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dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Wednesday demanded the interim government of Afghanistan to hand over the Pakistani nationals who were illegally residing in Afghanistan and were involved in terrorist activities against their own country. Addressing a press conference here at the PM House, the prime minister said the government was ready to receive and accept any such illegal Pakistanis. PM Kakar also asked the Afghan government to take action against the hideouts of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and its training centres in Afghanistan and ensure that "they must not be used against Pakistan".

Since the interim government took to power in Afghanistan in August 2021, he said Pakistan witnessed an increase in terrorist incidents by 60 percent besides a 500 percent surge in suicide blasts. "Pakistan in last two years has lost lives of 2,867 innocent civilians, for which TTP is responsible which is operating from Afghanistan," he said.

He mentioned that 15 Afghan nationals were found involved in suicide bombings in Pakistan, while 64 Afghans got killed during their fight against the Pakistani law enforcement agencies.

He said Afghan authorities were cognizant of these facts as Pakistan had been sharing these details with them since February this year through the fortnightly memorandums of protest. The monitoring team of the United Nations in its report released this July clearly highlighted that TTP centres based in Afghanistan were conducting terrorist operations against Pakistan.

Asked if Pakistan itself would take action against the TTP hideouts in Afghanistan, Kakar said, "We are hopeful that they [Afghan government] will take an action themselves, which is in their own interest and also in our interest."



Ambassador of Ethiopia Jamal Bakar Abdullah called on Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice retired Maqbool Baqar in Karachi.

Pak, Uzbekistan resolve for early finalisation of Strategic Partnership Agreement

TASHKENT (APP): Pakistan and Uzbekistan on Wednesday reiterated the resolve to finalise the Strategic Partnership Agreement at the earliest to play an active role in regional economic integration. The bilateral ties were discussed in a bilateral meeting between Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, on the side-

Dr Aliya Imam appointed Advisor to CM Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice Maqbool Baqar has appointed Dr Aliya Imam as an Advisor to CM with immediate effect. According to a notification issued here on Wednesday, Caretaker CM, in exercising powers conferred under section 4(1) of the Sindh Advisors (Appointment, Powers, Functions, Salaries, Privileges) Act, 2019, appointed Dr Aliya Imam as his Advisor on an honorary basis.

Judge sitting in chamber is not supreme court: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has observed the judge sitting in chamber is not Supreme Court (SC). He further observed judges sitting in court are SC. The SC proceedings cannot be run while sitting in chamber. Only chamber appeals are heard in chamber. No constitution, laws and rules and regulations allow this to former CJP. He gave these remarks while presiding of SC bench during the hearing of human rights case against Faiz Hameed on the charges of occupation of land. The case came up for hearing before SC bench presided over by CJP Qazi Faez Isa Wednesday. The CJP while moving to the petitioner remarked there are gross allegations in your petition. The counsel for petitioner said the hearing of the case be adjourned for short period.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on Wednesday agreed to further expand cooperation between the two brotherly countries in media, drama, and other related fields. The decision was made during a meeting between Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi and Ambassador of Saudi Arabia



In the meeting, it was agreed to speed up the implementation of agreements between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in the field of media and communications. In the meeting, discussions were also held regarding cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in the field of communication.

Two terrorist killed near Afghanistan border, ISPR

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

Iqbal Day to be observed today Independent Report



ISLAMABAD: The nation will observe Iqbal Day on Thursday (today) to honor the 146th birth anniversary of the renowned poet, Dr. Allama Mohammad Iqbal. The government has declared a public holiday nationwide to celebrate the day. Born in Sialkot on November 9, 1877, Dr. Iqbal is fondly remembered as the "Poet of the East."



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

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

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

President Alvi highlighted that democracy was the only viable way forward for the State and the people of Pakistan, the "essence of which lied in giving people the right to partake in political activities and to be able to voice their opinions through a free media". The president stated that it was of utmost importance that the caretaker government under the prime minister's leadership made efforts as a neutral entity to provide a level-playing field for all political parties. "In this context, it was reassuring to hear your recent statements whereby you stated that it was the caretaker government's policy that all registered political parties should have equal rights and opportunities to contest the forthcoming elections," he wrote.

President Alvi said that as the office of the President of Pakistan represented the unity of the Republic as Head of State under Article 41 of the Constitution of Pakistan and, therefore, it was duty-bound along with the prime minister and all institutions to protect the rights of the citizens, as enshrined in the Constitution.

Govt decides to launch last anti polio campaign of 2023 this month

ISLAMABAD (Online): Government has decided to launch last anti polio campaign of 2023 from this month. Sources said first phase of National Polio Campaign (NPC) will run from November 20 to 24 in KP. The second phase will run from November 27 to December 03 in the country. Polio drops will be administered to over 40 million people in the campaign.

Over 40 million people will be vaccinated in Punjab, over 20 million people in Sindh, 2.5 million people in Balochistan and 421455 people will be vaccinated in Islamabad. Polio drops will be administered to over 7 lac people in Azad Kashmir and over 2 lac people in Gilgit-Baltistan. Over 3 lac front line workers will be appointed in National polio campaign.



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

PPP to win election basis of its past performance: Shazia

KARACHI (APP): The Secretary Information of Pakistan People's Party and Former Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program Shazia Marri on Wednesday said that if conducive environment would be provided, PPP will emerge victorious in upcoming general elections. Addressing a news conference at Karachi Press Club, Shazia Marri said PPP strongly condemned Israel's brutal attacks against innocent people of Palestine in Gaza Strip and considered it barbaric act of state terrorism. She called upon world community to take notice of Israel aggression against Palestinians. In reply to a question, Shazia Marri said PTI chairman was involved in mobilizing people against state institutions and no one is allowed to create hatred against government functionaries and leaders of opponent political parties. Pakistan People's party performed well in Sindh and it served the masses during last three tenures, she said, adding that provincial government successfully faced floods and rehabilitated millions of displaced flood affectees. She said people of Pakistan will vote for PPP on the basis of its past performance.

NEPRA jacks up electricity tariff

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

PTI demands of EC to issue written decision in intra party election matter

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI has demanded of Election Commission (EC) to issue written decision regarding intra party election. PTI legal team met with Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja. Barrister Gauhar and Babar Awan were also present in the meeting. General election and other important matters were discussed in the meeting.

Ethiopian envoy calls on Sindh CM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) in Pakistan Jamal Beker Abdula on Wednesday called on Sindh Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqar.

During the meeting, both the dignitaries discussed full gamut of the relations, including cooperation at bilateral and multilateral levels, said a news release. Ambassador Jamal Beker felicitated the Sindh chief minister on assuming the role of chief executive of the province. Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqar appreciated the support extended by the Government of the FDR Ethiopia to Pakistan during the recent flash floods. He also lauded the remarkable economic progress made by the FDR Ethiopia in the recent times. The chief minister said Ethiopia and Pakistan had long-standing bilateral relations that were improving gradually. However, there was a need to explore the immense potential in multiple areas, including economy, health, education and others, he added. He hailed the start of the Ethiopian Airlines operations in Pakistan which would contribute to the already flourishing bilateral ties by strengthening trade, business and people-to-people ties.



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

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

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

IGP chairs meeting to boost crime control in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): In a pivotal gathering convened at the Karachi Police Office (KPO), IGP Sindh Riffat Mukhtar Raja chaired a high-level meeting to address the rising concerns of street crimes, Gutka/Mawa, and various criminal activities on Wednesday. During the meeting, the attendees comprehensively assessed the police force's performance, focusing on their efforts to combat these offences and discussed strategies to enhance the security of upcoming important events while evaluating the current law and order situation. IGP Sindh Riffat Mukhtar Raja, took particular notice of the developments related to street crime and other criminal cases. In response, he issued stringent orders to crack down on street criminals and instructed a more aggressive approach against drug and Gutka/Mawa mafias. Emphasizing the need for a proactive policing approach, IGP Sindh emphasized that all necessary measures should be taken to curtail the crime rate.



HYDERABAD: Caretaker Sindh Minister for Finance, Revenue and Planning and Development, Muhammad Younus Dagher addresses during the Revenue Convention held in Hyderabad.

SHC rejects police, JITs report, orders to trace missing persons from every angle

KARACHI (Online): Sindh High Court (SHC) while rejecting Police and JITs report regarding missing persons has ordered to trace missing persons from every angle. The petitions filed regarding missing persons came up for hearing before Justice Naimatullah Phulpoto Wednesday. The court while expressing resentment over JIT authorities for not tracing missing persons has summoned JIT head and provincial task force head. The court remarked if the missing persons can not be traced out in JIT then this proceeding is useless. They only embarrass people and nothing is done. If the missing persons have not been traced after 26 meetings of JIT then it is all useless. SHC rejected police report during the hearing of the case. The court ordered to issue JITs report after 3 days of meeting. The court expressed dissatisfaction over the report of federal interior ministry and ministry of defence remarking now it will not run this way.



KARACHI: Journalists are holding protest rally Karachi Press Club to Governor House against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, held in Karachi.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Congo virus outbreak

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

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

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



Navaira Ali Bangash

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

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

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

Food safety

the situation is, in fact, the reverse.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reheated soufflé?



Mahir Ali

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commerce News

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

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

This was said by Secretary Ministry of

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

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

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

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

She added that the meeting was held after

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

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

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



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

Fawad chairs first meeting of SIFC Working Group

ISLAMABAD (APP): Economic Zones highlighted the major impediments faced by existing ones and the framework requirements of future SEZs, including the development of a 'One Stop Shop' facilitation. The forum discussed the limitations of the concept of 'One Stop Shop' and pointed out the need of a mutual agreement between the federal and provincial governments and their industrial zone authorities, an official press release said. The Additional Secretary of Board of Investment (BOI) and Director General of Special

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

APPAC delegation visits FPCCI to discuss trade, investment ties

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

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

Philip Ramos, at the occasion, proposed a

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

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

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

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

US tech entrepreneurs urged to invest in upgrading Pak tourism industry

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

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

change," he said at a special session of the Annual Open Silicon Valley Forum 2023 in San Francisco, a city in the US state of California. The subject of the conference was "Exploring Pakistan's Tourism Treasures: From Mountains to Metropolises." "Our joint ventures will help tapping the existing potential of tourism. Your equity participation will pay you off well," Ambassador Masood Khan said.

Chairman TEVTA visited SCCI

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

Pak regional exports increase 3 percent in Q1

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's exports to the seven regional countries witnessed an increase of 3 percent in the first quarter of the fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the corresponding months of last year. The country's exports to the regional countries including Afghanistan, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, and Maldives, Pakistan's exports to China witnessed an increase of 26.42 percent to \$633.374 million in three months of this year from \$501.000 million during last year while exports to Afghanistan.

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

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

CM Azam unveils e-office software system in KMU

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Aamer directs authorities to preserve historical record of tribal areas

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Foolproof security devised for 8th desert jeep rally

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

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

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

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

LHC allows PTI to hold corner meeting in Shahdara

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

International News

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

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

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

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



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

Blinken visits South Korea as North Korea, Russia deepen ties

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

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

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

More Palestinians fleeing combat zone in northern Gaza, UN says

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Indonesian chief justice dismissed over ethics breach

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

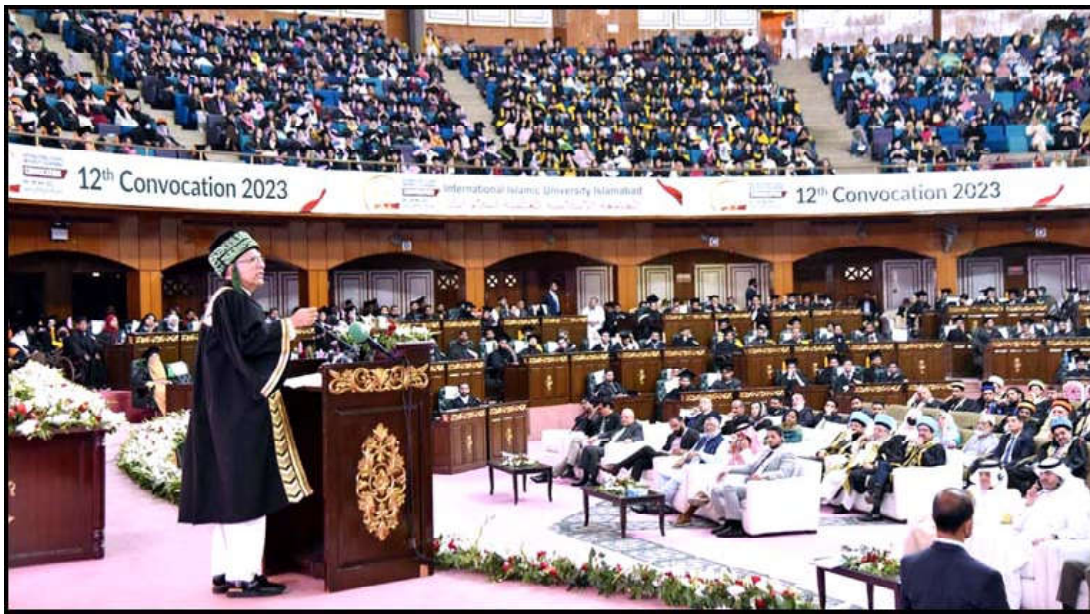
presidency. The ruling, issued just months before general elections in February, paved the way for Widodo's eldest son Gibran Rakabuming Raka to run for vice president alongside Defence Minister Prabowo Subianto. The judicial panel found that in failing to "re-cuse himself from the examination and decision-making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

Russia's Lavrov assails West over switch to green energy

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



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



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the 12th Convocation ceremony of International Islamic University Islamabad.

President Dr. Arif Alvi says Women involvement in decision making, economy inevitable for prosperity

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday emphasizing the women's active participation in all sectors, said one of the reasons behind Pakistan lacking prosperity was the non-involvement of women in decision making as well as the economic corridors of power.

The president, addressing the 12th Convocation of International Islamic University Islamabad, said the nation's investment on the women education went to waste when they sat at home without going into the practical life.

Saudi Ambassador in Islamabad Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy, Qatari Ambassador Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, first secretary of Thailand, IUI Pro-Chancellor Dr Ahmed Salem Muhammad Al-Ameri, Rector Dr Samina Malik and President Dr Hathal Homoud Alotaibi also attended the convocation besides other diplomats and educationists.

"Education is investment of this poor nation on you. If you will sit at home, this will be the loss of the nation."

I want you not to give up its practical application. (However), this is the duty of the government and the nation to provide you a harassment-free working environment," the president remarked. He also called for job structures for the women which should also facilitate them keeping in view the family-related engagements of the women.

Citing the example of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)'s wife Hazrat Khadija, also a working business woman, the president said Islam encouraged the women to work as it

was not possible to leave half of the country's population unutilised.

He, who earlier awarded PhD degrees to 138 and gold medals to 71 students, congratulated the students, their parents as well as the university and teachers for their hard work. He was appreciative that girl students consisted of over half of the total 34,000 strength of the university. He advised the new graduates to welcome the knowledge without any religious biases or selection, and always remain humble and act as a knowledge-seeker.

Madad Ali Sindhi says Pakistan working diligently to ensure every child has access to quality education

Education Minister presents Pakistan's perspective at 42nd session of UNESCO General Conference and high level Ministerial Dialogue on education for peace

ISLAMABAD (PR): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi presented Pakistan's perspective at 42nd Session of UNESCO General Conference and High Level Ministerial Dialogue on Education for Peace, today.

Speaking at the Session the Minister said that Pakistan is working diligently to ensure that every child, regardless of socio economic background, has access to quality education.

He assured Pakistan's commitment to SDG-4 (Education) as education is the corner stone to progress, and a guiding light towards a more prosperous society.

The Minister highlighted Pakistan's active participation in the revision process of the 1974 Recommendations where in collaboration with the Member States, proposals were framed aimed at advancing the debate on a more equitable and universal education system that is better adopted to meet the requirements of the modern world.

He also briefed that Pakistan is working with multiple partners including UNESCO for the preservation of its cultural heritage. Pakistan he said, has a treasure trove ranging from folk related items such as Sohan Halwa to Ajrak a traditional garment worn in Sindh to



folk music that it would like to inscribe as intangible cultural heritage in addition to three items already inscribed. The Minister said that promotion of cultural

diversity is essential to achieve SDG-11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). While addressing the Session, he also stressed upon the urgent need to address climate change which has become a global challenge and is now affecting developing countries including Pakistan.

The Minister said that more than ever before Pakistan remains fully committed to SDG-13 (Climate Action) and is working on safe guarding its green spaces. The inscription of two additional Biosphere Reserves (i) Chitral Bashkar Garamchashma and (ii) Gallies demonstrate Pakistan's seriousness to preserve environment.



TASHKENT: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets with the Secretary General of ECO Mr. Khusrav Noziri on the sidelines of 16th ECO Summit.

PM, ECO SG discuss Kashmir, ME situation

TASHKENT (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday held a meeting with Secretary General of Economic Cooperation Organization Ambassador Younus Khusrav Noziri.

Sindh Minister disappointed over slow revenue case progress in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD (APP): Caretaker Sindh Minister for Revenue, Industries, and Commerce, Mohammad Younus Dagha, expressed his dismay over the slow progress of district administrations and officers of the concerned departments in the Hyderabad division in evaluating the cases of suspicious entries and authenticating revenue matters. He expressed his dismay while presiding over a meeting of Deputy Commissioners from all

districts of Hyderabad division through a video link at the office of the Commissioner of Hyderabad on Wednesday.

According to a spokesperson for the division administration, the caretaker minister asked questions about the progress reports submitted by Deputy Commissioners following last month's meeting. He emphasized the need for Deputy Commissioners to promptly investigate cases of suspicious entries and authenticate revenue cases.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari exchanges views with former Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and former Federal Minister Syed Khursheed Shah during meeting held at Bilawal House in Karachi.

Iqbal's doctrine of self reliance, self determination for progress: Speaker NA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly, Raja Pervez Ashraf Wednesday said that Pakistan can achieve sustainable progress by embracing Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal's doctrine of self-reliance and self-determination.

He said this while paying deep respect to Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal on the eve of his 146th birth anniversary through a message. The Speaker noted that Iqbal not only envisioned a separate homeland for the Muslims of the sub-continent but also provided a blueprint for the nation's enduring growth and development through his philosophy of "Self" (khudi).

He was a visionary

leader with the ability to see beyond surface-level phenomena and discern underlying events as they unfolded.

Raja Pervez also recalled Iqbal's staunch support for the Palestinian cause. He vigorously rejected Zionist claims to Palestinian territory and emphatically opposed the establishment of a Jewish homeland at the expense of the Palestinians.

Iqbal also posed the question, "If Jews have a right to the land of Palestine, why do Arabs not have a claim to Spain?". He urged the Muslim Ummah to unite and exert every effort to safeguard Islam and Muslims worldwide.

President appoints Nasir Mahmood as AIOU VC

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday appointed Nasir Mahmood as the Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University.

The president made the said appointment under section 11 of the Allama Iqbal Open University Act 1974, a President House press release said.

PM warns of transregional spillover of Gaza war; urges engagement with West

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has called for enhanced engagement with the Western capitals to make Israel realise that the Gaza war could have a spillover effect beyond the region.

"We need to engage with different Western capitals, particularly Washington and London, and they need to make realize the Israeli side that they are contributing to destabilize not just the region, but probably it would have a spillover effect beyond the region," the prime minister said in an interview with Arab News published on Wednesday.

When asked if the Pakistan government had received any requests from the United States to soften its stance against Israel as it continued attacks on Gaza, Kakar said, "I'm not aware of any such request and I don't think so any government would listen to any such request which is in my opinion surreal, it's absurd to even think of requesting someone to be silent on such an account."

He called for an immediate "cessation of violence" and labeled Israel's assault on Gaza "genocide, clearly".

The ECO Secretary General thanked Prime Minister Kakar for Pakistan's firm support to the ECO and assured him of the commitment of the Secretariat to strengthen trade and connectivity in the region.

Two planning honour killing in-law held

KARACHI (INP): The police on Wednesday arrested two accused planning honour killing of their brother-in-law in the metropolis.

According to details, the patrolling team of Sukhan police station of Karachi stopped two suspects and recovered two sharp edged toxin knives from their possession.

During investigation, the accused Adnan and Sajid revealed that they hail from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and had come to Karachi to kill their brother-in-law for honour.

The police confiscated the recovered weapons and after registering a case against the detainees started investigations.

Imran Khan challenges in SC his indictment proceedings in cipher case

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI chairman Imran Khan has challenged in Supreme Court (SC) the indictment proceedings in cipher case.

Legal team of chairman PTI Imran Khan resorted to SC against indictment proceedings in cipher case.

Chairman PTI Imran Khan filed the petition in the SC through his counsel Hamid Khan.

The petitioner took the plea in the petition that Islamabad High Court (IHC) October 26 order be declared null and void. The court should declare October 23 order of special court on framing indictment against law and constitution. The petitioner is one

among some honest and respectable politicians. The petitioner is being subjected to political victimization. The scope of political vengeance has been extended to political party of the petitioner and its allies.

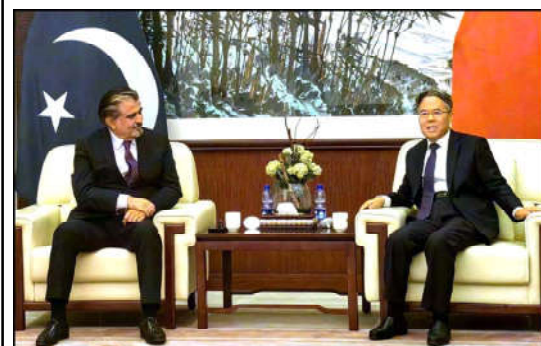
The petition said it is necessary to inform court about targeting the petitioner through criminal machinery in Islamabad. Over 200 cases have been registered against the petitioner despite being former Prime Minister and head of the largest political party of the country. Cases related to terrorism, treason and Toshakhana and others have been registered against the petitioner.

WAPDA Chairman visits Mohmand Dam Project

LAHORE (APP): Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) Chairman Engr. Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Sajjad Ghani Wednesday visited Mohmand Dam Project being constructed across River Swat in Mohmand District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

He reviewed construction activities on different sites of the project - the spillway and the river diversion tunnels in particular. At present, construction works relating to excavation, stabilisation and concreting are being carried out simultaneously on these sites. The Chairman also presided over a progress review meeting during the visit, according to WAPDA spokesman here.

The meeting was attended by the GM/PD Mohmand Dam Project, senior members of his team and representatives of the Consultants and the Contractors.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah in meeting with His Excellency Mr. Jiang Zaidong, Ambassador of China, at China Embassy.

Pakistan unveils plan to bridge external financing gap with IMF

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has shared a plan with the IMF on bridging the external financing gap by attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) in various sectors, including energy, aviation, minerals, and agriculture. According to media reports on Wednesday, the caretaker government expects a significant increase in FDI inflows during the current financial year to help meet the external financing gap. Sources within the Finance Ministry indicate that Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar have expressed strong interest in investing in Pakistan's economy.

Arab countries are particularly keen on investing in energy, aviation, minerals, and agriculture. They are also expected to invest heavily in upgrading Pakistan's airport infrastructure, with the potential outsourcing of Islamabad Airport this month.

In addition to attracting FDI, Pakistan has also signed a free trade agreement with the Gulf Cooperation Organization (GCC) and is currently working on a mutual investment agreement. The IMF has requested a briefing from the Finance Ministry on the Special Investment Facilitation Council and its potential impact on tax collection and subsidies.

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4,369 bikes, 2,446 mobiles snatched in October - CPLC

KARACHI (INP): The Citizens-Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) on Wednesday released a report on street crimes committed in October 2023 in Karachi, ARY News reported.

According to statistics compiled by the CPLC, as many as 4,396 motorbikes were stolen in October, while 817 two-wheelers were snatched at gunpoint.

The CPLC report further said, 182 vehicles were also snatched during the said period, while 25 vehicles were snatched at gunpoint.

The CPLC said 54 snatched or stolen vehicles and 265 motorbikes were recovered.

The cases of kidnapping for ransom and extortion witnessed a surge in Karachi in October as 13 cases were reported during the month.

The 9,464 citizens were deprived of their cellphones during the first four months of 2023, out of which only 161 were recovered.



KARACHI: Leaders and members of Jamat-e-Islami (JI) are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, held at Shahrah-e-Quaideen road in Karachi.

JSMU to provide dental clinic, laboratory collection point at Karachi press club

KARACHI (APP): Jinnah Sindh Medical University will install a dental unit and laboratory collection centre at the Karachi Press Club to provide basic dental and diagnostic services to journalists and their families.

Vice Chancellor JSMU Professor Amjad Siraj Memon announced this while meeting the Karachi Press Club President Saeed Sarbazi, Secretary Shoaib Ahmed, Tufail Ahmed (Secretary of the Health Committee), and members of the Governing Body on Wednesday at the Karachi Press Club.

All primary treatments, such as screening, scaling, and simple extractions, will be performed at the clinic at KPC, while secondary treatments that require specialized machinery will be conducted at JSMU, he elaborated.

President KPC Saeed Sarbazi apprised the Vice Chancellor and his team of the challenges faced by journalists.

He discussed the health card offered to the Karachi Press Club members and the healthcare facilities provided by KPC to its members and their families. The Vice Chancellor acknowledged the services of the journalist community and offered to provide fee waivers to children of KPC members who qualify under the open merit category for M.B.B.S or B.D.S.

He also offered to provide partial financial assistance through the University's Financial Aid Committee for other programmes. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed between JSMU and KPC in the next meeting.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Central Information Secretary, Shazia Marri addresses to media persons during press conference held at Karachi press club.

MoU signed for facility of hearing-impaired individuals at police stations

KARACHI (APP): A significant milestone in enhancing accessibility for hearing-impaired individuals was achieved as the launch ceremony of the "Connect Hear" mobile app took place at the Sindh Boys Scout Auditorium.

The event witnessed the presence of several dignitaries, including the DIGP - Admin, representatives from Connect Hear, and police officers.

During the ceremony, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Karachi Police and Connect Hear, paving the way for a revolutionary change in the way police stations handle complaints from the hearing-impaired community.

The "Connect Hear" app will serve as a vital tool for police officers, enabling them to better comprehend the grievances of hearing-impaired citizens, facilitating the filing of reports and acquiring relevant information. This innovative app will be seamlessly integrated into the mobile devices of concerned officers stationed at police precincts, ensuring its widespread use. Speaking about this groundbreaking initiative, DIGP - Administration Karachi, Imran Yaqub, emphasized Karachi Police's commitment to bolstering operational capabilities through technology.

However, the designer was yet to be granted bail in another case, which means she will still stay behind bars.

Khadija Shah, a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activist and former finance minister Dr Salman Shah's daughter is currently in jail on judicial remand in Jinnah House attack case following the arrest of former prime minister and PTI chief on May 9.

Violent clashes broke out across Pakistan after the former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan was arrested at the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

PTI activist Khadija Shah granted bail

LAHORE (INP): A district and sessions court in Lahore on Wednesday granted bail to PTI activist and designer Khadija Shah in provocative tweets case.

Additional Sessions Judge Muhammad Nawaz heard the case and granted bail to Shah against surety bonds worth Rs100,000.

The case was registered against Khadija Shah by the FIA Lahore.

However, the designer was yet to be granted bail in another case, which means she will still stay behind bars.

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KARACHI: Members of Local Government Employees Union Committee are holding protest demonstration against non-payment of their dues salaries for the past three months, held outside Sindh Secretariat building in Karachi.