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COAS Munir, Azerbaijan top leaders vow to take military ties to new level

Army chief pays official visit to Azerbaijan, emphasises enhancing cooperation in fields of defence and training

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir, who is on an official visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan, called on Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Defence Minister, 1st Deputy Minister and Chief of General Staff and Commander of Azerbaijan Air Force.

According to a news release of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the COAS' visit is aimed at enhancing military-to-military cooperation and defence collaboration between the two brotherly countries.

During the meetings, the COAS emphasized on enhancing cooperation in the fields of defence and training.

He appreciated the high morale and remarkable standard of operational readiness of Azerbaijan's Armed Forces. During the meeting Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev said that the friendly and brotherly ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan were being successfully strengthened in various fields, including military cooperation. Appreciating the successful cooperation between

Azerbaijan and Pakistan in the defence industry, he emphasized the importance of conducting joint military training between the two countries.

Regarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the two countries at the international level, the Azeri president reiterated that Azerbaijan always supported Pakistan on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. President Ilham expressed the confidence that the visit of COAS to his country would help in further stabilizing the cooperation between the two countries.



ISLAMABAD: President of the Senate of the Republic of Rwanda, Dr. Kalinda Francois Xavier calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Bilawal Bhutto to launch election campaign from KP by mid of November

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former president Asif Ali Zardari has decided to give big surprise amid the reports that Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will launch election campaign from KP by mid of November.

According to sources PPP election scheme has entered final phase with reference to general election.

Former president Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari have made consultations with CEC members.

PPP will launch election campaign with the target of winning 100 national assembly seats. PPP has evolved strategy to win at least 50 seats from Sindh, 25 from Punjab, 10 from KP and 6 from Balochistan.

25 killed during skirmishes between warring tribes in Kurram

PESHAWAR (APP): At least 25 people were killed during skirmishes between warring tribes over land dispute in Kurram tribal districts so far. According to an official statement here issued by a spokesman of Home Department KP, the rival tribes now agreed to vacate the bunkers and trenches in affected areas of Kurram district where the situation started towards improvement due to efforts of Khyber Government and law enforcement agencies. Several peace jirgas were held during last week attended by the area elders.

EC delists APML

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EC) has delisted All Pakistan Muslim League (APML) as political party.

APML, political party of former president late Pervez Musharraf has been delisted.

EC has delisted APML besides issuing notification in this regard.

New gas tariff to be effective from Nov 1

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Petroleum Division (PD) of the Energy Ministry on Wednesday rejected a news item appearing in a section of media about the effectiveness of the new gas tariff from back date, clarifying that the revised prices would be applicable from November 1, 2023.

"Reports in some newspapers claiming that the prices are effective from back date, which is misleading. It is categorically stated that gas price revision is effective from November 01, 2023" a news release said.

Naval Chief discusses naval collaboration with leadership of RSAF

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf who is on official visit to Saudi Arabia called on the top leadership of Royal Saudi Armed Forces on Wednesday.

The Naval Chief during his meetings with Chief of the General Staff of Saudi Armed Forces,

Gen Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili at Ministry of Defence and Commander Royal Saudi Naval Forces Vice Admiral Fahd Bin Abdullah al-Ghofaily at Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF) Headquarters discussed matters of bilateral naval collaboration and regional maritime security.



ISLAMABAD: Workers are demolishing the illegally contracted houses at Afghan Basti I-12 as Pakistani Authorities announce warning for people living in Pakistan illegally to leave the country as Pakistani security forces on Wednesday rounded up, detained and deported dozens of Afghans who were living in the country illegally, after a government-set deadline for them to leave.

Solangi takes part in 69th Japan Self-Defence Forces Day celebrations

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday took part in the celebrations of the 69th Japan Self-Defence Forces (JSDF) Day. The minister attended a reception arranged by the Embassy of Japan in Islamabad to celebrate the 69th anniversary. In the

reception, military officials, caretaker ministers, parliamentarians, diplomats, and other individuals were also present.

On the occasion, the minister felicitated the people and the Government of Japan, and highlighted the growing bilateral ties between Pakistan and Japan in the area of defence.



KARACHI: A delegation of World Bank led by Urban and Land for South Asia Abedalrazaq call on Karachi Mayor, Barrister Murtaza Wahab.



BAKU: Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir meeting with President of Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev.

SC dismisses review petitions about Faizabad sit-in case verdict

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday dismissed the review petitions of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Defence Ministry about the 2017 Faizabad sit-in case after they were withdrawn by the petitioners.

The court said that the Federal Government, Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), and Pakistan Electronic Media and Regulatory Author-

ity (PEMRA) also requested to withdraw their review petitions.

The three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Amin-Ud-Din Khan and Justice Athar Minallah, which heard the case, also declared the fact-finding committee as illegal in Faizabad sit-in matter and directed the attorney general to form a new inquiry commission.

140,322 undocumented foreigners voluntarily left Pak on government's call

ISLAMABAD (APP): The ministry of interior on Wednesday shared a total number of returnees who volunteered and opted to go back to countries of origin with in the one month amnesty time period.

According to the data shared by ministry's representative, 140,322 undocumented foreigners voluntarily left Pakistan so far.

Meanwhile, Minister for Interior, Sarfraz Bugti wrote a message on social media platform that the government bid a farewell to 64 Afghan nationals first day after the deadline as they embarked on their journey home. He wrote that the action was an expression of Pakistan's determination to repatriate any foreigner who did not have the necessary documents.



KARACHI: President and CEO of U Microfinance Bank UAE, Muhamed Essa Al Taheri calls on Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

Karachi launches full-scale operation against illegal immigrants

KARACHI (INP): Karachi police have launched a full-scale operation against illegally staying foreigners in the city.

According to media reports, the operation began on the night of November 1 and is targeting a total of more than 165,000 illegal immigrants residing in the seven districts of the city.

Law enforcement agencies are prepared for resistance in the Superhighway, especially in Sohrab Goth and surrounding communities.

In the first phase of the operation, the police arrested 4 foreign (Afghan) residents. The arrested persons have been moved to a holding camp for foreigners in Sultanabad. In the second phase, the police will arrest and deport illegal documents holders to their countries after being punished according to Pakistani law. Their illegally acquired properties will also be confiscated.

In the third phase, the police will demolish the settlements occupied by foreigners in other areas of the city including the Superhighway. Heavy machinery will also be used to demolish the illegal settlements and strict legal action will be taken against those who resist. Apart from Sindh Police, Rangers and other law enforcement agencies will also be involved in the operation.

According to the official data, more or less 75 thousand 734 foreigners live in District East, 9 thousand 527 in District Central, 7 thousand 7 in District South, 13 thousand 139 in District Malir and 8 thousand 946 in District Kemari.

PM for complete utilization of Balochistan's natural resources

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday stressed upon complete utilization of natural resources of the Balochistan province.

He was talking to Speaker of Balochistan Assembly Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali who called on him, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister said that progress and prosperity of the people of Balochistan were among the top priorities of the Federal Government.

During the meeting, they also discussed different matters related to the province.

Bilawal congratulates newly elected office bearers of SCBA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday extended congratulatory to newly elected office-bearers of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) on their success. According to the press release issued by Media Cell Bilawal House, he expressed best wishes to all the newly elected office-bearers of SCBA including its President Shahzad Shaukat and Secretary Ali Imran Syed.

"I hope that the newly elected office-bearers will continue to play their full role for supremacy of the Constitution and rule of law in the country," he added. Bilawal Bhutto said that the election of the SCBA at a fixed time every year was a proof of adherence to democratic values and a strong institutional system. He said that PPP was the party that gifted the first unanimous constitution to the nation, adding that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto fought a political struggle for 30 years for restoration.

PIA to operate 61 flights today as fuel supply gets better

KARACHI (INP): The flight operation of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) is returning to normal as the national flag carrier is all set to operate 61 domestic and international flights Wednesday.

PIA spokesperson said that 90 per cent of the flight operation of the national flag carrier is restored following the supply of fuel from Pakistan State Oil (PSO).

The PIA spokesperson said the flights of small aircraft are also being ensured to facilitate the travelers.

The airline suffered a 'loss' of Rs10 billion due to the current fuel crisis that led to the suspension of over 800 flights.

According to the Secretary General of Pakistan International Airlines Senior Staff Association, Safdar Anjum the current management of the national flag carrier is responsible for the huge loss to the already loss-making government entity.

Exciting gathering of tourism enthusiasts at PITHAM's 6th annual convention

Independent Report KARACHI: Under the leadership of The Caretaker Provincial Minister for Tourism, Environment, Climate Change & Coastal Development, Arshad Wali Muhammad, the Pakistan Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management

sector. The esteemed guests donned ceremonial gowns, setting the tone for an eventful day.

Director PITHAM warmly welcomed the attendees, providing an insightful introduction to PITHAM and its contributions to the industry. The



(PITHAM) hosted its 6th yearly convention. The event took place at PITHAM's premises and witnessed the distinguished presence of Chief Minister Sindh, Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar and Governor Sindh, Kamran Khan Tesori.

The convention commenced with an official visit to PITHAM by Chief Minister Sindh and Governor Sindh, emphasizing the government's commitment to fostering excellence in the tourism and hospitality

minister, Arshad Wali Muhammad in a compelling speech, highlighted the crucial role of the institute in shaping the future of tourism and hotel management in the region.

Chief Minister Sindh and Governor Sindh graced the occasion with inspirational speeches, underlining the significance of the tourism sector in the economic landscape of the province. As a token of appreciation, mementos were presented to Governor Sindh and Chief Minister Sindh.

Delay in Sindh's dev. projects matter of concern: Murad Shah

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader former chief minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah has expressed serious concerns over delay in development projects of the provinces.

Addressing a press conference in Karachi on Wednesday, he emphasised that the Election Commission should not selectively permit certain development projects while banning others.

Murad Ali Shah questioned whether caretaker governments should intervene, asserting that justice was being done. The caretaker administrations should carry out their responsibilities, he urged.

Highlighting PPP's experience in governance, he pointed out that there have been no complaints from any party.

The former chief min-

ister also mentioned the extensive damage caused by the 2022 floods, which affected 70 per cent of the province's population, causing significant harm to agriculture and the destruction of 21 lakh houses. He stressed the need for further rehabilitation efforts.

He noted that the Geneva conference was made possible through the PPP chairman's efforts. Sindh was the only province that was fully prepared for the conference. He mentioned continuous communication with Asif Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto, emphasising their dedication to reaching the people quickly.

Sindh successfully secured more than two billion dollars in funding from the World Bank, Asian Bank, and other sources, Murad disclosed.



KARACHI: Peoples Party senior leader and former Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at PPP Bilawal House Media Cell in Karachi.

Caretaker FM says: No Afghan refugee having documents will be deported

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Foreign Minister (FM) Jalil Abbas Jilani has said no Afghan citizen having documents will be deported.

Self respect of Afghan citizens will be given due regard, he said this while talking to media men outside parliament house.

He held misconception has arisen with reference to Afghan refugees. We should inform media in this regard.

He stated there are several categories of Afghan refugees. The Afghan refugees who are holding registration cards are not being deported. Like this there are deprived sections of so-

ciety who are concerned over it that they will have to face problems on their return to Afghanistan. Our attitude with them will be mild and tender.

We have asked those Afghan refugees who are having no documents to return with respect and honor.

He underlined Prime Minister (PM) and cabinet had decided the respect of Afghan refugees, women and children will be taken care of and they will be taken to transit centre. They will be investigated and those having documents will be allowed to stay. In this regard we are in full contact with Afghan authorities.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Cricket drama

Much has happened off the field in the last few days and much is expected in the coming days, but at least on the pitch, Pakistan showed no ill effects in the match against Bangladesh yesterday.

After four successive World Cup defeats, the cobwebs were finally dusted off — even as pressure mounted on other fronts, including in the form of some distasteful manoeuvres by the Pakistan Cricket Board.

A convincing seven-wicket victory over Bangladesh in Kolkata has kept alive Pakistan's faint hopes of reaching the semi-finals. And yet, while the team turned a corner, it would be unrealistic not to expect it to be affected by the events back home.

Pakistan cricket has been nothing short of a circus, with information and disinformation spreading like wildfire, thanks to a plethora of live transmissions. Given the team's earlier losses in the contest, criticism had been fierce.

The PCB decided to act — issuing a statement to clarify that it had merely supported captain Babar Azam and chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq, enabling them to pick the team of their choice. It was the sort of statement which exposed the Zaka Ashraf-led cricket board as averse to taking any responsibility.

Public sentiment seems to matter a great deal to Mr Ashraf, who is nearing the end of his term as interim management committee chief. Whether or not he remains PCB chief, depends on the result of the election his committee has to hold.

A good run for Pakistan at the World Cup would have tipped the scales in his favour. Instead, the team's performances have given rise to claims of a rift between the chairman and captain, with former skipper Rashid Latif alleging that Mr Ashraf was not taking Babar's calls.

An attempt to refute that went horribly wrong, with Mr Ashraf forwarding a screenshot of a conversation between Babar and PCB chief operating officer Salman Naseer, which was leaked on a private news channel. It raised questions about consent.

These incidents are made particularly cringe-worthy by the fact that the entire drama played out in front of the cricketing world during the sport's most high-profile event. They raise serious questions about the PCB leadership.

An issue over central contracts, which saw players unpaid for five months due to disagreements, was resolved only a few days ago. The PCB also acted on reports from certain quarters claiming favouritism in team selection, with an alleged link uncovered between Inzamam and an agency representing most of the players. On the eve of the Bangladesh match, Inzamam resigned from his position but vowed to return if cleared of wrongdoing in an investigation initiated by the PCB. There is a time for everything, but this was certainly not the time for domestic theatre in the midst of the World Cup.

Press Secretary to the President (Rtd); Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC

Whenever our nation grapples with economic and financial challenges exacerbated by the incompetence, inefficiency, and incapacity of our ruling class, the most vulnerable among us bear the heaviest burden. The individuals who already struggle to secure even two meals a day, who cannot fathom the luxury of a single cup of tea, and who lack the means to send their children to school, are advised to subsist on half a roti instead of a full one, to savor half a cup of tea in place of the comforting warmth of a full cup.

While the ruling class, seemingly impervious to the suffering of their fellow countrymen, continues to live in opulent villas abroad, traverse the skies in private jets, and occupy custom-designed offices adorned with luxuries beyond imagination.

In recent times, the very individuals responsible for our nation's financial management, particularly the former PDM finance minister and later the incumbent caretaker finance minister have issued statements to transfer the burden of their inefficiency, incapacity, and incompetence onto retirees, who have already dedicated over four decades of their lives in service to the government and the public.

This audacious proposition asserts that the weight of pensions has become intolerable for the government and suggested that the only viable solution lies in the formulation of a policy that would, in essence, strip pensioners of their hard-earned entitlements — the pensions they diligently accrued during their years of dedicated service.

What is truly disconcerting is that these statements emanate from none other than the self-pro-

claimed economic wizard, Mr. Ishaq Dar, a man whose wealth has grown to such astonishing proportions that he himself may not possess an accurate account of it. If even a fraction of the wealth amassed by individuals like him could be repatriated to our country, it could potentially transform our economic and financial landscape, paving the way for a brighter and more prosperous future.

This callous narrative reveals a shocking lack of compassion and an outrageously irrational approach. It implies that the government's solution is to either slash pensions, impose a time limit on disbursements, freeze adjustments for inflation, or even strip surviving spouses of their rightful pension benefits after a pensioner's passing.

In this grim scenario, it seems that if these measures fail to miraculously fix the government's financial outlook, the next steps could entail extreme and unthinkable actions. The government might instruct the defense forces to auction their weapons, insist on our soldiers to stop wearing their uniforms, close down our diplomatic missions abroad, halt government operations, extinguish traffic lights to save electricity, cease fuel purchases for vehicles to cut fuel costs, shut down power and gas production, and ground planes.

In the eyes of our ruling class, the answer to our financial and economic hardship is to strip away the very means of survival from the salaried, working, and middle-class citizens, and now even the pensioners.

Pensioners, in their post-retirement years, often find themselves in the twilight of life. Many have already experienced the erosion of their physical and mental faculties. Despite these personal challenges, they continue to grapple with daunting burdens. They strive to keep the home fires burning, en-

deavor to fulfill their commitments, such as educating their children, supporting their daughters' marriages, and securing a peaceful place to reside.

Additionally, they must navigate the financial maze, endeavoring to meet essential needs while coping with the weight of utility bills that have grown burdensome. Yet, what keeps them up at night are not their personal struggles, but the distressing and insensitive remarks of government ministers, amplified by the media. These comments label them as a strain on the national economy and a drain on the government's treasury.

In their wildest dreams, these retirees might never have anticipated that, after dedicating four decades of their prime years in service to the government, they would be met with anything other than gratitude. Instead, they now face the heart-wrenching reality of being labeled as burdens on the system, with proposals that threaten to strip them of their only means to make ends meet.

It's become abundantly clear that the path to financial and economic improvement does not hinge on the cruel act of depriving citizens of their right to a dignified life. Instead, it lies in a concerted effort to enhance our systems and invest in vital areas. We should channel resources into education and research and development, promoting innovation and nurturing creativity.

We need to create an environment where people can fully unlock their potential. The solution lies in expanding our exports, enticing foreign investment, fostering entrepreneurial ventures, establishing industrial hubs, enhancing the efficiency and productivity of our businesses, and elevating the quality and demand for our products and services, improving the quality and quantity of our products and services. By adding value

to our offerings and creating our own brands, we can tap into new markets and boost our competitive edge. Facilitating easy access to loans for startups will nurture fresh business niches, invigorating our entrepreneurial spirit.

Indeed, the path to financial and economic prosperity also involves a shift in our national focus. Instead of positioning ourselves solely as a security state, we should adopt a stance that seeks peace and cooperation with every nation worldwide. By doing so, we can redirect resources towards building a modern agricultural sector, establishing thriving industrial zones, and enhancing the security and safety of travel to attract global tourism.

Additionally, the creation of a pension fund and investment in saving schemes can not only generate reasonable profits but also serve the nation's broader financial needs.

Furthermore, emulating successful models like France, where pension reforms raised the retirement age and adjusted qualification criteria, can help manage pension costs effectively. Gradual increases in retirement age, changes in contribution rates for employees and employers, and the implementation of partial pensions or delayed benefits for those choosing to work beyond the standard retirement age can all contribute to a sustainable pension system.

Encouraging government employees to participate in voluntary retirement savings plans and streamlining the consolidation of multiple pension plans into a more efficient system will further reduce administrative burdens and enhance fund management.

These insensitive statements disregard the specific provisions of the Civil Services Act of 1973. According to Section 13 of this act, a civil servant's retirement from service occurs after completing

twenty years of service, thus qualifying for pension and other retirement benefits. Furthermore, Section 19 outlines the entitlements upon retirement, including the right to receive a prescribed pension or gratuity. In the unfortunate event of a civil servant's passing, whether before or after retirement, their family is entitled to receive a pension, gratuity, or both. These legal provisions are in place to safeguard the welfare and financial security of civil servants who have dedicated their careers to public service.

Any attempt to deviate from these established rights would not only be legally questionable but also ethically unjust.

Caring governments prioritize the welfare of not only their retired employees but the entire population, providing unemployment allowances for those temporarily out of work. For instance, in France, every unemployed individual is entitled to receive a consistent amount, such as Euro 900, until they secure gainful employment. Countries like England and France have well-structured pension systems encompassing several key benefits, including the main pension benefit, calculated based on an employee's salary and years of service. Supplementary pensions are provided by employers, varying according to job titles and years of service. Reversion pensions support surviving spouses, usually amounting to 50% of the deceased spouse's pension. In cases of disability, invalidity pensions are provided to government employees unable to work. Additionally, governments offer a range of social welfare programs and allowances, such as Pension Credit, Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Winter Fuel Payment, free healthcare services, vision care, dental treatment, travel cost assistance, disability sup-

port, free bus passes, and special considerations for those with disabilities, including free passports.

Pensioners, many of whom are at an advanced age, have shouldered responsibilities and contributed their skills and dedication to the nation. They are owed respect, dignity, and honor, not derogatory labels like "burden" or "parasites." The pensions they receive are not hand-outs but were part of a solemn job agreement signed even before their entry into government service.

When government employees embark on their careers, they willingly accept substantially lower salaries compared to their private sector counterparts, fully aware that these reduced wages are offset by the promise of pension and retirement benefits in the future. It's a mutually agreed-upon arrangement that provides financial security in exchange for their commitment and dedication.

If the government is intent on shifting the burden of its own shortcomings to retired civil servants, it should commence this effort with fresh entrants. The onus is on the government to be transparent, fully disclosing the terms and conditions of employment. It should offer every candidate the opportunity to sign a job contract with a comprehensive understanding of the contract's provisions, including pension and retirement benefits.

This approach should be consistent and applied uniformly to all state employees, including the judiciary, parliaments, and armed forces. No exceptions. We can be certain that without the assurance of pension and retirement benefits, no sane individual would willingly choose government service. It is high time we acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our civil servants and afford them the respect and security they have earned and deserve.

Commerce News

SBP & CDC launched RAAST payments facility for mutual funds

ISLAMABAD (APP): Central Depository Company (CDC) has collaborated with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to allow investors to purchase mutual funds units using SBP's RAAST Payment Gateway.

CDC has developed a framework where it acts as an "Aggregator" and issues a RAAST Payment ID, enabling investors to digitally transfer funds, using RAAST, to the respective Asset Management Company (AMC) for the purchase of mutual fund units said a

news release. The facility was launched in an event at CDC House with Saleem Ullah, Deputy Governor SBP as the Chief Guest.

While officiating the event, Deputy Governor SBP, Saleem Ullah expressed his heartfelt appreciation for CDC's unwavering efforts and initiatives for digitalization and customer facilitation.

He emphasized that the core objective of all digitalization efforts is to improve customer convenience and satisfaction.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik chairing a meeting of All Pakistan Solvent Extractors Association at Ministry of NFS&R.

SECP to establish online dashboard 'ESG Sustain'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chairman Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), Akif Saeed has said the SECP has been actively striving to inculcate a regulatory environment that considers the environmental impact, encourages corporate social responsibilities and stimulates good governance practices.

He was speaking at the 2nd Pakistan Climate Conference organized by the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI).

Akif talked about recent developments in the ESG framework in Pakistan and SECP's vision of its governance framework, said a press release issued here on Wednesday.

He pointed out that Pakistan is one of the 10 most climate-vulnerable countries in the world and has experienced the most devastating impacts of climate change in the form of catastrophic floods last year that affected 33 million people with a loss of approx. PKR 3.3 trillion.

Akif said, "One of the main ingredients for achieving long-term value for stakeholders is inclusivity. To address this area, not only has the SECP mandated female representation on companies' boards, but we are also actively striving towards creating conducive work environments by encouraging companies to implement gender diversity policies.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif in a meeting with Parliamentary delegation of Rwanda.

Rwanda delegation explores bilateral cooperation opportunities in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Parliamentary delegation from Rwanda, led by Dr. Kalinda Francois Xavier, President of the Senate of Rwanda has explored bilateral cooperation opportunities in various sectors during their visit to Pakistan.

The delegation is currently on a four-day visit to Pakistan at the invitation of Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani. The delegation held significant meetings aimed at strengthening bilateral relations, with a focus on Information Technology (IT) and economic collaboration,

said a press release. During the visit, the delegation met with key Pakistani officials and organizations to discuss potential areas of collaboration. Notable engagements included meetings with the Minister for IT and Telecommunication, Dr. Umar Saif, a visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCI), and discussions with the Secretary General of the International Parliamentarians Congress (IPC), Sitara Ayaz.

In the meeting with the Minister for IT and Telecommunication, Dr. Kalinda emphasized the importance of Pakistan establishing a presence in Rwanda and exploring investment opportunities, particularly in the IT sector.

Minister Dr. Umar Saif highlighted Pakistan's robust IT market, with millions of cellular users and significant cellphone manufacturing capabilities. He also mentioned plans to export cell phones to African countries, fostering growth in the sector.

The Ambassador of Rwanda stressed the necessity of creating a comprehensive framework for cooperation, including cross-ministerial collaboration. Dr. Kalinda implied the signing of MoUs in the fields of Defense and Health with Pakistan, with negotiations underway for agreements in other sectors and desired to sign MoUs with Pakistan also in the IT Sector.

The delegation's visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries was marked by discussions on enhancing bilateral trade and cooperation.

The Ambassador of Rwanda stressed the

SM Tanveer chairs 15th PPPA session

Independent Report LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer chaired the 15th session of the Executive Committee of Punjab Public Private Partnership Authority (PPPA) here Wednesday.

The primary agenda consisted of a comprehensive review encompassing 15 key points. During the meeting, the committee approved the initiation of three pivotal projects i.e. establishment of five underground parking facilities in the vicinity of the walled city area, Thokar Niaz Baig to

Mohlanwal Canal Road sewerage initiative and the waste recycling project.

In addition to the project greenlight, the committee took a significant stride by authorizing the allocation of funds through the Project Development Fund (PDF), marking a pivotal step in advancing these initiatives. Further strategic moves were made as the committee sanctioned the initiation of a commercial bank account and approved the procurement of new vehicles, aligning seamlessly with the Authority's overarching goals.



CEO of E-Commerce Enablers Saqib Azhar and Sardarzada Usama Khan Tareen meeting with Federal Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti.

CPI inflation recorded at 26.9 in October

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation increased to 26.9 percent during the month of October 2023 as compared to the same month of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Wednesday.

The inflation had increased to 31.4 percent during last month (September) whereas it was recorded at 26.6 percent during October, 2022, according to the PBS data.

On a month-on-month basis, the inflation increased to 1.1 percent in October 2023 as compared to an increase of 2.0 percent in the previous month and an increase of 4.7 percent in October 2022.

The urban CPI inflation increased to 25.5% on a year-on-year

(YoY) basis in October 2023 as compared to an increase of 29.7% in the previous month and 24.6% in October last year. On a month-on-month (MoM) basis, it increased to 1.1% in October 2023 as compared to an increase of 1.7% in the previous month and an increase of 4.5% in October 2022.

On the other hand, the rural CPI increased to 28.9% on a year-on-year basis in October 2023 as compared to an increase of 33.9% in the previous month and 29.5% in October 2022.

On a month-on-month basis, it increased to 1.1% in October 2023 as compared to an increase of 2.5% in the previous month and an increase of 5.0% in October 2022.

Shell signs agreement to sell majority shareholding

ISLAMABAD (APP): Shell Petroleum Company Limited, a subsidiary of Shell plc (Shell), has agreed to sell its 77.42% majority interest in Shell Pakistan Limited (SPL) to Wafi Energy LLC.

The sale is part of Shell's strategy to high-grade its mobility network and was first announced on Capital Markets Day in June 2023, said a news release. The sale is expected to be completed by Q4 2024, subject to regulatory approvals. Upon completion, the Shell brand will remain in Pakistan.

Any kind of seeds not allowed to import; rules & regulation is our priority: Dr Kausar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik Wednesday said that any kind of seeds will not be permitted to be imported, rules and regulation is our priority and according to our law, no seed can be imported.

He said that the Ministry of National Food Security and Research will provide all the possible support to the industry, said a press release issued here. The Minister said that technical and commercial research reports should be submitted in a week

regarding Soybean (Glycine max), it is our vision to solve livestock and poultry problems on a priority basis.

He expressed these views while presiding over the meeting of the All Pakistan Solvent Extractors Association regarding reducing the price of chickens and importing soybeans. Secretary, Minister of National Food Security & Research Captain @ Muhammad Mahmood and Chairman PARC Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali were also present.

Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik said that complete work should be done on

soybeans before importing them, it is necessary to check which seeds have more economic benefits in the same season. He said that it is better to grow something for the sake of domestic and national interest on the land where nothing can grow.

Secretary Ministry of National Food Security & Research Captain (retd) Muhammad Mahmood advised to form a committee comprising of Chairman Pakistan Agriculture Research Center, the Director General of the Department of Plant Protection and the Director General Federal Seeds Certification and Registration.

Brutal killing of innocent Palestinian citizens is actually genocide of humanity: Baligh

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended the inauguration ceremony of "Tabeer" Project at LUMS University National Incubation Center Lahore as Chief Guest.

Speaking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the brutal killing of innocent Palestinian citizens is actually a genocide of humanity. He said that the martyrdom of Palestinians by the bombing at the civilian settlements and hospitals in Gaza strip is painful. Governor Punjab said that the international community must come together to end the brutality and tranny and play a role in stopping the massacre of innocent citizens, women and small children in Gaza strip.

Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the purpose of "Tabeer Project" is to hone the entrepreneurial skills of students. He said that the incubation center in the university is an excellent initiative, adding that it will boost the on going efforts to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic prosperity in the province. He said that

Incubation centers in universities across Punjab are already working towards empowering the youth by providing them with the necessary resources, guidance and opportunities to turn their entrepreneurship dreams in to reality. Tabeer will enhance these efforts through collaborative engagements with university faculty, the NICL team.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali inaugurating Department of Seerat-un-Nabi (SAWW) Studies in Peshawar University. Vice Chancellor Dr. Idrees and Ulama are also present.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman in a group photo with participants of an inaugural ceremony of "Tabeer" project at LUMS University National Incubation Center.

Governor inaugurates Dept of Seerat-un-Nabi (SAW) Studies

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali on Wednesday visited the University of Peshawar and inaugurated Department of Seerat-un-Nabi (SAW) Studies.

Former Provincial Ministers, Syed Zahir Ali Shah and Moulana Amanullah Haqqani, Sheikh-ul-Hadees, Moulana Muhammad Idrees, Sheikh-ul-Hadees, Moulana Mufti Ghulamur-Rehman, Mufti Shahab-ud-Din Poplazi, Dean Islamic Studies, Dr.

Muhammad Salim, faculty members and students were also present on the occasion.

Speaking as the chief guest, the Governor said Seerat-un-Nabi (SAW) is the best way of life for all of us and we should follow the life of the holy Prophet (PBUH) to achieve success in the world and life hereafter.

He said the factors that have created rift in society can be overcome by following the principles preached by the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

Naqvi chairs marathon meeting to take stock of smog situation

Independent Report
LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presided over a marathon meeting stretching for many hours at CM office with regard to take stock of the smog situation. The government and specialists mulled over various steps to be taken for the eradication of smog.

The environment specialists relating to smog apprised during the meeting that it will make no difference by granting leave in schools and closing down a transport.

CM chaired a meeting

in which smog emergency has been enforced across Punjab and wearing a mask mandatory for male and female students in all government and private schools for one month.

CM while addressing the participants in the meeting said that mask wearing has been declared compulsory for the health of male and female students. We also appeal to the general public to use mask while going out of their houses.

CM directed the

Provincial Ministers to visit government and private schools from tomorrow. Mohsin Naqvi stated that a stern action will be taken against those who during the construction of houses fail to sprinkle water on dust, sand and debris. CM issued directions to Commissioner Lahore division, Local Government department and Lahore Waste Management Company in this regard. CM ordered withdrawal of challans against farmers during smog.

AJK PM emphasizes equal importance of ministries

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has stated that all departments and ministers are of equal importance.

During a meeting with a public delegation in the federal metropolis on Wednesday, the Prime Minister emphasized that there is no difference in the weightage and status of all ministries and portfolios. He underlined that the most crucial factor is the hard work and dedication of those in leadership positions, as per a press release.

He further mentioned that it is high time for the youth to focus on IT instead of wasting their

time on unproductive activities. The Prime Minister pointed out that idleness can lead to anxiety and chaos in society.

He indicated that he has given special instructions to the Minister for IT to utilize all available resources to attract educated youth towards IT and skill development. He also stressed the need to prioritize agriculture and livestock. The Prime Minister assured that his government will allocate all available resources to public welfare projects. He mentioned that the government is planning to launch a significant welfare project worth 5 billion rupees for widows.

DC chairs meeting on Smog Control in Jhang

JHANG (APP): Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Khurram Niazi chaired a meeting here on Wednesday to review steps for controlling smog in the district. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Agriculture, Health, and Environment Protection departments, as well as other concerned stakeholders. During the meeting, officers of the Environment Protection department briefed the Deputy Commissioner on the concrete steps that are being taken to control smog.

Deputy Commissioner Niazi emphasized the need for strict implementation of smog control measures and zero tolerance for violations.

KP Caretaker Minister boosts industrial growth in Mohmand District

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Dr. Aamir Abdullah, the Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce, Technical Education, and Newly Merged Districts Affairs in Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, embarked on a one-day visit to the Merged District of Mohmand. During his visit, he inaugurated the operations of two newly established industrial units and laid the foundation stone for another.

The industrial zone in this district, developed

under the Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KPEZDMC), witnessed the formal inauguration of two oil units that became operational within a remarkably short period of one month. Additionally, the foundation stone was laid for a new flour unit. These projects have attracted a total investment of 1.2 billion rupees and are expected to create employment opportunities for 1,100 individuals.

NH&MP launches awareness drive for smog, fog

MULTAN (APP): National Highways and Motorway Police (NH&MP) M4 has launched an awareness campaign about smog/fog.

According to details, a seminar was also held in collaboration with a private company to create awareness about smog/fog in Beat No. 22. DSP Zargham Atta, Admin Officer Muhammad Kamran, Inspector Gul Hameed Khan, Inspector Gulzar Hussain, civil society members, drivers and lawyers were in attendance.

Punjab still in grip of dengue; 214 new cases reported

LAHORE (APP): Punjab is still in the grip of dengue fever, with 214 new cases reported on Wednesday.

According to the latest data from the Health department, a total of 9,512 confirmed dengue cases were reported across 36 districts in Punjab this year.

Leading the unfortunate tally is Lahore, reporting a staggering 4,032 cases, followed closely by Rawalpindi with 2,287, Multan with 968, Faisalabad with 431 and

Gujranwala with 780 cases. The situation is still continuing, with Lahore reporting an additional 124 new dengue cases, Rawalpindi with 25, Multan with 16, Gujranwala with 24, Faisalabad with 04 while Narowal reported 04 cases in the last 24 hours. Sahiwal reported 03 cases of dengue virus whereas Sheikhupura, Chakwal and Sialkot each recorded 02 new cases of dengue in the same time frame. Kasur, Attock, Sargodha.

International News

Desperate Israel erases 50 lives in Jabalia camp strike

Monitoring Desk
GAZA STRIP: Palestinian fighters offered stiff resistance to invading forces, but the relentless Israeli bombing of the besieged enclave claimed at least 50 lives in the Jabalia refugee camp, on Tuesday.

This takes the total number of those killed in Israel's brutal bombing campaign to 8,525, including 3,542 children, according to the latest count by the health ministry.

The director of Gaza's Indonesian Hospital told Al Jazeera that more than 50 Palestinians were killed and 150 wounded in Israeli air strikes on a densely populated area of the Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza.

AFP video footage from the scene showed at least 47 bodies recovered from the rubble after the strike hit several houses in the densely crowded camp.

Dozens of onlookers on the edges of two vast crater as people searched for survivors.

Ragheb Aqal, a Jabalia resident, described the strikes as "an earthquake" which shook the entire refugee camp.

"I went and saw the destruction... homes buried under the rubble and body parts and martyrs and wounded in huge numbers," the 41-year-old told AFP.

"There's no exagger-

ating when they talk about hund-reeds of martyrs and wounded. People were still "transporting the remains of children, women and elderly", he added.

The Jabalia camp is Gaza's largest refugee camp.

According to the United Nations agency for Palestinian Refugees, the densely populated camp is situated in the north of the besieged enclave and covers an area of 1.4 square km. There are approximately 116,000 registered refugees in the camp.

The camp also housed three UN-run schools, which had subsequently been converted into shelters for hundreds of displaced families.



Palestinian fighters offered stiff resistance to invading forces, but the relentless Israeli bombing of the besieged enclave claimed at least 50 lives in the Jabalia refugee camp.

Seoul believes North Korea sent Russia over a million artillery shells

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: South Korea's top spy agency believes North Korea sent more than a million artillery shells to Russia since August to help fuel Russian President Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine, according to a lawmaker who attended a closed-door briefing Wednesday with intelligence officials.

North Korea and Russia have been actively boosting the visibility of their partnership in the face of separate, deepening confrontations with the United States. Their diplomacy — highlighted by a summit between North Korean leader

Kim Jong Un and Putin in September — has triggered concerns about an arms arrangement in which North Korea supplies Russia with badly needed munitions in exchange for advanced Russian technologies that would strengthen Kim's nuclear-armed military.

Both Pyongyang and Moscow have denied U.S. and South Korean claims that the North has been transferring arms supplies to Russia.

According to lawmaker Yoo Sang-bum, the South Korean National Intelligence Service believes the North shipped more than a million artillery shells to Russia

through ships and other transport means since early August to help boost Russia's warfighting capabilities in Ukraine. Those shells would roughly amount to two months' worth of supplies for the Russians, Yoo said. The agency believes North Korea has been operating its munitions factories at full capacity to meet Russian munition demands and has also been mobilizing residents to increase production, Yoo said. There are also signs that North Korea dispatched weapons experts to Russia in October to counsel Russian officials on how to use the exported North Korean weapons.



ASTANA: French President Emmanuel Macron meeting with Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, in Kazakhstan.

Police shoot at unarmed, veiled woman in Paris

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: French police on Tuesday shot and seriously wounded an unarmed woman at a train station in Paris during morning rush hour.

The incident came with the country on its maximum alert for potential attacks but with the police also under scrutiny over recent fatal shootings of suspects.

Witnesses said the 38-year-old woman, who was wearing a hijab, recited "Allahu akbar" and said "you will all die", a police source said, adding that "police fired because they feared for their safety".

After passengers on a suburban train travelling from the eastern suburbs to Paris alerted police, agents managed to "isolate" the woman at the Bibliotheque Francois Mitterrand station on the capital's south bank which was evacuated, the source said.

They ordered her to sit on the ground and stop moving, Paris police chief Laurent Nunez told reporters.

2 killed in Russian attacks in eastern Ukraine that also damage Kherson city center

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: A Russian attack on Kherson in eastern Ukraine on Wednesday killed one person and caused serious damage in the city's center, the region's governor said, and a Russian drone strike killed another civilian in the frequently targeted city of Nikopol.

The attack on Kherson, which Russian forces seized early in the war but then abandoned a year ago, also wounded two people. Despite the with-

Blinken to visit South Korea; North Korea, Russia on agenda

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will visit South Korea on Nov 8 and 9 to discuss North Korea and alliance issues with Foreign Minister Park Jin, South Korea's foreign ministry said on Wednesday.

Park and Blinken will also discuss economic security, cooperation on industrial technology and regional issues of mutual interest, the ministry said. The visit marks the first by a US secretary of state in two and a half years.

Germany's Scholz says his country, EU to help boost West Africa security

Monitoring Desk
ACCRA: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Tuesday said his country and the European Union as a whole were committed to boosting security in West Africa, and could provide training and equipment to support operations against a jihadist insurgency spreading through the region.

Speaking in Ghana on the last leg of his third trip to sub-Saharan Africa, Scholz said a recent string of coups in West African nations had stalled cooperation between countries and could play into the hands of militants.

West Africa is grappling with an insurgency that took root in Mali in 2012 and has since spread across the Sahel region south of the Sahara, killing

thousands and displacing over six million.

Militants with links to al Qaeda and Islamic State have also encroached south towards the Gulf of Guinea, staging attacks in the north of coastal countries such as Benin, Ghana and Togo.

Military takeovers in Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Niger and Gabon since 2020 have only added instability. Scholz stressed the importance of restoring "democratic order" and said Ghana was a "beacon of hope" for the region and a close partner for Germany.

He noted that Germany was ready to support cross-border cooperation and that an upcoming EU mission to the Gulf of Guinea could provide training and equipment.

White House will develop an anti-Islamophobia strategy but faces skepticism from Muslim Americans

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden's administration is preparing to announce that it will develop a national strategy to combat Islamophobia, according to people briefed on the matter, as it faces skepticism from many in the Muslim American community for its staunch support of Israel's military assault on Hamas in Gaza.

The White House announcement had originally been expected to come last week when Biden held a meeting with Muslim leaders, but was delayed, three people said. Two of them said the delay was due in part to concerns from the Muslim American community that the administration lacked credibility on the issue given its robust support for Israel's military, whose strikes against Hamas militants have also killed thousands of civilians in Gaza. The people spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the White House

plans.

The launch of the anti-Islamophobia strategy has been anticipated for months, after the administration in May released a national strategy to combat antisemitism that also made passing reference to countering hatred against Muslims. The formal strategy is expected to take many months to formalize, following a similar process as the plan to counter antisemitism involving various government agencies.

Incidences of anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim hate have skyrocketed in the U.S. and abroad since the surprise Oct. 7 attack by Hamas militants on Israel that killed over 1,400 and saw hundreds taken hostage, and Israel's response in Gaza, where it has pledged to use force to "destroy" Hamas. One of the most prominent attacks was the killing of 6-year-old Wade Al-Fayoume and the wounding of his mother in an attack prosecutors allege was driven by Islamophobia.

Lawyers defenders of democracy, human rights, Constitution: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Wednesday that lawyers were defenders of democracy, human rights and the Constitution.

This he said in a congratulatory message to newly elected office bearers of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA).

The minister congratulated the newly elected SCBA President Shahzad Shaikat, Secretary Ali Imran Syed and other newly elected office bearers.

The minister lauded the historic role of lawyers in promoting the rule of law, the supremacy of the Constitution and democratic traditions.

Murtaza Solangi opined that lawyers act as the bridge between the bar and the bench and it was not possible to establish a developed society without justice.

The minister expressed the hope that newly elected office bearers of SCBA will continue to play their key role for the supremacy of the Constitution and the rule of law.

He hoped that the winning panel of the Supreme Court Bar would play a positive and effective role in solving the problems of the lawyers' community, including in important judicial matters.



KARACHI: Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh, Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar being briefed by District Municipal officials during his inspection visit of Shah Faisal Colony area in Karachi.

Senate adopts resolution seeking end to Israeli hostilities in Gaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate of Pakistan at its emergency session on Wednesday strongly condemned the Israeli crimes against humanity and State terrorism being perpetrated against the innocent children, women, and men of Palestine living in the occupied strip of Gaza, the World's biggest open prison.

The resolution moved by the leader of the House in the Senate Muhammad Ishaq Dar said, "Since the Holocaust of the 2nd World War, no State has committed such mass killings, carnage and war crimes with such an unprecedented barbarity and brutality."

The resolution expressed full solidarity and support with the oppressed Palestinians while denouncing the double standards and hypocrisy of those who are supporting Israel, as they are partners in crime since they also oppose an immediate ceasefire in beleaguered Gaza.

It further said "the sentiments of the people of Pakistan and takes pride in Pakistan's consistent commitment to the just cause of Palestine."

Visa, in partnership with HBL, launches Global "She's Next" program

KARACHI (APP): Women-led businesses in Pakistan primarily face funding, digitization and advisory challenges according to Visa's Women SMB Digitization Index survey.

To address these challenges, Visa, a world leader in digital payments is launching its global She's Next grant program in Pakistan for the first time in partnership with HBL, Pakistan's largest private bank, which serves more than 36 million clients worldwide.

She's Next, empowered by Visa, is a global advocacy program that aims to support women-owned small businesses through funding, training and mentorship. Starting today, women entrepreneurs from all industries and sectors in Pakistan can apply on the She's Next website for a chance to be among the five winners to receive a grant of US\$ 10,000 each.

Winners will also have access to a range of benefits including a tailored training program, She's Next Club resources such as a workshop library and a community of entrepreneurs. Applications are open until 2 December 2023.

Umar S. Khan, Country Manager for Pakistan, Visa, commented: "We're proud to bring our successful 'She's Next' global program to Pakistan, in partnership with HBL. Women entrepreneurs form a small percentage of the SME sector in Pakistan, facing unique challenges such as limited access to capital, lack of mentorship and dealing with gender stereotyping concerns where they are considered less capable of handling high-pressure situations. Currently, a robust digital infrastructure is critical for them to scale their businesses. She's Next, underscores this vital shift, recognizes the potential of women entrepreneurs, and supports them to thrive innovatively."



KARACHI: Police check for ID's after Pakistani Government's deadline to expel illegal immigrants is over.

HESCO claims recovery of Rs. 156.2 Million in Hyderabad Region

HYDERABAD (APP): Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) recovered Rs. 15,62,00,000 (156.2 million) in its expedited campaign against power theft.

Out of which Rs. 15,61,00,000 (156.1 million) was recovered from defaulters and Rs. 80,000 was collected as a fine.

The Company's spokesman informed on Wednesday that power supply from 15 transformers was disconnected due to outstanding amount of more than Rs. 27.6 million.

Power supply from 4 transformers was disconnected on unpaid dues of more than 338.5 Million while 11 transformer were removed on outstanding amount of more than Rs. 2,43,00,000 (24.3 Million) in Larr and Nawabshah circles respectively.



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador-designate of Jordan, Dr Maen A.M. Khreasat, Ambassador-designate of Holy See, Archbishop Germano Penemote Apostolic Nuncio, Ambassador-designate of Czech Republic, Mr Ladislav Steinhubel, the High Commissioner-designate of Brunei Darussalam, Colonel (r) Pengiran Haji Kamal Bashah bin Pengiran Haji Ahmad, and the Ambassador-designate of Qatar to Pakistan, Ali Mubarak A.E. Al-Khater, presenting their diplomatic credentials to President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President denounces use of brutal force against innocent Palestinians

World must act urgently to stop Israel's war crimes in Gaza: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday denounced use of brutal force against innocent Palestinians, and called for the lifting of the siege and opening of a humanitarian corridor for Palestinians.

He said that Pakistan was seriously concerned at the incessant Israeli aggression against civilians, which had killed thousands of people including women, children, and the elderly.

He stressed that the international community should condemn the continued Israeli aggression in Gaza. The president stated that Pakistan stood for a total withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, as well as the establishment of an independent homeland for Palestinians with Al-Quds Sharif as its capital.

He gave these remarks during a presentation of diplomatic credentials ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Those who presented credentials to the president include Ambassador-designate of Jordan, Dr Maen A.M. Khreasat, Ambassador-designate of Holy See, Archbishop Germano Penemote Apostolic Nuncio, Ambassador-designate of Czech Republic, Ladislav Steinhubel, the High Commissioner-designate of Brunei Darussalam, Colonel (r) Pengiran Haji Kamal Bashah bin Pengiran Haji Ahmad, and the Ambassador-designate of Qatar to Pakistan, Ali Mubarak A.E. Al-Khater.

In separate meetings with envoys, the president said that Pakistan was closely monitoring the situation in Palestine and wanted the restoration of the inalienable rights of the people of Palestine.

He highlighted that Pakistan had consistently supported the Palestine cause, and wanted a comprehensive resolution of all outstanding Arab-Israeli disputes to ensure lasting peace in the region.

The president said that Pakistan wanted to further intensify political, economic and cultural links with all friendly countries, besides increasing bilateral trade and investment relations.

Chinese ambassador, Fazal discuss ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong along with his delegation Wednesday met with Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and discussed ties between the two countries.

According to a JUI-F Spokesperson, the delegation included Minister Counselor Zhang Nu, Zhang Duva and Wang Sita.

The matters related to bilateral relations and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) were also discussed in the meeting.

The ambassador said "We want Pakistan to use China's technology in agriculture." The meeting also agreed to expand the scope of CPEC, also underscored the importance of including more projects in CPEC.

Fazal expressed his resolve to form industrial and economic zones in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

Concerted efforts being made for fair distributions of ads among newspapers: PIO

ISLAMABAD (APP): Principal Information Officer (PIO) Dr Tariq Mehmoood Khan on Wednesday said concerted efforts were being made to ensure fair distribution of advertisements among the newspapers.

The PIO, in a meeting with the delegation of Capital Union of Journalists (CUJ), said action would be taken against the fake newspapers.

The CUJ delegation led by Syed Mujtaba Rizwan congratulated Dr Tariq Mehmoood Khan on assuming the charge of the PIO and appreciated his efforts to resolve the problems faced by newspapers and journalists.

The delegation informed the PIO about the non-professional individuals who had joined as the publishers leading to some issues in the newspaper sector.

Likewise, they highlighted the issue of dummy newspapers, and asked for measures to encourage small newspapers over their performance.

SFA providing internships to students of universities: Agha Fakhar Hussain

KARACHI: Director General Sindh Food Authority Agha Fakhar Hussain has said that SFA has signed MoUs with public and private sector universities to provide internship to the students of Food Sciences and Technology Department and to assist the universities to establish Food Testing Labs in their respective universities.



Testing Labs in their respective universities. This he said while giving away certificates to the first batch of internees from Tando Jam Agriculture University after completing their training getting certificate here at SFA office. It is to mention here that this is a part of MOU between Sindh Food Authority and Agriculture University of Tando Jam to provide internship training facilities. Sindh Food Authority will also provide assistance in the up-gradation of laboratories at the Food Sciences department of the university.

Services of Hakim Said for revival of Tibb-e-Unani eulogized

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Association for Eastern Medicine (PAEM) in collaboration with Hamdard Pakistan organized 14th National Symposium titled: "Role of Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said in the revival of Tibb-e-Unani" on Wednesday.

Pro Vice Chancellor Sindh University Larkana Campus, Professor Dr. Azhar Ali Shah in his keynote speech said the Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said played a pivotal role and provided valuable contributions in reviving Tibb-i-Unani despite challenges and due to his exceptional contributions, the revival of Tibb-e-Unani, an important cultural and historical heritage, became possible.

He stated that modern medicine often focuses on specific parts of the body, whereas Tibb-e-Unani offers a comprehensive alternative treatment approach that addresses a person's physical, medical, and spiritual well-being.

He added that Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said worked tirelessly and successfully convinced the World Health Organization of the efficacy of Tibb-e-Unani and that global recognition was a significant achievement.



HYDERABAD: Teachers and students of Nation Public School are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, held in Hyderabad.

Govt to launch crackdown against fake CNIC holders: Bugti

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti on Wednesday said that the caretaker government would launch a crackdown against the holders of fake Computerized National Identity Cards.

Serious action would be taken against those persons who had attained the CNICs and passports through illegal ways, he said while talking to a private television channel.

He said the law enforcement agencies were taking action against non-registered and illegal foreigners living in Pakistan since long.

"We will welcome foreigners in Pakistan with valid documents," he added.

To a question about incidents of terrorism in Pakistan, he said many illegal Afghan people had been found involved in the terrorist acts and street crimes.

"We can achieve maximum success in curbing terrorism after sending all such non-registered and illegal foreigners to their countries," he added. Bugti said Pakistan was a nuclear power state, and anti-state elements were trying to destabilize through conspiracies.

As regards detention centers, he said all the required facilities were being provided to Afghan families at the detention centers.



KARACHI: Newly elected President Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori.

General elections to be held in January: Khwaja Asif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N), Khwaja Muhammad Asif, announced on Wednesday that the general elections are scheduled to take place in January next year.

Speaking to a private television channel, Asif emphasized the crucial role of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in ensuring transparent elections.

Pak embassy joins Tehran charity bazaar for Palestinian aid

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Embassy in Tehran on Wednesday participated in a three-day charity bazaar organized by the Diplomatic Ladies Association of Iranian foreign ministry to generate funds for the suffering people of Palestine.

The opening ceremony was attended by the spouses of the heads of the different organizations and diplomatic missions accredited to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Indian troops martyred 17 Kashmiris in October

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indian troops in their continued acts of state terrorism martyred 17 Kashmiris including a woman and a child during the last month of October in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the data issued by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service, today, of those martyred, 11 were killed in fake encounters and custody by Indian troops and police in different districts of the territory.

The killing by the Indian forces' personnel in the month rendered 2 women widowed and 10 children orphaned.

Police foils bid to smuggle gutka in water tanker

KARACHI (APP): The district Keamari Police on Wednesday foiled an attempt to smuggle a huge quantity of gutka in a water tanker at the Mochko check post.

According to SSP Keamari Arif Aslam Rao, the seized gutka was being transported to Karachi from Hub in a water tanker.

He said due to the strict checking on Hub River Road by district Keamari Police, smugglers were trying new methods day by day.

A team from Mochko police station recovered four sacks of 120 kg gutka from a water tanker at the Mochko check post.

Suspects identified as Aslam and Rasheed involved in the delivery of gutka were also arrested.

A case had been registered and further investigations were underway.

Ashiana reference Court reserves verdict on acquittal applications of Shehbaz Sharif, others

LAHORE (APP): An accountability court on Wednesday reserved its verdict on acquittal applications of former prime minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and other accused in Ashiana-e-Iqbal Housing Scheme reference.

Besides Shehbaz Sharif, the court reserved verdict on the acquittal applications of Ahmad Cheema, the advisor to caretaker prime minister, Munir Zia, Imtiaz Haider, Bilal Qudwai, Sajjad Bhutta and Shahid Mehmoood. The court observed that the reserved verdict would be announced on November 7.

Accountability Court Judge Ali Zulfikar Awan reserved the verdict on completion of arguments by National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) prosecutor and the defence counsel.

During the proceedings, the NAB's prosecutor argued before the court that as per record, the accused were not likely to be convicted. He further expressed accord with the findings of the investigation report.

On May 20, 2023, the NAB had submitted a report in which it told the court that no evidence of financial corruption or misuse of authority was found against Shehbaz Sharif.

Delegation of NATO Parliamentary Assembly meets Muhammad Afridi

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of NATO Parliamentary Assembly from Danish Parliament led by Mads Fugle, Member of the Danish Parliament Wednesday called on Deputy Chairman Senate, Mirza Muhammad Afridi.

During the meeting, extensive discussions were held on strengthening bilateral relations and addressing issues of common concern, said a news release issued here.

The deputy chairman called for exploring opportunities to enhance trade and economic cooperation with the EU, aiming to further solidify economic ties and promote shared prosperity.



KARACHI: Afghan refugees go through a registration process at a UNHCR voluntary repatriation center for returning to their homeland, in Provincial Capital as Pakistani security forces on Wednesday rounded up, detained and deported dozens of Afghans who were living in the country illegally, after a government-set deadline for them to leave.

Omer Soomro inaugurates integration of Sindh CS's complaint cell

The inauguration is a crucial milestone in improving public grievance resolution mechanisms in the Province

Independent Report KARACHI: The Sindh Government has taken a huge step towards enhancing citizen services with the integration of the Sindh Chief Omer Soomro, at the SLACC office at Do Talwar, Clifton Karachi. He was flanked by officials from the Chief Secretary's Complaint Cell. SLACC,



Secretary's Complaint Cell with the Sindh Legal Advisory Call Center (SLACC) on 1 November, 2023. The inauguration ceremony was officiated by the Caretaker Sindh Law Minister, Mr. Mohammed which is Pakistan's first and only toll free legal advisory call center and funded by the Sindh government, will now help to expedite the resolution of public service and administrative complaints identified.