provincial Ministers SM Tanveer, Amir Mir, and Mansoor Qadir, along with Chief Secretary, Inspector General of Police, Senior Member Board of Revenue, Chairman Planning and Development Board, and secretaries of relevant departments attended the meeting.

CM, Australian High Commissioner discuss bilateral cooperation

Independent Report
LAHORE: In a meeting held at the Chief Minister's Office, Australia's High Commissioner Mr. Neil Hawkins engaged in a productive meeting with Punjab's Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

The CM extended congratulations to the Australian High Commissioner and the people for Australia's 6th World Cup win. As a gesture, the High Commissioner presented a cricket ball signed by Australian captain Pat Cummins and Mark Taylor to the chief minister, said a handout issued here. During the conversation, the Australian High Commissioner commended Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi as a diligent and active leader, noting his continuous efforts, including visible work on parks and the upgradation of Lahore Zoo, Safari Park, and Gardens. Expressing pleasure over Naqvi's commitment, he pledged steps to provide kangaroos to Lahore Zoo and affirmed Australia's readiness to enhance cooperation with Punjab across various fields.

CM Naqvi emphasized the implementation of measures to combat smog, making masks mandatory for citizens and securing advanced technology through collaborations with friendly countries.

KP CM emphasis need for development of merged districts

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Justice (ret'd) Arshad Hussain Shah here Monday said that merged districts need special attention to its development and redressal of its deprivations.

He said that all-out efforts would be made to steer the province out of this financial crisis.

The CM said this while presiding over an important meeting regarding financial issues of the province held here at Chief Minister's House on Monday.

The meeting discussed in detail the financial issues of the

province, especially of the merged districts related to the federal government, and decided to take up those issues with the caretaker prime minister for redressal.

Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, IGP Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur, Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development Syed Imtiaz Hussain Shah, Additional Chief Secretary Home Muhammad Abid Majeed, Senior Member Board of Revenue Ikramullah Khan, Secretary Finance Aamir Sultan Tareen and other relevant officials attended the meeting.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali administered the oath from Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel as caretaker Provincial Minister at Governor House.

CS Punjab inaugurates e-Procurement System

Independent Report
LAHORE: The e-Procurement System developed by the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) in collaboration with the Federal and Provincial Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Boards, was inaugurated by Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman at Arfa Software Technology Park (ASTP) on Monday.

The system has been introduced by the Punjab government in departments to streamline the public procurement process.

The ceremony presided over by Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar

Zaman was attended by key officials and stakeholders, including SMBR Nabeel Javid, Additional Chief Secretary Ahmed Raza Sarwar, Planning & Development Secretary Mazhar Sial, PPRA Punjab MD Waqar Azim, PITB Chairman Faisal Yousaf and DG e-Governance Sajid Latif.

Addressing the ceremony, the chief secretary highlighted that the e-procurement system was a significant step toward good governance, ensuring transparency, efficiency, and time-saving in government procurements.

Smog in Punjab: LHC orders to keep all educational institutions closed till end of January

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has ordered to keep all educational institutions closed on Saturday till end of January due to smog.

Court has directed to issue notification to close schools, colleges and universities.

Justice Shahid Karim has issued a written order on the petitions filed for elimination of smog.

It is said in written order that Punjab government is taking steps regarding working from home on 2 days in the week. The word of gym closure is suspended in the notification. In the written order of the court, it is said that the meteorological department should take departmental action against officers who do not take action against smog.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Dadu are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of police, at Hyderabad press club.

A meeting of district voter education committee held

LARKANA (APP): A meeting of the District Voter Education Committee Kashmore-Kandhkot was held here on Monday, under the chairmanship of District Election Commissioner Kashmore-Kandhkot Sattar Sardar, at the election commissioner's office.

The meeting was attended among others by the Members of the district voter's education committee. Addressing the meeting, the District Election Commissioner informed the participants about the constitutional duties and responsibilities of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in the forthcoming general election-2024.

He urged all the members present to make efforts to highlight the importance of voting in their communities. At the end of the meeting, the participants appreciated the constitutional duties and responsibilities of the ECP and assured their full cooperation.

International News

China welcomes Arab and Muslim foreign ministers for talks on ending the war in Gaza

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China's top diplomat welcomed four Arab foreign ministers and the Indonesian one to Beijing on Monday, saying his country would work with "our brothers and sisters" in the Arab and Islamic world to try to end the war in Gaza as soon as possible.

The ministers from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority and Indonesia chose to start a tour of world capitals in Beijing, a testament to both China's growing geopolitical influence and its longstanding support for the Palestinians.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told the for-

ign diplomats that their decision to start in Beijing shows their high level of trust in his nation.

"China is a good friend and brother of Arab and Islamic countries," Wang said in opening remarks at a state guest house before their talks began.

"We have always firmly safeguarded the legitimate rights and interests of Arab (and) Islamic countries and have always firmly supported the just cause of the Palestinian people."

China has long backed the Palestinians and been quick to denounce Israel over its settlements in the occupied territories. It has

not criticized the initial Hamas attack on Oct. 7 — which killed about 1,200 people — while the United States and others have called it an act of terrorism. However, China does have growing economic ties with Israel.

The Saudi foreign minister, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, called for an immediate cease-fire and the entry of humanitarian aid and relief to the Gaza Strip.

"There are still dangerous developments ahead of us and an urgent humanitarian crisis that requires an international mobilization to deal with and counter it," he said.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi attends a family photo session with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi, Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad Al-Maliki and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Secretary-General Houssein.

US Defense Secretary Austin meets with Zelensky in Kyiv to show steadfast support for Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin made an unannounced visit to Kyiv on Monday in a high-profile push to keep money and weapons flowing to Ukraine even as U.S. and international resources are stretched by the new global risks raised by the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Austin, who traveled to Kyiv by train from Poland, met with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Defense Minister Rustem

Umerov and was scheduled to meet with Chief of Staff Gen. Valerii Zaluzhnyi.

In Kyiv, Austin said Ukraine's effort to defeat Russia's invasion "matters to the rest of the world" and that U.S. support would continue "for the long haul."

Zelenskyy said Austin's visit was "a very important signal for Ukraine."

"We count on your support," Zelenskyy said, thanking Congress as well as the American people for

their backing.

This is Austin's second trip to Kyiv, but he's making it under far different circumstances, as the world's attention is drawn to the Middle East and signs of fatigue set in with the almost 21-month Russia-Ukraine war.

Austin's first visit occurred in April 2022, just two months after the start of the war. At the time, Ukraine was riding a wave of global rage at Moscow's invasion.

Nearly 200 Gaza evacuees to arrive in Turkey

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Nearly 200 evacuees from Gaza are set to arrive in Turkey on Monday, including dozens of patients who will receive medical treatment there, Turkey's health minister and foreign ministry spokesman said.

Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said 61 patients, accompanied by 49 relatives, had arrived in Ankara on Monday afternoon after being brought out to Egypt on Sunday. Footage showed Koca at the Esenboga airport in Ankara greeting the people who

were taken to hospital on ambulances. "In terms of protecting human dignity, I think the steps we have taken provide a contribution, though very small," Koca told reporters at the airport. The priority for evacuations was now Gazan children, babies, and wounded civilians, he added.

Koca said last week that Ankara wanted to bring back as many as possible of nearly 1,000 cancer patients from Gaza — most of whom are former patients of a Turkish-Palestinian hospital that shut down due to Israeli attacks.

Turkish ship, 12 crew missing in storm

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: A Turkish cargo ship and its 12 crew are missing in a storm off the northwest coast of the country, Turkish authorities said on Sunday.

The Kalkamettler vessel sent out a distress signal at 10:29am, according to a subdivision of the ministry of transport, which added that it gave off its last signal off the northwestern city of Eregli. "Our efforts to contact the vessel and its crew have been unsuccessful," the General Directorate of Maritime Affairs said.

Al Shifa Hospital a 'death zone': WHO

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: A joint UN team, led by the World Health Organisation (WHO), discovered evident signs of shelling and gunfire at Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza, designating it a "death zone".

The hospital, with 24 health workers and 291 patients, including 32 critically ill infants, is no longer operational, resulting in recent patient deaths.

Due to time limits associated with the security situation, the team spent only an hour inside the hospital, describing it as a "death zone", and the situation as "desperate".

"Signs of shelling and gunfire were evident. The team saw a mass grave at the entrance of the hospital and was told that more than 80 people were buried there," said a WHO report released on Sunday.

"Patient deaths have occurred over the previous two to three days due to the shutdown of medical services," it said. "Lack of infection control measures and antibiotics has resulted in severely infected wounds, particularly in trauma patients," it added.

The report expressed deep concern, urging immediate efforts to restore functionality to Al Shifa and other hospitals.

Seoul warns North Korea not to launch spy satellite and hints 2018 military deal could be suspended

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: South Korea's military warned North Korea not to go ahead with its planned spy satellite launch, suggesting Monday that Seoul could suspend an inter-Korean agreement to reduce tensions and resume front-line aerial surveillance in response.

North Korea failed in its first two attempts to put a military spy satellite into orbit earlier this year and didn't follow through with a vow to make a third attempt in October. South Korean officials said the delay was likely because North Korea is receiving Russian technology assistance and that a launch could happen in coming days.

"Our military will come up with necessary measures to protect the lives and safety of the people, if North Korea pushes ahead with a military spy satellite launch despite our warning," a senior South Korean military officer, Kang Hopil, said in a televised statement.

South Korean Defense Minister Shin Wonsik said in an interview with public broadcaster KBS on Sunday the launch was expected later this month and that South Korea and U.S. authorities were monitoring North Korea's moves.

The U.N. Security Council bans any satellite launches by North Korea because it views them as a disguised test of its missile technology.



South Korean military officer Kang Hopil speaks at the Defense Ministry in Seoul, South Korea.

NATO's Stoltenberg concerned by secessionist rhetoric in Bosnia

Monitoring Desk
SARAJEVO: NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said on Monday the alliance was concerned by secessionist rhetoric in Bosnia, as well as by Russian influence in the country, after months of Serb leaders increasingly saying they want to split away.

Bosnia emerged from a 1992-1995 war with a federal structure uniting a Serb-dominated republic with a federation of Croats and Bosniak Muslims. The leader of Serbian entity, Milorad Dodik, has increasingly said in recent months that he aims to secede and

join neighbouring Serbia. "We are concerned by secessionist and divisive rhetoric as well as foreign interference including Russia," Stoltenberg told reporters in Sarajevo, his first stop during a tour of the Western Balkans region. "This undermines the stability and hampers reform," Stoltenberg said, adding that all political leaders must work to preserve unity, build national institutions and achieve reconciliation. Nearly three decades after the war that claimed 100,000 lives, the deadliest of the wars that followed the breakup of Yugoslavia in the 1990s.

Kremlin notes Argentina President-elect Milei's comments on Russia, but hopes for good ties

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: The Kremlin said on Monday it had taken note of statements about Russia from Argentina's President-elect Javier Milei who has said he wants to pull back from relations with Moscow, but still hoped the two countries could maintain strong ties.

Milei, a right-wing libertarian who on Sunday won almost 56% of the vote in the election's second round, has previously said he would retreat from ties with countries including Russia, China and Brazil, citing disagreement with their governments' policies.

Milei has also expressed support for Ukraine in its conflict with Russia and has said he sees the United States and Israel as Argentina's main partners.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi chairing the 49th Special meeting of the senate of Federal Urdu University of Arts, Sciences and Technology (FUUAST), at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President for improving Federal Urdu University's affairs

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Dr Arif Alvi has urged all the stakeholders and members of the Senate of the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Sciences and Technology (FUUAST) to work for improving the university's affairs to restore it to its iconic position. He deplored that Senate meetings of the university could not be held on a regular basis and emphasized the need for filling up important positions to make

timely decisions.

The President expressed these views while chairing the 49th Special Meeting of the Senate of Federal Urdu University of Arts, Sciences and Technology (FUUAST), at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, the Executive Director of the Higher Education Commission (HEC),

and other Senate members of FUUAST.

The Senate approved the appointment of Prof. Dr Rubina Mushtaq as the Acting Vice-Chancellor of FUAAS. The meeting also discussed the formation of a Search Committee for the appointment of a regular Vice Chancellor of FUAAS and it was agreed to complete the process of appointment within 60 days.

The meeting also

agreed that keeping in view the provisions of the FUUAST Ordinance, the President of Anjuman Taraqqi-e-Urdu Pakistan would continue to serve as the ex-officio member of the Senate.

It was also agreed to form an inquiry committee to conduct an inquiry into the allegations of irregularities in HEC's fact-finding report and submit its recommendations to the Senate.

Climate change becomes an issue of national endurance for developing countries: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday said that climate change had become a national issue of survival for the developing nations and Pakistan despite its lesser share of below one percent carbon imprints in the global climate change was among the most affected countries. The caretaker prime minister presided over the second session of Pakistan Climate Change Council. The meeting was attended by caretaker ministers Ahmed Irfan Aslam, Shamsad Akhtar, Jalil Abbas Jilani, Umar Saif, Kausar Abdul Malik, Sami Saeed and Muhammad Ali, Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan, representatives of the provincial governments, civil society, NGOs and global en-

deavours of the provinces and their collaboration with the federation by taking of measures to avert negative impacts of the climate change.

He said that during the COP-28 meeting which would be held in the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan would present its stance effectively. They would send their delegation to participate in COP-28 after consultations with the relevant ministry and the provincial governments, he added.

The caretaker prime minister also desired preparation of short, medium and long term framework to effectively warding off the harmful affects of the climate change, and stressed upon inclusion of scholars and experts in the preparation of the framework.

The prime minister lauded the efforts of Ministry of Climate Change and the climate activists of Pakistan in that regard, besides appreciating the

endeavours of the provinces and their collaboration with the federation by taking of measures to avert negative impacts of the climate change.

He said that during the COP-28 meeting which would be held in the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan would present its stance effectively. They would send their delegation to participate in COP-28 after consultations with the relevant ministry and the provincial governments, he added.

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PPP confident for ECP to hold upcoming transparent polls: Nayyar Bukhari

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party Secretary General Nayyar Hussain Bukhari Monday expressed confidence that PPP would establish itself as a formidable parliamentary force in the upcoming elections of 2024 and said that the Election Commission of Pakistan will utilize its all available resources to conduct a transparent election in the country.

Talking to a Private news channel, he said that the Election Commission of Pakistan will hold general elections honestly as it is a constitutional obligation and linked to the country's political stability.

He affirmed that his party's candidates would wholeheartedly contest the upcoming elections and pledged their commitment

to follow Bhutto's policies. Furthermore, he assured that PPP was fully prepared for the forthcoming electoral contest.

He also demanded a 'level playing field' for his party to contest the next general elections, adding, PPP has its ideology and believes in the power of people, and democracy.

Replying to a question, he said that constructive criticism is the right of every political party which should be promoted instead of hurling abusive remarks ahead of the general polls.

"Pakistan needs a government that has the mandate to make difficult long-term decisions to fix the economy of the country in the next five years after the elections", he added.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs the 2nd meeting of the Pakistan, Climate Change Council.

Health Minister meets DG WHO

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan had a meeting with the Director General World Health Organization (WHO) Dr. Tedros during the Global Food Security Summit being held in London, UK.

He expressed his grief on the grave situation of health and nutrition in the flood affected areas in Pakistan affecting more than 33 million population.

He appreciated the efforts of Government of Pakistan in addressing this challenge faced by the country especially the vulnerable groups including adolescent girls, mothers and children.

Dr Nadeem Jan also shared the vision of the current government with regards to reach to the communities through UHC and focused on "Health for all" approaches and he thanked the WHO for extending their support for provision of equipment and supplies.

IG-SI hosts seminar on gender equality, women's empowerment issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): The International Governance and Sustainability Institute (IGSI) hosted a seminar on Women's Empowerment to address crucial issues surrounding gender equality and women's empowerment, with a focus on fostering positive change in Pakistan. The event was held at Islamabad Model School I-10/4, bringing together students, faculty, and distinguished guests. Speaking on the occasion, the School's Principal, Ms. Fatima Mobeen, highlighted the importance of empowering women in society. She introduced distinguished guests and the team of Institute Dr. Sultan

Azam Temuri Helena Iqbal, Ms Esin Gulsen and Dr. Sultan Azam Temuri former Inspector General of Police and CEO of Institute.

She also shed light on the global perspective on women's empowerment, emphasizing key principles advocated by the United Nations, such as gender equality, gender mainstreaming, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She also informed that Goal 5 of the agenda specifically focuses on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, with targets ranging from the end of discrimination and violence to equal participation in leadership and decision-making.

Quaid-e-Azam Trust UK delegation calls ON Chairman Senate

ISLAMABAD (Online): A delegation from Quaid-e-Azam Trust UK, led by its Chairman Raja Ishtiaq, met with the Chairman Senate.

Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani underscored the pivotal role of overseas Pakistanis as significant assets to the nation's growth and encouraged their active participation in the investment landscape, particularly in Gwadar, emphasizing the area's emergence as a burgeoning economic centre.

With a collective vision for a more prosperous Pakistan, the discussions concluded on a promising note, highlighting the importance of continued collaboration between the government and humanitarian organizations for the holistic development of the country.

A delegation from the Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF) also held a meeting with Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at the Parliament

House to discuss various critical issues concerning the underprivileged regions of Pakistan.

The meeting focused on addressing challenges in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and remote areas of Punjab and Sindh.

Comprising notable figures such as PHF Country Director Asif Shirazi, IRC Committee's Country Director Shabnam Baloch, and other key representatives, the delegation engaged in talks regarding the enhancement of public welfare in Chagai, Balochistan, and expedited rehabilitation efforts for flood-affected communities in remote areas of Balochistan.

Recognizing the indispensable contributions of PHF and associated organizations, the Chairman Senate emphasized the urgent need for collaborative efforts to tackle pressing issues encompassing health, education, poverty, climate change, and natural disasters.

Inspection team visits Passport Office after receiving complaints

ISLAMABAD: On the directions of Wafaqi Mohtasib, an inspection team visited the Passport Office on Monday after

delivery of services in the Passport Office.

The team interviewed a large number of people who had come to get their passports in the Passport



receiving complaints about delays in issuing passports.

Taking notice of complaints, the inspection team visited the Passport Office Islamabad, on the direction of Ombudsman Wafaqi Mohtasib Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi, said a press release.

The inspection team led by the Senior Advisor discussed in detail the entire process of issuing passports to ascertain the causes of inordinate delay and breakdown of efficient

Offices located in the G-8 and G-10 Sectors.

The team was informed by the applicants that they had been visiting the Passport Office to collect their documents for many months and their visas had expired in the process. He administration of the Directorate General of Immigration and Passports informed the visiting inspection team that the printing of passports got delayed due to the non-availability of lamination paper.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani in a meeting with Raja Ishtiaq, Chairman Quaid-E-Azam Trust UK along with the delegation at Parliament House.

Children have first right on country's resources: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Supreme Court Justice Aamir Farooq on Monday said that the laws pertaining to present imprisoned accused before the court via video link were on the cards.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the lawyers' lounge, he announced that a judicial policy aligning with modern practices would be formulated.

The facility of e-filing was set to resume, enhancing the efficiency and accessibility of the legal filing process, he added.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Monday said that the children had the first right on country's resources and reiterated that investing in children's education, health and safety would be among the top priorities of his party's government after winning the upcoming general elections due on February 8 next year. "Our children are the most valuable treasure and bright future of the country," he said in a statement issued by the party secretary on the occasion of World Children's Day.

He expressed his best wishes that the future of children all over the world, including Pakistan, be filled

with peace, love and prosperity.

Bilawal Bhutto said that PPP had always taken revolutionary steps for the protection and welfare of children.

"The 1973 constitution guarantees all the rights of children. Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto introduced vaccination program to protect Pakistani children from infectious diseases like polio," he pointed out, adding that the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), which was President Asif Ali Zardari's gift to the country's poor citizens, also included components such as 'Benazir Wasila-e-Taleem' and 'Benazir Nashonuma'.

Support Programme (BISP), which was President Asif Ali Zardari's gift to the country's poor citizens, also included components such as 'Benazir Wasila-e-Taleem' and 'Benazir Nashonuma'.

For outstanding performance CPO Safe City/Traffic awarded cash rewards and commendation certificates

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: According to details, following the special directives of the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the officers and officials of the Islamabad Capital Police continue to demonstrate a commitment to disciplined accountability, diligence, vigilance, and commendable performance. A series of initiatives is underway to boost the morale of these officers, who exhibit dedication to hard work, valor, and excellence in their professional endeavors, a public relations officer said.

He said that the CPO Safe City/Traffic has distributed cash rewards and

commendation certificates among 214 officers and officials who exhibited good performance during the past six months.

The CPO Safe City/Traffic emphasized that while maintaining the process of disciplinary measures, acknowledgment will also be given to good performance.

Additionally, strict disciplinary action will be taken against officers and officials who exhibit incomplete and unsatisfactory performance.

He further stated that constant monitoring is being carried out at the Safe City Command and Control Center to ensure the security of the federal capital.

SC imposes fine on husband for not giving Haq Mehr to wife

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has imposed fine of Rs one lac on husband for not giving Haq Mehr to his wife.

The SC has slapped fine Rs one lac on the husband hailing from Bhalwal for running case for six years in the court and not giving Haq Mehr to his wife.

The case came up for hearing before a 3-member bench of SC presided over by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa Monday.

The CJP remarked if you dislike Pakistani law then at least you should respect Islam. Haq Mehr is right of wife. Why did you not give this right to your wife.

SOS Foundation celebrates World Children's Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a concerted effort to address the educational needs of underprivileged children residing in the slum areas of Sohan, Islamabad Capital Territory, the SOS Foundation in collaboration with Basic Education Community Schools (BECS), Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, organized a special event on World Children's Day.

The event was graced by esteemed personalities including Faiza Fatima (Assistant Director, Ministry of Education), Nishat Fatima (Director, SOS Foundation), Nabgha Najeeb Hashmi (Assistant Director, BECS), Abdus Salam, Major @ Tariq Mehmood, and Nauman Shakir.

Laws to hold court trials via video link on cards: IHC CJ

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Aamir Farooq on Monday said that the laws pertaining to present imprisoned accused before the court via video link were on the cards.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the lawyers' lounge, he announced that a judicial policy aligning with modern practices would be formulated.

The facility of e-filing was set to resume, enhancing the efficiency and accessibility of the legal filing process, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Shehzad Roy, renowned singer and the founder and President of the Zindagi Trust along with Mariam Chughtai the Director of National Curriculum Council (NCC) called on the Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindh.

Roy, Mariam meet education minister

ISLAMABAD (INP): The founder and President of Zindagi Trust Shehzad Roy along with the Director of National Curriculum Council, Mariam Chughtai called on the Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindh on Monday. The minister welcomed Shehzad Roy and appreciated his contribution towards education reform in the country, especially for his work on the integration of Child Protection into the provincial curriculum of Sindh. His contribution in the field of education was highly commendable, he added.

Sindh said due to

Shehzad Roy's efforts, Sindh Government approved the "Teacher Performance Evaluation" format developed by Zindagi Trust for the government teachers across the province, the National Assembly also recognized Shehzad's efforts and passed a law criminalizing corporal punishment.

Shehzad Roy, who is also a renowned singer briefed the minister about the contribution and aim of Zindagi Trust. He discussed the initiatives taken by Zindagi Trust to make education accessible to all children in Pakistan and especially in Sindh.

ICP to ensure safe road environment and maximum convenience to citizens

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Islamabad conducted visits to various wings of traffic headquarters including digital driving license, one window hall, driving test area as well as different branches and instructed the staff to further improve their performance. CTO Islamabad said that Islamabad capital police is known as a model force across the country and its personnel should interact with citizens in a decent way. He further said that Islamabad capital police is providing all possible facilities to people under one roof who visit the office to get driving licenses and other purposes.

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He said that the Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Islamabad visited various wings of traffic headquarters at Faizabad and reviewed their performance. He appreciated the performance of the traffic staff and issued special instructions for further improvement. He said that Islamabad capital police would enhance the professional capacity of its personnel and to serve the citizens with the best of its capabilities.

Shah Mehmood moves SC for post-arrest bail

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI)'s Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi Monday filed an appeal to the Supreme Court seeking post arrest bail in cipher case.

The petitioner named federal government, interior ministry and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) as respondents in the case.

The petition prayed the court to set aside the judgment of Islamabad High Court (IHC) dated November 8, and grant him post arrest bail in the said case.

PTA reaffirms commitment to ensure safety, security of children in digital realm

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the occasion of World Children's Day, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has re-stated its unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety and security of children in the digital realm.

Acknowledging the digital impact on children, the authority is dedicated to ensuring a safer internet that meets their educational needs and promotes positive online interactions, said news issued here on Monday.

The PTA has collaborated with Meta, TikTok, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and other prominent organizations to pursue the cause of promoting a safer online environment for the youth.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the massive traffic at Express Way as large number of the people are on their way towards offices on the first day of the week in Federal Capital.