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dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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Effects of ongoing disastrous situation in Gaza may go beyond the region: PM

Series of attack on innocent Palestinians should be stopped immediately: Anwarul Haq Kakar

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar has warned about spillover effects of the disastrous situation in Gaza and said that this war could also have an impact outside the region. He said that Israel's attacks on innocent Palestinians must stop immediately. Pakistan-Turkey bilateral relations are excellent. The decision to evacuate Afghan refugees was made late and it should have been done a long time ago. Kashmir dispute must be resolved to improve relations with India.

While giving an interview to Turkish news Agency, Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar said that an endless human tragedy is being wit-

nessed in the region and there are strong possibilities of its impact not in the region but also outside the region.

While emphasizing the need for an immediate end to the Gaza crisis, he said that a humanitarian corridor should be established for uninterrupted supply of food, medicine and other essential items to the war victims of the area. Islamabad is looking forward to attending the upcoming special session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the organization should consider the situation, and come up with a collective response.

While defending Islamabad's move to deport

illegal Afghan refugees, he said that we took this decision with little delay, but now we are quite determined for orderly movement across the border. No country in the world encourages illegal immigration.

So why is Pakistan being treated exclusively in such a way that it should not treat Afghan citizens like this.

Every country wants an orderly movement with citizens of other countries. This decision by Pakistan will be in the best interest of Afghan citizens and Pakistanis in the long run to have a normal, orderly movement like the rest of the world.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking to media persons during his visit to Dino Safari Park in Karachi.

Measures underway for preserving cultural heritage, developing infrastructure: Jamal Shah

KARACHI (APP): The caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Syed Jamal Shah, during development of cultural infrastructure as the topmost priority, said that measures were being taken for preservation of cultural heritage of the country. The minister, while talking to media persons during his visit to the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah here Friday, said that diverse and rich cultural heritage, beautiful topography, geographical diversity and archaeological sites of historical value situated in Pakistan offer enormous opportunities those could be utilized for economic advancement of the country.

Jamal Shah said Pakistan is situated at the place that was rightly called as

melting pot of culture and civilization as it is the birth place of various religions and civilizations while diversity of old cultures make it an attractive bunch of beautiful flowers.

The caretaker government is working to project positive perception of a peaceful, enlightened and progressive Pakistan that possesses a respectable position among the countries of the region, he maintained. Underscoring the need of proper maintenance and development of sacred religious places of different beliefs he said that restoration of those historical places and making them easily accessible would not only attract tourists from all around the world but also help promoting domestic and international tourism in the country.

He said that Quaid-e-

Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah is the great leader of the nation and dissemination of his ideology and highlighting remarkable struggle for independence of Pakistan among the masses particularly, the young generation was fundamental responsibility of culture ministry. "We are looking into possibilities of developing more facilities in the periphery of Mazar-e-Quaid including cultural centers, auditoriums and cafes so that beauty of the Mazar complex could be enhanced while assuring maximum facilities to visitors," the minister stated.

The youth is the largest chunk of country's population as well as precious asset of Pakistan and holistic measures were required for ensuring provision of education.



KARACHI: Caretaker Minister for Information Balochistan Jan Achakzai meeting with Caretaker Home Minister Sindh Brig (ret'd) Haris Nawaz

PM House still in hands of those who ruled before: Khurshid Shah

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) senior leader Khurshid Shah on Friday, without naming Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz's (PML-N), said that the Prime Minister's House continues to be in the hands of the same party which ruled before.

"The government will not work if someone is forcefully imposed on us to rule. If the (prime minister) is selected, then the country will only suffer," said Shah while speaking to media persons in Lahore.

to PML-N's electoral alliance with Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P), said that the PPP was contesting alone in the elections.

"The people of Punjab had shown their trust in PPP in the past," said Shah, adding if there are any punctures in the elections, then there will be a lot of damage.

"There is no interference during the voting process around the world," he said while calling for the restoration of democracy through voting in Pakistan.

Court orders to return Nawaz confiscated assets

ISLAMABAD (APP): An Accountability Court (AC) on Friday directed the authorities to return the confiscated assets and property owned by Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in the Toshakhana case.

AC-I Judge Muhammad Bashir, while hearing the case, ordered the respondents to return 1,650 kanals land in Lahore, bank accounts, property and luxury vehicles, confiscated by them, to the former prime minister. The court took the decision when it was told that Nawaz Sharif had traveled abroad for his medical treatment with the court's permission.

The judge observed that non-bailable arrest warrants against Nawaz Sharif were issued by the court instead of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) chairman. He said that the court had already withdrawn arrest warrants after the former prime minister surrendered before it. It may be mentioned here that the accountability court had declared former prime minister as absconder in October 2020.



RIYADH: Deputy Governor Riyadh, Prince Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Abdulaziz receiving Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar upon his arrival.

MQM-P-PML-N alliance will benefit PPP in general elections: Bilawal

KARACHI (INP): Reacting to the recent "electoral alliance" between Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) and Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Friday claimed that the coalition will be more beneficial for his party in the upcoming general election.

During an interaction with journalists in Safari Park, the PPP chairman said: "We worked hard to make him [Shehbaz Sharif] prime minister. It was the need of the hour."

He clarified that the decision was aimed at improving the situation as the country was facing a political and democratic crisis.

The PPP leader said that they benefited Sindh during the PDM-led government.

Responding to a question, Bilawal — without naming the Istehkam-i-Pakistan Party and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentarians — predicted that the "king's party" would meet the same fate as that of the 2008 elections.

Hitting out at the establishment, the PPP leader said that the "king's party" is fielded in every election, adding: "Creating such parties sends a wrong message to the public and political circles."

Talking about the no-confidence motion against former prime minister Imran Khan, Bilawal said that PPP believed in democracy.

PM arrives in Saudi Arabia to attend OIC's emergency meeting on Gaza situation

RIYADH (Saudi Arabia) (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar arrived in Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh on Friday to represent Pakistan at the emergency meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on the volatile situation in Gaza. Deputy Governor Riyadh, Prince Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Abdulaziz received the prime minister on his arrival at the King Khalid International Airport. Pakistan's ambassador Ahmed Farooq and senior Saudi and Pakistani officials were present on the occasion.

During his three-day official visit, the prime minister will participate in the emergency meeting being held in Riyadh.

Alvi assures Mahmoud of Pakistan's continued support for Palestine cause

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday telephoned President of Palestine, Mahmoud Abbas and assured Pakistan's continued support for resolving the Palestinian dispute in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

The president expressed his heartfelt sympathies and grief on behalf of the people and the Government of Pakistan over the atrocities being committed by Israel against the people of Palestine.

He deplored the situation in Gaza, terming it "very painful" and said that the entire Pakistani nation was deeply saddened by the brutalities and reign of terror unleashed by the Is-

raeli security forces.

He strongly condemned the lethal bombing by Israel which even did not spare schools and hospitals.

The barbaric actions, he said, resulted in killing of thousands of Palestinians, including women and children, healthcare workers, journalists and UN aid workers.

The president said the current situation in Gaza was the reaction of decades of apartheid and unjust policies of Israel. He condemned Israel for ethnic cleansing against the Muslims and pushing them out of their territories. President Alvi regretted the lack of action on part of the international community to stop Israel from its murderous campaign against the people of Gaza.



LONDON: Pakistani High Commissioner Dr. Muhammad Faisal presenting a souvenir to Governor Sindh Karman Khan Tessori.

Sindh Home Minister emphasizes collaboration for enhanced security measures

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Caretaker Minister for Home and Prisons, Sindh Brig. © Haris Nawaz, convened a special meeting on Friday to assess the law and order situation in the province, with a focus on matters related to the repatriation of illegal immigrants and foreign nationals.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Sindh Home Department, Karachi Police, Pakistan Rangers (Sindh), and various intelligence agencies, as well as a representative from the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA).

The Home Minister commended the roles of various departments and institutions, especially the Rangers, Police, and district administration, in providing facilities and accommodations for the returning migrants.

He instructed to expedite the deportation process and proposed holding a fol-

low-up meeting every Tuesday to monitor the progress of repatriating illegal immigrants.

During the meeting, it was reported that the Finance Department Sindh has disbursed the estimated funds necessary for the ongoing repatriation process in the province. Stressing the importance of transparency in all expenses related to the illegal immigrants' evacuation process, the Home Minister emphasized strict adherence to the rules and regulations governing these expenses and suggested devising a mechanism to ensure transparency.

The city police chief briefed the Home Minister on overall law and order issues, particularly street crimes. The Home Minister highlighted the government's primary responsibility to safeguard the lives and property of the people and maintain peace.



RIYADH: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Ms. Mushal Hussein Mullick calls on Dr. Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa, Chairman of Organization of Muslim Scholars and Secretary General of the Muslim World League at his office.

MQM takes U-turn on electoral alliance with PML-N

ISLAMABAD (INP): Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) convener, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, clarified that there is no electoral alliance with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), instead, discussions have revolved around supporting each other for fair and transparent elections. In an interview with a private TV channel, he emphasized that the joint declaration from the meeting with the PML-N leadership did not mention an electoral alliance.

Siddiqui shared insights into the meetings with political leaders, including Nawaz

Sharif, highlighting the historical context of MQM's interactions with various political elites. He stressed that discussions about contesting elections together, forming a government, and determining the chief minister have not taken place, adding that MQM-P does not traditionally form electoral alliances, but seat adjustments are possible, although not finalized at this stage. Regarding specific government positions, the MQM convener stated that discussions about the chief minister and ministries were not on the agenda, and his party might not include such matters in the agreements at this time.



KARACHI: Federal Minister For National Heritage and Culture Syed Jamal Shah addressing to the media persons at Mazar-e-Quaid.

PPP to not ally any political party in upcoming polls

ISLAMABAD (Online): In the upcoming general elections, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has decided not to form an alliance with any political party.

The local leadership of the party will be entrusted with the powers for seat-to-seat adjustment at the local level.

According to the details, PPP has started formulating a strategy for the general elections early next year, and after considering the electoral alliance with various political parties, the sources have claimed that the People's Party will not oppose any political party in the general elections. It has been decided not to form an electoral alliance with any party.

While in the upcoming general elections, PPP will participate in the elections on its electoral sym-

bol, Sources claimed that in the past, electoral alliances have been formed against the People's Party and now the People's Party has set up seat-to-seat at the local level under the new election strategy and decided to empower local leadership for adjustment.

Sources also said that local leadership of the party will have the authority to make seat-to-seat adjustments according to their constituency, while on the other hand, regarding the general elections in the country, the Pakistan People's Party has decided to speed up the public relations campaign.

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's visit to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been finalized. He will address the Workers' Convention during his visit.



KARACHI: Leader of MQM Farooq Sattar addressing during All Parties Conference by MWM regarding the Palestine issue at Bhojani Hall in Provincial Capital.

CJP imposes fine of Rs 10 lac on petitioner for prolonging case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has imposed fine of Rs 10 lac on the petitioner for prolonging the case.

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by CJP heard the case related to ownership of land Friday.

Expressing annoyance over the petitioner for prolonging the case, the court slapped fine amounting to Rs 10 lac on the petitioner.

The CJP remarked the entire judicial system was annihilated.

Bus tire explosion causes fatal accident, 1 dead, 8 injured

KARACHI (APP): A tragic incident unfolded on Friday when a high-speed bus suffered a tire explosion on Shahrah-e-Faisal. The mishap resulted in the bus careening out of control, ultimately colliding with a wall and tragically striking a family riding a motorcycle.

Rescue sources reported that amidst the chaos, a woman lost her life in the accident, while eight individuals sustained injuries.

The deceased victim was identified as Masooma, wife of Athar Abbas, aged 30. Among the injured were Athar Abbas aged 35; Malik Akhtar aged 3; Kian Abbas aged 1; and Parveen aged 35.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Pakistan's firm stand on repatriation of illegal immigrants

While the forced repatriation of the illegal and undocumented immigrants is continued uninterrupted all over the country including Balochistan, Pakistan has announced its plan to deport registered Afghan immigrants as well after their (illegal) repatriation. Voluntary repatriation of illegal Afghan nationals to their homeland continued-nine days after the expiry of the deadline for voluntary repatriation on Oct 31. According to the official data, on Thursday, 3,035 undocumented immigrants, including 785 men, 747 women, 1,468 children and 35 deportees, left the country for Afghanistan via Torkham border crossing.

In addition, 3,056 individuals departed for Afghanistan via Angoor Adda border crossing in South Waziristan. As many as 197,652 immigrants-14,683 families comprising 55,394 men, 42,921 women, and 98,098 children-have so far left for Afghanistan via KP borders since September 17. An official document read that 1,207 people were also deported. Meanwhile, the caretaker Minister Information Balochistan, Jan Aachakzai's assertion is clear when he mentioned that the country's policy regarding repatriation of illegal and other immigrants is in reaction to militants using Afghanistan as a launching pad to foment terrorism in the country.

This is at time when JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman demanded the formation of a commission to deal with the issue of refugees, saying "unilateral decisions do not serve Pakistan or Afghanistan". Earlier, at a press conference at Karachi Press Club, the provincial caretaker Information Minister claimed the government would start the same campaign against those living with legal documents in the country in line with the "state's decision". Though the caretakers lack the authority to make policy decisions, the Minister claimed the deportation drive would not come to a halt after the elections due in February next year. And no one should be mistaken. This is the decision of a 'sovereign state' to repatriate all illegal immigrants. So any political government comes to power after the elections, this process would continue. The new government would be bound to follow this policy.

The minister claimed terrorists were using the Afghan soil to target "our security forces and that is why we have decided to send illegal immigrants to their home countries". His claim was that six terrorists killed in Zhob last week were Afghan nationals. "With the new [Taliban] government set-up taking charge in Afghanistan two years ago, the incidents of terrorism in Pakistan have increased." During the presser, it was also mentioned by Jan Aachakzai that Balochistan government has so far blocked some 100,000 fake Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) in two districts of the province.



Muhammad Azfar Ahsan

Action will be judged — the Islamic concept of accountability is at the core of the entire philosophy that scaffolds the community's financial development in an Islamic state. Initially disavowed as a 'no banking system' and then labelled as too religiously confined, Islamic banking has come up astoundingly and with great flourish, suspending all arguments against it.

It is rapidly permeating the monopoly of conventional financial systems, gaining recognition for its resilience and robust risk management backed by collateral assets. Its inclusive nature has driven remarkable growth even in secular economies like those of the United Kingdom and Singapore.

From the Islamic perspective, all wealth belongs to God, and man is only a trustee who should manage it accordingly to achieve worldly prosperity. The Holy Quran says in Surah Nur, Verse 33 "... and give something out of the wealth that God has bestowed upon you. ..." Meanwhile in Surah Baqarah, Verse 275 it is stated: "Allah hath permitted trade and forbidden usury", because wealth is a product that needs to be invested to build financial infrastructure in the community and for the community — it is not to hoard or take interest on.

The historical development of Islamic banking will help us see how the Arab concept of 'amanah' emphasised entrusting reliable and trustworthy in-

Beyond riba

dividuals with financial and valuable assets. This trustworthiness formed the cornerstone of the community's financial ethics. 'Al Amanah' and 'Al Masu'uliyah' defined requisite financial behaviour, making the absence of riba a mechanical tool for a healthier business community. Riba was declared to be a satanic instrument bringing misery and cruelty while standing in the way of the well-being of a community. With robust customer due diligence, monitoring of transactions, timely reporting/sharing mechanisms, and obliteration of speculation (gharar), combined with thorough scrutiny by Islamic scholars to ensure that investments are made in ethically sound businesses, Islamic commerce gained ground, enabling the rise of the Islamic dominions. The introduction of mudaraba (profit and loss sharing) and musharaka (partnership) concepts as risk-sharing mechanisms proved effective, as they encouraged precise reporting and transparent disclosure of financial information. All stakeholders had a vested interest in the ventures' success, which encouraged robust collaborative frameworks.

Additionally, zakat (charitable giving) and sadaqah (voluntary giving) played a role in redistributing wealth and addressing social inequalities, contributing to a more equitable and transparent financial ecosystem. The beauty is that this evolving landscape of Islamic finance existed within the parameters of taqwa (mindfulness of accountability towards Allah) ensuring the strong responsibility of each stakeholder to uphold the highest moral principles. Gambling, whether qimar or mairis, was strictly barred. The idea of wishful ease without payment or labour was not admissible. Fraud or coercion, of course, fell more in the

ambit of dishonesty and, hence, were completely out of the picture too.

History shows several success stories of the system, and today, Islamic finance again proposes robust due diligence, stringent monitoring, and timely reporting mechanisms, mitigating money laundering and non-compliance. In this technological era, the market is coming up with the tools to work against fraudulent activities, ensuring comprehensive screening through 'Know-Your-Customer' (KYC). Combined with thorough scrutiny by Islamic scholars, the ingrained values ensure a perfect ethos.

Islamic fintech (mobile banking, online payment systems, and blockchain applications) is gaining traction and bringing the unbanked to the banking system, especially women and youth. Artificial intelligence has empowered Islamic fintech to not only detect but also predict possible behaviours with an analysis of 'weak points' of entry, but how it stands to reveal the power of 'Islamic' firewalls remains to be seen.

We are globally looking at green Sukuks to fund environmentally friendly projects and initiatives — the integral well-being of the system combined with specially designed green initiatives stands to create a strong bond with sustainability, creating a huge appeal for socially conscientious investors across the globe.

Islamic financial instruments are poised to play a significant role with stronger resistance towards phishing cyberattacks. The ethos of well-being in Islamic banking is vital to change the game, making Islamic banking a strong and resilient alternative banking system across the globe. — Courtesy Dawn

Deprived & hateful



Asim Sajjad Akhtar

Pakistan appears to rank among the most classed, militarised and hate-riven societies. The victimisation of working-class Pakhtuns, Hazaras, etc, under the pretext of deporting 'illegal Afghans' is the latest example of the divisions in Pakistani social formation.

The caretaker government's abrupt decision to kick out almost two million 'refugees' — the claim is that it is not exclusively Afghans being targeted — is, in essence, an attempt to scapegoat the victims of a disastrous five-decade-old policy seeking so-called strategic depth in Afghanistan.

Recently, officialdom — with spymasters — celebrated the restoration of Taliban rule after the US withdrew in 2021. Two years on, religious militias again wreak havoc in Pakistan's tribal districts with the state conspicuous by its absence. Against this backdrop, the deportation initiative is a cynical distractionary tactic.

What I want to focus on here is how such announcements magnify the politics of hate that has taken root amongst working people in Pakistani society. To begin with, state policies of this nature largely affect working people who can be easily targeted by a state apparatus that is trained in anti-people colonial tradition.

The majority of people who have been protesting for days at the Chaman border, for example, are daily wagers. Meanwhile, rich and powerful interest groups, regardless of their ethnic-national background, will

continue with business as usual, especially those with close ties to the militarised state apparatus.

The British Raj pitted the subcontinent's ethnic-national and religious communities against one another. Most historical accounts of the colonial 'divide and rule' policy tend to focus on elite segments. But the lowest ranks of the civil and military services, for example, were strategically staffed in ways that stoked ethnic-national and religious tensions in various parts of British India. This has continued in the postcolonial era.

Even more divisive has been the state's imposition of a unitary model of assimilation around the ideological pillars of 'official' Islam and Urdu as the exclusive national language. The result has been politicisation of ethnic-national identity, precipitating progressive forms of resistance politics, especially in the 1960s and 1970s when a broadly anti-imperialist and class political front — the National Awami Party — brought together most ethnic-national communities.

But recent decades have seen ethnic-national identity politicised in reactionary ways, especially as financialised and military capital have reared their collective heads.

Arif Hasan has showed how the country's biggest city, Karachi, has been riven by violent conflicts over land that have been deliberately ethnicised by a combination of state functionaries and economic mafias. Similar trajectories of politics have played out in Sindh's other urban centres, as well as Balochistan's economic and political capital Quetta.

All this has happened as concerns about demographic change become increasingly urgent in both Sindh and Balochistan. Indigenous communities globally have legitimate reasons to

resist reduction to a demographic minority — for instance, the native population of North America.

But here, directing such concerns towards working-class people from ethnic-national backgrounds considered to be 'non-indigenous' deflects from the far bigger role played by the state and big capitalists in depriving local communities of resources, jobs and dignity. In contrast, a progressive politics would bring together working people of all ethnic-national backgrounds against land and other natural resource grabs by the nexus of capital and state.

It is, after all, this same nexus that forces working people from northern Pakistan — and in Afghanistan — to migrate, away from their historical abodes, to escape wars or survive economic hardship. Of course, developing a shared understanding is impossible in a social-mediatised political environment dominated by maximalism and hot takes. And it is not what the militarised state apparatus and right-wing reactionaries want to promote.

I have spent most of my adult life striving to bring together working people from across Pakistan's many ethnic-national communities to build a viable left alternative. This is no mean task. But politics is the art of making what seems impossible into a real possibility. In the months and years to come, we can expect the combination of rapacious capitalist profiteering and colonial divide-and-rule statecraft to reinforce the conditions in which the politics of hate takes root and thrives. The only hope of averting a rapid descent into barbarism is if progressives of all ethnic-national communities generate the collective will to build something different. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

SBP Dy. Governors says: Inflation to further decrease in country

FAISALABAD (APP): State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Deputy Governor Saleem Ullah said inflation had been reined in and would further decrease while other economic indicators were also expected to improve in the coming months.

Addressing the business community in the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he said that although inflation was declining but it was still high and hence the policy rate has been kept unchanged.

He said that the PSX had recorded robust activity which would also

have a salutary impact on other sectors. He categorically denied that the SBP had claimed any quota restrictions on imports. "It is the issue of banks", he said.

He further said that the SBP was launching a web portal under the title of "Shunwai" to redress bank-related complaints instantly. He said that withholding the payments of importers without transferring it to departments concerned was a serious issue and the SBP would look into it. He was unhappy over delay in the import of IT-related equipment and appliances and said that the

government was trying to encourage IT and hence the import of computers should be given priority. Responding to a question about small traders, he said that under the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, people up to the age of 45 years could get Rs500,000 interest-free loans. He said that the bank was also trying to facilitate the exporters so that they could earn maximum dollars for the country.

He further said that economic stability was directly linked with the SME sector and Rs60bn had been allocated for this sector at subsidized rates.

TDA-2022 to establish a comprehensive regime for trade dispute resolution

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Trade Dispute Act of 2022 (TDA-2022), provided the establishment of a comprehensive regime in Pakistan for the swift and effective resolution of disputes relating to the exports and imports of goods and services including e-commerce trade.

Director General Trade Disputes Resolution Organization, Ministry of Commerce, Abdul Salam Shah on Friday told APP that the new law for the

resolution of trade disputes was coming in the cabinet to define a time frame to resolve the different disputes of international trade through "The Trade Dispute Act 2022."

Under the new law, trade disputes would be decided in a time frame for providing 'Ease of Doing Business' to the Import and export business, he said. President of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Dr. Khurram Tariq,

Rupee sheds 14 Paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Friday witnessed 14 paise depreciation against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 287.03 against the previous day's closing at Rs 286.89. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 287 and Rs 289.5 respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 26 paise to close at Rs 306.26 against the last day's closing of Rs 306.00, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).



KYRGYZSTAN: Interim Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali held a meeting with Business Forum of Kyrgyzstan.

SECP standardizes IPO approval process

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has notified a maximum period of 14 working days for granting regulatory approvals to a listing application and prospectus.

In this regard circular under section 172 of the Securities Act, 2015 has been issued, said a press release issued here.

The circular has also set a 15-day window for the Pakistan Stock

Exchange Limited (PSX) to complete the entire post-approval procedures for listing.

The standardization of IPO approval process is aimed at promoting the Initial Public Offering (IPO) market and bringing in new listings at PSX.

The timelines were announced following extensive stakeholder consultations, leading to significant changes in procedures for filing and approval of IPO applications.

Crackdown on profiteering, hoarding results in heavy fines and sealing of shops

KARACHI (APP): The district administration of Karachi has intensified a crackdown on hawkers, profiteers, and hoarders, resulting in a significant financial blow to offenders.

On Friday, 178 shopkeepers found guilty of exploiting prices were collectively fined a staggering amount of more than 21 million rupees. Moreover, authorities took the stern step of sealing five shops, while several others received warning notices.

The crackdown targeted various districts within the city, with ven-

dors selling essential items such as food, poultry, vegetables, meat, fruits, flour, and sugar at prices surpassing the official rates. Punitive fines were levied on those found guilty of overpricing in different districts. In Korangi district, six shopkeepers faced fines amounting to Rs 90,000, while in the South district, 20 shopkeepers were collectively fined Rs 2,86,000.

The Central district saw penalties imposed on 21 shopkeepers, totalling Rs 4,40,000. Similarly, Malir District penalized 19 shopkeepers with fines.

Bank deposits reached an all-time high

LAHORE (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) said in a statement on Friday that the bank deposits in Pakistan had reached the highest level in its history.

Compared to October 22, an increase of 17.80 per cent i.e. Rs 3986 billion was recorded in bank deposits on October 23.

The SBP said that in October 2023, banking deposits reached a record level of Rs 26000.398 billion.

PSX stays bullish with gain of 1,129 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Friday, gaining 1,129.94 points, a positive change of 2.08 percent, closing at 55,391.37 points against 54,261.43 points the previous day.

A total of 640,836,781 shares valuing Rs21.146 billion were traded during the day as compared to 482,744,893 shares valuing Rs20.129 billion the previous day. As many as 380 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 260 of them recorded gains and 103 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 17 companies remained unchanged.

Weekly inflation goes up by 0.73 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.73 percent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on November 08, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 281.12 points as compared to 279.08 points during the past week, according to the PBS data.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption

group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 29.86 percent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 = 100 covers 17 urban centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs 17,732, increased by 1.05 percent and went up to 289.19 points from last week's 286.19 points.

The SPI for consumption groups from Rs 17,732-22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175 increased by 1.02 percent, 0.88 percent, 0.80 percent and 0.59 percent respectively.

KOIMA sign MoU with FPCCI to close relations, bilateral trade, technology

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Korean Importers Association (KOIMA) visited Pakistan to explore new avenues of bilateral trade and

past Vice President Qaisar Khan Daudzai & Convenor Capital Office Syed Asad Mashadi.

The Primary objective of this MoU is expand and diversify the



investments.

The Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) Mr. Umar Masood Ur Rehman

and Mr. Kim Byung, Chairman of KOIMA signed the agreement on behalf of their organizations.

The signing MOU was witnessed by the Chief Guest Senator Zeeshan Khanzada, Aminullah Baig, Vice President of FPCCI and chairman of Capital Office, Korean Ambassador H.E. Park Ki Jun, and FPCCI's

bilateral trade and economic cooperation between both countries and to stabilize global supply chains and strengthening partnership.

Chief Guest Senator Zeeshan Khanzada expressed his gratitude on behalf of 40th anniversary of Pak-Korea diplomatic relations and underscored the strong potential for future collaboration to intensify cooperation in all fields including political, economic, cultural and people-to-people contacts.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Privatisation, Fawad Hasan Fawad chairing meeting of Privatisation Commission Board.

UNHCR delegation calls on KP CM, discusses repatriation of illegal foreigners

PESHAWAR (APP): A three-member delegation led by the representative of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for Pakistan Ms. Philippa Candler called on the caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan at Chief Minister's House here Friday and discussed with him matters related to the repatriation of illegal immigrants living in the province.

Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry and Additional Chief Secretary Home Muhammad Abid Majeed

were also present on the occasion. The chief minister, while talking to the delegates, said that the repatriation process of illegal immigrants was in progress smoothly so far adding that all possible facilities were being extended to the immigrants going back to their homeland voluntarily and the provincial government had allocated special funds for this purpose.

"The immigrants returning back to their countries are being treated humanely and the humanitarian aspect of the matter is fully taken care of whereas elderly people, women and children are

being accorded special treatment as per the traditions of the land," he said adding that specific transit points had been set up for temporary stay of such immigrants having all the required facilities.

The chief minister maintained that an effective grievance redressal mechanism had also been put in place to address any kind of complaints or concerns of the immigrants on immediate basis adding that all out efforts were being made to ensure that every single immigrant going back home gets proper treatment and no one is mistreated.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Syed Jamal Shah chairing meeting at Quaid-e-Azam Mazar Management Board (QMMB).

CM Punjab takes notice of markets' closure

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has taken notice of unwarranted closure of markets and shops in certain areas of the city.

He clarified that as of today (Nov 10), no directive had been issued by the Punjab government to shut down markets and shops.

He said that in the wake of worsening smog situation, a decision had been made to close shops and markets on Saturday, Nov 11. "On a personal note and on behalf of the Punjab government, I express gratitude to the business community for their cooperation in this

matter," he added.

Furthermore, the chief minister emphasised that addressing smog was a collective national responsibility. "We all must collaborate to enhance the livability of Lahore and other cities. Support for the government's initiatives is crucial, and by working together, we can effectively combat this environmental challenge," he concluded.

Meanwhile, Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi Friday made his third visit to the Rawalpindi Ring Road project in the past 25 days.

Conducting an aerial tour of the entire 38-km

route, he meticulously inspected the Khasala Khurd Adiala Interchange site and assessed the progress of earthwork, said a handout issued here on Friday.

Colonel Ayaz of Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) provided a comprehensive briefing to CM Mohsin Naqvi, highlighting that heavy machinery for the Rawalpindi Ring Road construction had arrived, and the project was advancing at a rapid pace. The construction of subways, drainage channels, and roads section had commenced, with the allotted land for the project fully handed over to the contractor.

Arshad emphasizes role of education in students' growth, success

Independent Report
ABBOTTABAD: The Caretaker Minister for Law, Human Rights, and Religious and Minority Affairs, Justice @ Syed Arshad Hussain Shah Friday has called on parents and teachers to actively encourage students in their educational pursuits for enhanced growth and success. He expressed these views while addressing a parents' day ceremony at a private college in Abbottabad.

Principal of the school Brig. @ Qamar Zaman also addressed the ceremony, shedding light on the institute's activities, achievements, and future plans. Caretaker Provincial Minister, underscored the collaborative efforts between the private sector and the provincial

government to enhance the quality of education.

He applauded this support, emphasizing that both the public and private sectors share the responsibility of providing a valuable education to the younger generation.

Minister Arshad Hussain Shah mentioned the establishment of various institutions by the provincial government to bring private educational institutions under a unified code of conduct.

This initiative aligns with the agenda of a new uniform education system, focusing on the students' and parents' interests.

He acknowledged the hard work and dedication of teachers and students, stating that education goes beyond textbooks and exams.



KARACHI: Activists of Transgender hold rally in favor of their demands.

Quaid-e-Azam XI Triumphs in Allama Iqbal Cup Basketball Girls Exhibition Match

KARACHI (APP): The Abdul Nasser Basketball Court in Aram Bagh recently hosted an exciting exhibition match for the Allama Iqbal Cup Basketball Girls, organized by the Karachi Basketball Association (KBBA). In a closely contested game, Quaid-e-Azam XI secured a 25-20 victory over Shaheed Millat XI. The match, held on Iqbal Day, featured impressive performances from both teams. Nabiba Hussain stood out for Quaid-e-Azam XI, scor-

ing 9 points, followed by Aruba Aniq with 8 points and Faiza Mahboob with 4 points. Yasra Khokhar led the charge for Shaheed Millat XI, contributing 9 points, supported by Amara Hafeez with 5 points and Falag Irfan with 4 points.

The chief guest for the event was Assistant Commissioner Nida Saman, who was later honored with the Allama Iqbal Performance Award by KBBA for her significant contributions.

Training session at CPO focuses on inspection registers in police stations

KARACHI (APP): A training session emphasizing the significance and efficacy of inspection registers in police stations regarding crime prevention was conducted at the Central Police Office (CPO) in Karachi. During the session, master trainers from Punjab directly provided guidance to SSPs in Investigations, District SSPs of Karachi, as well as training branch trainers, said a news release on Friday.

36th International Neurosurgery Conference inaugurated at LUMHS

HYDERABAD (APP): The 36th International Neurosurgery Conference was inaugurated at Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences Jamshoro.

The conference has been organized by the Department of Neurosurgery LUMHS, in collaboration with the Turkish Neurosurgical Society & Emirates Society of Neurological Surgeons.

While addressing a large number of participants at the Inaugural Session the Vice Chancellor LUMHS, Prof. Dr. Ikram Din Ujian expressed that it is an honour to address the inaugural session of this important international

conference, as today this moment he is accompanying the great scholars, educationalists and renowned national and international neurosurgeons from all across the country and abroad.

He added that the philosophy and practice of minimally invasive surgery have fundamentally altered the practice of neurosurgery. The goal of minimally invasive surgery is to reduce tissue disruption and thus morbidity. The scholars attending this conference are going to review the development, applications, and benefits of minimally invasive neurosurgery, and its wider surgical implications.

He further informed that minimally invasive neurosurgery is a major force in contemporary neurosurgery and many of the current neurosurgical applications will have far-reaching effects on the practice of surgery in general.

The Vice-Chancellor further expressed that awareness regarding health and prevention are essential ingredients which keep the nation healthy and we are escaping from diseases. Strong communication with the masses regarding preventive measures of health may save billions of rupees spent on diseases.

Prof. Dr. Ikram Din

Ujian further added that this 36th International Neurosurgery Conference would be able to achieve its objective in providing an effective forum for academicians, researchers and practitioners to advance knowledge, research, and the latest surgical technology for humanity.

The Vice Chancellor offered his deepest gratitude to the Chairman Department of Neurosurgery Prof. Riaz Ahmad Raja and his team for organizing a vibrant scientific program and is working hard to present highly respected and internationally renowned speakers to lead it.

Renowned Neurosur-

geon and chairman Organizing Committee, Prof. Dr. Riaz Ahmad Raja expressed that this time we have organized this high-profile academic event in collaboration with the Emirates Society of Neurological Surgeons and Turkish Neurosurgical Society, as it is believed that through collaboration and exchange the field of Neurosurgery can be advanced with improved patient care.

Prof. Dr. Riaz Ahmad Raja informed that there is a packed schedule of Lectures, and satellite programs led by some of the most reputable leaders in the field of Neurological surgery.



SKARDU: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan chairing a cabinet meeting.

International News

Palestinian officials say Israeli air strikes hit Gaza hospitals

Monitoring Desk
GAZA: Israeli air strikes hit Gaza's biggest hospital, the Al Shifa, on Friday, killing one person and wounding others sheltering there, Palestinian officials said, one of several hospitals reported struck at dawn as Israel battles Hamas in the heart of the enclave.

Officials said other strikes had damaged parts of the Indonesian Hospital and hit vehicles outside the Rantissi cancer hospital in the northern part of Gaza, where Israel says Hamas militants who attacked it last month are concentrated.

Israeli tanks, which have been advancing through northern Gaza for almost two weeks, have

taken up positions around the Rantissi, Al-Quds and Nasser Children's hospitals, raising concern for patients, doctors and evacuees there, medical staff said.

"Israel is now launching a war on Gaza City hospitals, on Rantissi, Nasser hospitals and on Al Shifa," Mohammad Abu Selmeiah, director of Gaza's main Shifa hospital, told Reuters.

Israel did not immediately comment but says it does not target civilians and goes to great lengths to avoid hitting them.

It says Hamas militants have hidden command centres and tunnels beneath Al Shifa and other hospitals, allegations which

Hamas denies.

"While the world sees neighbourhoods with schools, hospitals, scout groups, children's playgrounds and mosques, Hamas sees an opportunity to exploit," the Israeli military said. The month-old Israeli military campaign to wipe out Hamas, following the militants' Oct. 7 raid on southern Israel, has left Gaza's hospitals struggling to cope, as medical supplies, clean water and fuel to power generators have been running out. Israel has faced growing calls for restraint as the Palestinian death toll increases, but says Hamas will just take advantage of any significant pause in its military campaign.



UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan meeting with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani at al-Shati Palace.

Japan and UK ministers discuss deeper security ties on the sidelines of G7 meeting

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Japanese and British foreign and defense ministers met Tuesday and agreed to further deepen military cooperation under a new security pact that allows their militaries to enter each other's territory for joint exercises.

Japan and Britain have expanded their cooperation in recent years as concern has grown over China's increasing influence. Japan, whose only treaty ally is the United States, has signed Reciprocal Access Agreements with Australia and the U.K., making them semi-allies.

The talks in Tokyo among Japanese Foreign

Minister Yoko Kamikawa and Defense Minister Minoru Kihara and British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly and Defense Secretary Grant Shapps are the first since the RAA took effect in mid-October.

They met on the sidelines of a gathering of foreign ministers from the Group of Seven industrialized nations on Tuesday and Wednesday that is expected to focus on the Israel-Hamas war, the Russia-Ukraine war and tension in the Indo-Pacific region.

Later Tuesday, Shapps told several selected journalists, including from The Associated Press, that the reason for their

meeting is to show in the Indo-Pacific "that despite what's going on in Europe, and despite what's going on in the Middle East, we are still here today, and that I think shows enduring strength of our relationship with Japan."

The four ministers agreed to expand their joint exercises, including the annual Japan-UK joint exercise, Vigilant Isles 23, starting later this month, according to a joint statement issued after their talks.

They also agreed on using the RAA to realize an "even more frequent and complex exercises" than before.

US strike on weapons facility in Syria a 'deterrent', White House says

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The U.S. military strikes in Syria are aimed at destroying weaponry and deterring Iranian-backed separatist groups from targeting American personnel in the region in the wake of the Israel-Hamas conflict, the White House said on Thursday.

The United States carried out strikes on Wednesday against a weapon storage facility in eastern Syria that the Pentagon said was used by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and affiliated groups. President Joe Biden said the United States had to respond after U.S. troops were targeted and that the retaliatory strikes were working. Asked if the U.S. military would respond again, Biden told reporters it would if it had to. White House spokesman John Kirby separately told CNN that the U.S. strikes "had a practical impact on their ability to arm these groups, but also to send a strong signal of deterrence."

"These groups have a choice to make: If they want to continue to attack our troops in Iraq and Syria, then they're gonna have to face the consequences for that," Kirby added.

U.S. and coalition troops have been attacked at least 40 times in Iraq and Syria by Iran-backed forces since the start of October, as tensions soar over Israel's bombardment of Gaza in retaliation for Hamas militants' Oct. 7 attack. Forty-five U.S. troops have suffered traumatic brain injuries or minor wounds.

The United States has occasionally carried out retaliatory strikes against Iranian-backed forces in the region after they attack American forces, including one on Oct. 26.

Iran has denied involvement. Tehran's ambassador to the United Nations, Amir Saied Iravani, said on Thursday separatist groups were responding to the Israeli assault that has killed more than 10,800 Palestinians in Gaza.



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin hold a joint press conference at the Foreign Ministry in Seoul, South Korea.

State Dept. approves \$2.5B sale of Abrams tanks to Romania

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The State Department cleared an estimated \$2.5 billion foreign military sale of M1A2 Abrams Main Battle Tanks to Romania, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency said Nov. 9. DSCA notified Congress, which must approve the sale, today.

Romania wants to buy 54 of the General Dynamics Land Systems-manufactured M1A2 SEPv3 Abrams tanks, 54 M1A1 structures, four M88A2 Hercules Com-

bat Recovery Vehicles, four M1110 Joint Assault Bridges, four M1150 Assault Breacher Vehicles and four Heavy Assault Scissor Bridges. The order would also include 54 M240C 7.62mm machine guns, 5,940 120mm M1147 High Explosive, Multipurpose, Tracer (HEMP-T) cartridges, 4,230 120mm M1002 Target Practice Multipurpose, Tracer (TPMP-T) cartridges and a variety of other support equipment.

Eight die in car crash as US police chase migrant smuggler

Monitoring Desk
HOUSTON: Eight people, several of them from Honduras, were killed on Wednesday in a two-car collision in the southern US state of Texas involving an alleged migrant smuggler attempting to evade arrest, officials said.

Police said the driver of a white Honda was transporting five undocumented migrants and fleeing sheriffs on a road about 60 miles (100 kilometres) from the Mexican border when he passed a truck and collided with another car, killing the couple inside.

Seven victims died at the scene, while an eighth died later in hospital, a spokesperson for the Texas Department of Public Safety said. Several of the migrants who were killed in the white Honda were from Honduras, according to police.

US authorities have intercepted some six million migrants at its southern border since President Joe Biden assumed office in January 2021.

North Korea shipping arms to Russia, alleges US

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday condemned North Korea for sending arms to help the Russian invasion of Ukraine, as he held meetings with top officials in key ally South Korea.

The United States, South Korea and Japan have in recent weeks repeatedly criticised Pyongyang for helping Russia pursue its military campaign in Ukraine, with Seoul saying North Korea has sent a million artillery rounds.

Blinken is in Seoul fol-

Caretaker gov powers in New Zealand extended

Monitoring Desk
WELLINGTON: Negotiations between three parties hoping to form the next New Zealand government are continuing, but because they are likely to stretch into next week, the powers of caretaker ministers would be extended, the current government said on Friday. The conservative National Party won the largest share of votes at last month's general election but needs the support of both right-wing ACT New Zealand.

Taiwan, facing Chinese pressure, to stress importance of peace at APEC summit

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: Taiwan will stress the importance of peace in the region at next week's APEC summit, President Tsai Ing-wen said on Friday, one of the few international bodies both Taiwan and China are members of and where their officials meet.

The 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum will meet in San Francisco for the 30th APEC summit, the first hosted by the United States since 2011.

Chinese-claimed and democratically ruled Taiwan, which takes part in APEC as "Chinese Taipei" and does not send its president to summits, has faced increased military pressure from Beijing including two

rounds of major war games over the past year and a half.

Tsai told reporters at the presidential office that the first message she wanted her representative to APEC, chip giant TSMC, founder Morris Chang, to send at the summit was that Taiwan was dedicated to promoting regional peace and prosperity.

"At a time when the world is facing various challenges, we must work together to reduce conflicts in the region and jointly create a peaceful and stable environment for regional economic development," she said.

"Taiwan is a reliable, safe, and trustworthy partner in the international community," Tsai added.

Pakistan calls out 'Israel backers' to help end genocide of Palestinians

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Friday said the "backers of Israel" must prevail upon it to abandon the plans for settler colonialism, forced displacement and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people.

"As an occupying power, Israel must fulfill its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention and forthwith end the carnage in Gaza," the Foreign Office spokesperson said at a weekly press briefing.

Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said Pakistan was deeply concerned about the heinous crimes being committed against the Palestinian people as Israeli forces continued with their "campaign of terror and brutality" in Gaza. She said over a month, the people of Gaza had been subjected to the worst forms of collective punishment. "Israeli forces are committing crimes against humanity with impunity as they indiscriminately massacre defenceless civilians and deliberately

deprive them of food, water, shelter and medical care," she said.

Baloch said the use of phosphorus bombs and threats of nuclear holocaust were being made against the people under occupation who were being forcibly evicted from their land.

She said as a tragedy of epic proportions unfolds in Gaza, the United Nations Security Council must act to fulfill its responsibility to uphold peace and call for an urgent and unconditional ceasefire, lifting of the siege, and commencement of rapid, unhindered humanitarian assistance. The spokesperson said Pakistan welcomed the forthcoming Extraordinary Islamic Summit being held on 11th November in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The OIC Summit has been convened in response to the unprecedented Israeli attacks on Gaza and its environs, which have posed a grave threat to the civilian population and precipitated a humanitarian crisis. She said

Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar will participate in the Extraordinary Islamic Summit, while Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani will join the Council of Foreign Ministers preceding the extraordinary session.

"Pakistan will continue to play its role to advance international consensus and galvanize efforts for an urgent end to Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people and urgent provision of relief assistance to the people of Gaza," she said. On the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, she said India must comply with its international obligations and respect the rights and freedoms of the Kashmiri people who have an inalienable right to self-determination. "Pakistan will continue to extend political, diplomatic and moral support to our Kashmiri brothers and sisters for the just and peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolutions," she said.



KYRGYZSTAN: Caretaker Minister for Energy, Muhammad Ali signing an agreement between the Centre for the Development of Halal Industry Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan Standards and Quality Control (PSQCA).

Minister for Education Madad Ali Sindhi addresses "One Planet - Polar Summit in Paris"

PARIS (Online): The Minister for Education Madad Ali Sindhi while addressing the "One Planet - Polar Summit" drew attention of all participants towards the "Third Pole" which comprises of Himalayas, Karakoram & Hindukush (HKH) region and holds largest cryospheric reserves on Earth outside polar region.

He said Pakistan alone has over 7,000 glaciers in HKH ranges which covers an approximate area of 15,000 sq. km. The Minister highlighted that HKH region is particularly vulnerable to climate change while Third Pole is world's most substantial reservoir and is critical for freshwater supply to around 2 billion people.

The Minister added that ecosystems, biodiversity, food security are all under threat; and our avalanche and glacial lake outbursts (GLOF) risk have increased manifolds. As an example of GLOF, Minister cited incident of Shisper Glacier in 2022.

Solangi vows to protect journalists, media workers' rights

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Friday said all-out efforts would be made to protect the rights of journalists and media workers to further strengthen democracy in the country.

Addressing a seminar on "International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists", he stressed on a collaboration between the government and media organizations for evolving an emergency mechanism to respond to any untoward incident against journalists and media workers efficiently.

The caretaker government had been taking steps to prevent any crime against journalists, he said while citing different occasions when he himself took the lead to protect journalists and media workers' rights during the last couple of months.

"The journalists are supposed to report news but it is very unfortunate that sometimes they themselves become a news," he regretted.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Women Wing President, Faryal Talpur exchanging views with a PPP delegation from Balochistan during meeting held at Zardari House in Karachi.

Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh reviews arrangements for 2024 General Election

LARKANA (APP): Sindh Provincial Election Commissioner Aijaz Anwar Chauhan on Friday stressed on the full implementation of the code of conduct in the forthcoming general election-2024.

He presided over a high-level meeting at the Commissioner's office in Larkana to review the arrangements for the general election. The meeting was attended by Commissioner Larkana Division Abdul Waheed Sheikh, DIG Police Larkana Range Nasir Aftab Pathan, Deputy Commissioners of Larkana, Kamber-Shahdadkot, Shikarpur, Jacobabad, Kashmore-Kandhot, District Election Commissioners, and officials of the Election Commission and other departments. Chauhan said that the general election will be held in a clear and transparent manner at any cost. He directed the officials to ensure the implementation of the code of conduct without any discrimination and to complete the repairing work at polling stations' buildings throughout the division.

He also directed the officials to ensure the availability of all basic facilities at polling stations, including water, electricity, washrooms, and furniture. He said that CCTV cameras will be installed at the polling stations to ensure transparency and security. Chauhan said that the Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan has given clear instructions that the transport plan should also be improved. He said that the training of the staff on duty in the election will be started soon. He further directed the officials to visit the polling stations two days before the scheduled date of general elections to ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place.



LARKANA: Sindh Election Commissioner, Ejaz Anwar Chauhan presiding over the meeting to review the arrangements of General Elections coming ahead, at the Commissioner Office in Larkana.

Pakistan focused to benefit from TAPI despite India's lack of interest: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has said that despite India's lack of interest, Pakistan is focused to reap the benefits from the long-pending four-nation energy corridor, TAPI.

About the multibillion-dollar project involving Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India (TAPI), the prime minister said the corridor could prove as a source of cheap and sustainable supply of energy for the region.

"On TAPI, there is a lot of enthusiasm from Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. But if India chooses to remain out of the benefit of this whole arrangement, they still can do it," Kakar said in an interview with Turkiye's Anadolu news agency.

Kakar said, "With or without India, the Turkmen gas can be exploited for the economic benefit of this region, and we are very much focused on achieving that target."

The \$7 billion project aims to bring natural gas from the Gylkynish and adjacent gas fields in Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India, the Anadolu reported.

The Asian Development Bank is facilitating and coordinating the project, which is proposed to lay a 56-inch diameter 1,680-kilometer (1,044-mile) pipeline with a design capacity of 33 billion cubic meters of natural gas per annum from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan and Pakistan up to Indo-Pak border.



KARACHI: Karachi Press Club (KPC) Body representative presenting Sindhi Ajrak and memento to Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Syed Jamal Shah during his visit to Karachi Press Club (KPC).

Jamal Shah for preservation of cultural heritage with cooperation of provincial governments

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Syed Jamal Shah on Friday said that our cultural heritage is very rich and we intend to work for its preservation with the cooperation of provincial governments.

The foundation stone of the Autobahn road was laid last month and the first phase of sewerage works was in progress. On this occasion, the concerned engineers gave a detailed briefing to him. Kashif Ali Shoro, during the inspection, expressed strong reservations about the drainage plan and emphasized the need to divert rainwater separately to a treatment plant.

Syed Jamal Shah said that the projection of our rich heritage sites would attract the local as well as foreign tourists. It will also help to create awareness among our future generations about our rich culture and heritage, he added.

Speaking about his visit to KPC, he said that his relationship with the Karachi Press Club was old and was feeling the KPC very close to his heart.

Syed Jamal Shah said that he considered culture a blessing connecting an individual to the homeland and no country could progress and develop without strong cultural identity.

To a questioner, he told that there was a need to develop more cinemas in the country with an affordable tickets and better facilities. Production of more films will create more job opportunities and film is a very strong medium for projection and promotion of our culture and to educate people, he added.

Earlier, the minister held a meeting with the Governing Body of the KPC.

President KPC Saeed Sarbazi, Secretary KPC Shoaib Ahmed along with the members of the KPC Governing Body briefed the minister regarding the problems which are being confronted by the journalists and different projects being executed at the KPC.

Commissioner directs timely completion of ongoing projects

SUKKUR (APP): The divisional commissioner Sukkur, Samiuddin Siddiqui has directed all departments to set priorities for the Annual Development Programme (ADP) and ensure timely completion of ongoing projects instead of starting new schemes.

Presiding over a meeting at his office here on Friday, the Divisional Commissioner said that officers should work diligently to improve the performance of departments.

He said that main objective of any provincial department is to achieve good governance at every level, adding that work on civil service reforms is underway as the government is fully aware of the problems of civil servants.

He said that officers should perform their duties following rules and seek guidance from their seniors if they face any difficulty.



SUKKUR: Members of Sukkur Development Alliance are holding protest rally against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, in Sukkur.

KU, UKAHA Houston inks MoU to provide scholarships to students of eight departments

KARACHI (APP): The University of Karachi and the University of Karachi Alumni Association, Houston Texas, USA, inked a memorandum of understanding to provide need-based financial assistance to the students of eight departments of the university.

As per the MoU, the students of departments of international relations, economics, psychology, mass communication, chemistry, statistics, mathematics, and computer science would benefit from the need-based scholarships for the two semesters, said a statement on Friday.

The UKAHA Houston US was providing the amount of Rs 500, 000/- annually under the MoU which was signed in 2019, and now has increased the amount to Rs1, 000, 000/- per year keeping the steep hike in living costs and overall inflation.

The UKAHA Houston US named the financial assistance program as "UKAHA Academic Achievement Award", and allocated one million rupees for the selected candidates of the eight departments.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamsah Akhtar presiding over a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet.

Commissioner underscores need of joint strategy to effectively resolve human rights issues

HYDERABAD (APP): Commissioner Hyderabad Division Syed Khalid Hyder Shah has said that a comprehensive handbook about the District Peace and Justice Committee, Inter Religion Harmony Committee, Child Labor Task Force, Safe House, Dar-ul-Aman, Women Development, and other committees should be published and distributed to the public and stakeholders so that the problems could be resolved on the relevant forum.

He expressed these views while addressing the meeting of the Peace and Justice Coordination Committee held at Shehbaz Hall Hyderabad on behalf of Sindh Human Rights Commission here on Friday.

Commissioner Hyderabad said that there was a need to create a coherent joint strategy to effectively address human rights issues.

Speaking at the meeting, Sindh Human Rights Commission Chairman Iqbal Ditho said that the Sindh government was allocating a grant of 400 million rupees to the department of Interior, Judiciary and Sindh Human Rights Commission to prevent the violation of human rights and these funds were being spent for legal assistance, facilities, child labour, women protection, minority rights and other human rights for prisoners.

Ditho said that along with increasing the capacity in the jails of Sindh, work was also being done on the availability of necessary facilities, adding that the current jails of the province have a capacity of 20 thousand prisoners while the number of prisoners was 21 thousand.

He said that the Sindh Human Rights Commission was also helping transgenders to get national identity cards.



HYDERABAD: Vice Chancellor of LUMHS Dr. Ikaramudin Ujan with the delegation standing in support of the Palestinians on stage during the 36th international conference by Pakistan Society of Neurosurgeons in collaboration with Turkish Neurosurgical Society and Emirates Society of Neurosurgical Surgeons on last late night at LUMHS Jamshoro.

Fly Jinnah increases flight frequency on three key routes

KARACHI (APP): Fly Jinnah, Pakistan's low-cost carrier, has announced an increase in its flight frequency on three key routes within its network. Starting from November 15, 2023, the airline will offer daily flights between Karachi and Quetta, Quetta and Islamabad, in addition to thrice daily flights between Karachi and Lahore.

According to the statement issued on Friday, this expansion demonstrates Fly Jinnah's unwavering commitment to its customers, focusing on offering its customers a seamless travel experience with more connectivity and convenience.

By increasing the frequency of these routes, Fly Jinnah aims to cater to the growing demand for accessible and affordable air travel, statement stated.

The carrier currently operates a fleet of three modern Airbus A320 aircraft, the most modern and best-selling single-aisle aircraft in the world. Extra comfort to passengers, with the most generous seat-pitch of any economy cabin have been added to it. The aircraft is also equipped with "SkyTime", a free in-flight streaming service that allows passengers to stream a wide selection of entertainment directly to their devices.

On top of that, passengers can enjoy a wide variety of delicacies between snacks, sandwiches and meals from the on-board "SkyCafe" menu at affordable prices.

As a testament to its dedication and service quality, Fly Jinnah recently received a prestigious award from the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) for its outstanding contribution to the aviation industry.