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Caretaker CM fixes minimum sugarcane price in Sindh at Rs 425/40 kg

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (R) Maqbool Baqar, after thorough discussion and considering the cost of production worked out by the Agriculture Department, has fixed a minimum Sugarcane price at Rs425 per 40 kg for crop 2023-24.

The meeting was held here at CM House on Monday and was attended by Chief Secretary Dr Fakhre Alam, Advocate General Sindh Hassan Akbar, Secretary Finance Kazim Jatoi, Secretary Agriculture Aijaz Shah, Secretary Food Nasir Abbas and other concerned officers.

Secretary Agriculture Aijaz Shah briefed the chief minister about the cost of sugarcane cultivation and said that per acre cost has been worked out at Rs 244,984, and the average yield of an acre is 650 40 kg means Rs 377 per 40kg. If 12.7 percent profit over the total expenditures is added the price would come to Rs

425. Chief Secretary D Fakhre Alam said that he has also chaired a meeting of the agriculture department and the minimum price was worked out at Rs 425 and if the profit of 15% as demanded by the agriculturists were added the price would go to Rs 434 per 40 kg.

The chief minister approved the minimum rate of sugarcane at Rs 425 per 40 kg and directed the chief secretary to get the price approved by the cabinet through circulation.

The Secretary of Agriculture briefing the chief minister about the structure and strategy of his department said that it has 12 wings, including Extension, Research, Agriculture Management, Training and Research, Agriculture Marketing, Cane Commissionerate, Cotton Commissionerate, Bureau of Supply and price, Weight & Measures and Planning & Monitoring Cell.



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

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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Monday passed a resolution, urging the Supreme Court (SC) to reconsider its decision about military court trials.

The resolution, which was moved by Senator Dilawar Khan in the House, said: "The Senate of Pakistan calls upon the apex court to reconsider its decision, urging alignment with the national security paradigm and sacrifices of the martyrs in order to address the concerns raised regarding the ramifications of the judgment on the security and stability of the nation."

"The invalidation of

the jurisdiction of army courts is likely to facilitate vandals and abettors of terrorism and anti-state activities. Military courts have played a pivotal role in delivering justice, particularly concerning acts of terrorism, often instigated by neighbouring adversaries within Pakistan's borders," it added.

The resolution further said, "Resonating the concerns and sentiments expressed by various stakeholders in particular and public in general, regarding the recent judgment of the Supreme Court that declared Section 2(D)(1) & 59

(4) of the Army Act unconstitutional;

"Taking exception to overriding an Act of Parliament, which was well within the previous and exiting scheme of constitutional and legislative framework and duly enacted under the legislative competence of the Parliament. Prima facie an attempt has been made to rewrite the law by impinging upon the legislative authority of the Parliament."

It reiterated that the trial of those accused of violence against the armed forces under the Army Act

"is an appropriate and proportional response in line with Pakistan's existing constitutional framework and statutory regime. Within the country's constitutional framework, the trial of individuals accused of anti-state vandalism and violence under the Army Act serves as a deterrent against such acts;

"Firmly standing with the families of martyrs, who have made significant sacrifices for the country, and have expressed feelings of insecurity and treachery due to this decision.



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

PM directs formulation of inclusive, comprehensive strategy to uplift FBR

ISLAMABAD (APP): The meeting was briefed on the measures to widen the tax net and digitisation of the taxation system. The participants also deliberated over different proposals aimed at restructuring the FBR.

The prime minister said that the revenue collection was just like a backbone for the national economy. He told the meeting that various effective measures had been taken recently to curb smuggling, though it required more hard work to achieve the desired results.

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

ISLAMABAD (INP): Just a day before the high court is due to take up for hearing the intra-court appeal filed by former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan against holding his trial in the US cipher case inside the Adiala Jail, the caretaker federal cabinet on Monday approved the Ministry of Law's summary for holding the trial in the jail.

The trial will be held tomorrow (November 14). The summary sent by the law ministry said that the Interior Ministry and the Official Secrets Act Court Judge Abul Hasanat had recommended holding trial of the former prime minister inside the jail.

The summary further read that the recommendation had been made in view of security threats to the PTI chairman.

Copies of the Special Branch's threat report and the judge's recommendation were also attached to the summary. A division bench of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) had a week ago issued notices to the authorities concerned on an appeal, seeking trial of former prime minister Imran Khan in the cipher case in an open court.

The IHC division bench was hearing the former prime minister's intra-court appeal against a single-member bench's decision that had approved his jail trial.

Two soldiers martyred in North Waziristan, ISPR

RAWALPINDI (Online): A fire exchange took place between Security forces and terrorists in general area Mir Ali, North Waziristan District on Monday.

Pakistan Army Troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location resultantly one terrorist was killed. However, during intense fire exchange, Sepoy Abdullah (age: 25 yrs. resident of Mardan) Sepoy Muhammad Sohail (age: 19 yrs. resident of Tharparkar), having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat.

Petrol pump manager killed during robbery, bystander injured

HYDERABAD (APP): A petrol pump manager shot dead and a passer-by was injured on Monday during the robbery in Hyderabad.

According to police sources, Qasim Jan, the manager of a petrol pump, was going to deposit an amount of about two million rupees in the bank when two armed motorcyclists stopped him in front of the Central Jail in the limits of Baldia police station and tried to take the money, on resistance. The armed robbers opened fire on Qasim Jan and allegedly snatched two million rupees and fled. During this a passerby Raheel was also injured in the shooting.



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

Solangi, CM KP discuss elections, cooperation in media sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Monday called Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (Retd) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah and discussed with him the upcoming elections, cooperation in the media sector and other important issues including the problems of the journalists.

During a telephonic talk, he congratulated Syed

Arshad Hussain Shah on assuming the charge of caretaker chief minister KP.

Both the federal minister and the caretaker CM KP expressed their determination to provide all possible support to the Election Commission to make the electioneering process fair, transparent and impartial. Solangi said that the Caretaker Government fully believed in freedom of expression and would provide all possible facilities to the media during the elections.

WB Mission vows to continue playing role in development of Pakistan

KARACHI (APP): The World Bank would continue playing its role in the development of Pakistan and Sindh Flood Emergency Rehabilitation Project (SFERP) is a step toward this direction to improve the living conditions of masses.

The Bank was concerned to see the ground conditions of flood hit areas which necessitated this multi-sectoral project to restore the infrastructure and alleviate poverty in these flood devastated areas. The project is first of its kind with a multi-sectoral approach including irrigation, road network, drainage, drinking water and livelihood program for the locals

affected by the floods.

These remarks were made by the Members of World Bank Mission during their visit to Gadap, District Malir, to review the pace of work on the construction of Lat-1 Dam to mitigate the effect of Urban flooding (Karachi), in future from rain caused floods. The project is funded by World Bank and is part of (SFERP) and implemented by the Irrigation Department, Govt of Sindh with a cost of Rs 1.6 billion.

During the briefing, the team members were informed that Dam would also store water for irrigation as well as raise ground water level.

SHC summons JIT chief in missing persons' case

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court (SHC) heard cases of missing persons and expressed displeasure at the police and the provincial government, demanding answers regarding the whereabouts of the missing citizens.

During the proceedings, a heated exchange transpired between the court and the police, with the provincial government asserting that they lack control over law enforcement. The court, however, expressed skepticism, questioning the accountability and responsibility of the authorities. "If the missing citizens are not within the purview of the provincial government, then where did they go?" the court questioned, emphasizing the urgency of locating the missing persons and presenting them before the court.

The court raised concerns about the efficacy of Joint Investigation Teams (JITs), questioning their purpose when the authorities seem unable to locate the missing individuals and summoned the chief of the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) in his personal capacity, seeking a firsthand account of the progress and challenges faced in the search for the missing persons.

The operation was underway against illegal immigrants who had been residing in Pakistan without any travel documents, the minister added. Bugti said no country allowed any foreigner to live, do business, or buy properties without legal documents. "Whether does any country, including Afghanistan, permit Pakistani people to cross their borders without legal documents?" he questioned.

Customs recover 36,000 Saudi Riyals from passenger travelling abroad

KARACHI (APP): The Collectorate of Customs Jinnah International Airport (JIAP) in Karachi, customs staff stationed at the International Departure Lounge seized 36,000 Saudi Riyals, equivalent to 2.7 million Pakistani Rupees, from a passenger who was traveling to Dubai.

The currency has been confiscated, according to spokesman for Customs on Monday.

The passenger named Imran had concealed the recovered Riyals within his clothing.

The passenger is facing action under the Customs Act, and further investigation is currently underway.

Pakistanis will not accept 'selected raj' anymore: Bilawal

MITHI (INP): As general elections draw close, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari announced Monday the people will not accept "selected raj (selected government)" anymore — a term used for the previous Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government.

Addressing a public rally in Mithi, Bilawal said: "People bore selected raj for five years, but now any selected raj is unacceptable."

Without naming any party, the PPP chairman said that people would respond to those who were getting their election results made while sitting in the room.

Slamming the PTI, Bilawal said people would answer those who attacked the state installations on May 9 in the upcoming

general elections — slated to be held on February 8, 2024.

"On the other hand, we have friends, if they think that they will contest elections by copying the PTI, they will fail."

He said: "People will defeat Mahengai-league on February 8." The PPP leader further said that people will give a "surprise" in the next elections.

Addressing the rally, the PPP chairman hoped that "jialas (the term used for PPP workers)" would become prime minister and chief executive of Punjab this time.

Bilawal vowed to complete the unfinished mission of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto — who was hanged to death on April 4, 1979, in a murder case but his party terms it a "judicial murder".



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

Crackdown underway against illegal immigrants, not Afghan nationals: Bugti

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, informed the Senate on Monday that the government was carrying out a crackdown against all illegal immigrants in the country and not Afghan nationals only.

Winding up discussion on a motion to discuss the Federal Government's decision to expel the immigrants, including Afghan refugees from Pakistan in a short time, he rejected the notion that the crackdown had been launched against Afghan nationals.

The operation was underway against illegal immigrants who had been residing in Pakistan without any travel documents, the minister added.

Bugti said no country allowed any foreigner to live, do business, or buy properties without legal documents. "Whether does any country, including Afghanistan, permit Pakistani people to cross their borders without legal documents?" he questioned.

He said that even in Afghanistan, Pakistani businessmen are required to produce guarantors before establishing businesses.

He said foreigners with valid visas and legal documents would be welcomed in Pakistan and even allowed to do business. The minister said that the prime minister, during a cabinet meeting, gave a clear policy that no illegal immigrant would be mis-handled, and assured that the police would treat Afghan refugees with dignity.

Two to three station house officers (SHOs) had been suspended for their involvement in mishandling cases, he added. Bugti elaborated that the operation against illegal immigrants was being executed strategically, with committees established at divisional and district levels to address the issue.

The provincial stakeholders, along with the Afghan consulates, were also taken on board, he added.



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

ECP adjourns hearing of contempt of EC case

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

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

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

Interior secretary Aftab Durrani appeared in EC. Junior lawyer of chairman PTI also appeared in EC.

He told EC counsel for chairman PTI is engaged in

Supreme Court. We request for adjournment of the case or hearing be adjourned for some time.

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

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

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

Interior secretary presented report in EC for not presenting Chairman PTI before EC due to security concerns.

Member commission said can we notify hearing in jail and does the law allow it.



KARACHI: Head of delegation from IMO Mr. Jun Sun addressing at IMO Workshop under Integrated Technical Cooperation Program for Implementation of Hong Kong Convention, Pakistan in PC hotel.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

OIC inaction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Climate adaptation



Huma Yusuf

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

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

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

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

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

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

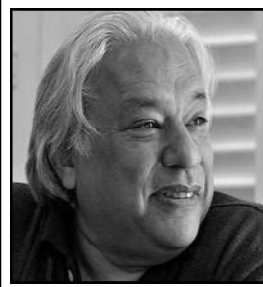
McKinsey's economic and societal adjustment bucket calls for "compensating mechanisms for vulnerable communities and institutions" and under its governance category it pushes for community awareness and engagement. Pakistan's NAP echoes these principles

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

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

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

Afghan refugees



Arif Hasan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commerce News

SAPM explores opportunities for Pakistani workforce in Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (SAPM on OP&HRD), Jawad Sohrab Malik, initiated a five-day visit to Saudi Arabia aiming to foster collaboration and explore employment opportunities for the Pakistani workforce in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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

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

These projects offer extensive employment opportunities, especially in fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, media policy, strategy and research, health and safety specialists, project coordination & managerial strategy, financial modelling, eco-system-based management specialists, senior water scientists, climate action directors, managers of geothermal energy, solar generation specialists, and more.

During the visit, the discussions will also revolve around the evolving labor market trends in Saudi Arabia. The SAPM, during his meetings with Saudi Arabia's Minister for Labor,

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Minister briefed on PIMA, Climate-PIMA

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

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

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

integrating climate considerations into the planning and execution of all development projects. This approach aligns with the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), signifying Pakistan's dedication to climate-smart policies and practices.

The Planning Minister asked the stakeholders to improve the effectiveness of public investment by improving procedures and financing mechanisms.

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

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

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



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

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



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

CDNS secures Rs 35 bln in Islamic finance bonds

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

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

SNGPL disconnects another 87 connection

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

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

SBP Dy Governor says: SBP to facilitate business community

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

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

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

CM seeks carbon credits plan to accelerate tree plantation

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

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

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

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

CM Punjab reviews health reforms

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

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

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



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



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

Five development schemes worth Rs 7.073b approved

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) Punjab approved five developmental schemes of Rs 7.073 billion in its 26th meeting of current financial year 2023-24 chaired by P&D Board Chairman Iftikhar Ali Sahoo here on Monday. The approved schemes are: Construction of ByPass from Royal

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

Religious leaders unite in urgent appeal for peace in Gaza

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

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

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

LHC orders to immediately change DG environment

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

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

The court also expressed displeasure over performance of care taker government Punjab.

The court ordered to close the private and government schools and colleges on Saturday.

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

Commissioner Lahore and other officers appeared in the court.

Three killed over land dispute

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

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

Home deptt identifies 22347 illegal foreigners in major cities of KP

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

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

Hanif Abbasi acquitted in riots case

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

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

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

ANF recovers 225 kg drugs in 10 operations

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

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

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

International News

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

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

Biden "unequivocally" condemned the holding of hostages by Hamas, including many young children, one of whom is a 3-year old American citizen whose parents were killed by the group on October 7th, the White House said in a statement. "The two leaders agreed that all hostages must be released without further delay," the statement said.

Hamas fighters surged across the border from Gaza into Israel on Oct. 7, killing about 1,200 people and taking more than 200 hostages, according to Israeli officials. Only four hostages have been released to date. The Israeli bombardment of Gaza has since killed more than 11,000 Palestinians, around 40% of them children, according to counts by health officials in the Hamas-ruled territory.

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



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

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

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

The move followed high-level military talks in Seoul, where the allies also discussed enhancing three-way defense exercises with Japan and improving information-sharing on North Korean missile launches. U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin was in Seoul for annual security talks with South Korean military officials, including Defense Minister Shin Won-sik, which were focused on boosting nuclear deterrence against North Korea. They also talked about how the allies could coordinate over broader geopolitical issues, including Russia's war on Ukraine and China's regional assertiveness, Austin said.

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



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

Bangladesh unrest leaves another garment worker dead

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

Jalaluddin, 42, a garment worker who was injured in clashes with officers earlier this month in Gazipur, north of the capital Dhaka, died from his injuries. His death takes the number killed in the protests to four, according to police officials. "He died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He was injured during a protest several days ago," said police inspector Bacchu Mia. Jalal's brother-in-law Rezaul Karim told reporters he had been shot in the stomach by a shotgun, and had been brought to Dhaka for treatment.

Israeli strikes on Gaza hospitals suspend prisoner swap talks

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

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

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

Fears have intensified for patients and people taking refuge in Al-Shifa and other healthcare facilities in Gaza, and medical aid group Doctors Without Borders warned that without a ceasefire or evacuation the hospital "will become a morgue". Other buildings serving as shelters have also been hit, including a strike on a UN compound in Gaza City that the United Nations Development Programme said caused "a significant number of deaths and injuries."



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

South Asia worst in world for water scarcity: UN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Argentina's presidential rivals clash in key voter battlegrounds

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

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

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

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

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

Commodore Asim Sohail Malik said that Pakistan and China have always enjoyed strategically unique and strong relationships and this exercise will further strengthen the decades-old and time-tested friendship of both countries.

"The exercise will also open new avenues for future maritime cooperation between two friendly navies against common threats in the region," he added.

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

The exercise aims at enhancing the capabilities of both the Navies to jointly deal with terrorism and crime at sea and to promote efforts for a safe maritime environment and defence of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he noted adding that the exercise is a reiteration of commitment for further enhancing the all weather and time tested friendship of both the countries.

Frontline Destroyer, Frigates, Helicopters, Rescue Ship, Submarines and Special Forces from the Pakistan Navy and Peoples Liberation Army (Navy) are participating in this exercise, they informed.

The exercise is divided into two phases i.e. Harbour and Sea phases. During harbour activities, both navies shared their experiences on contemporary maritime security threats and challenges through various workshops, seminars and tabletop discussions.

They stated that the Sea Phase of the exercise to be conducted in the North Arabian Sea from November 14 to 16, 2023 would encompass advanced level naval operations including maritime security Operations, tactical manoeuvres, various warfare-related exercises and Search and Rescue operations to deal with a variety of threats at sea.

It is pertinent to mention that the First bilateral Exercise Sea Guardian with the People's Liberation Army (Navy) was held in 2014 and has regularly been conducted each year alternately in Pakistan and China.



Commodore Asim Sohail Malik from Pakistan Navy alongwith Chinese Senior Captain Qi Jian briefing the audience about contours of bilateral exercise Sea Guardian 2023.

1 in 3 children exposed to severe water scarcity: UNICEF

ISLAMABAD (APP): Children's Climate Risk (2021), also outlines the myriad of other ways in which children bear the brunt of the impacts of the climate crisis - including disease, air pollution, and extreme weather events such as floods and droughts. From the moment of conception until they grow into adulthood, the health and development of children's brains, lungs, immune systems and other critical functions are affected by the environment they grow up in. For example, children are more likely to suffer from air pollution than adults. Generally, they breathe faster than adults and their brains,

lungs and other organs are still developing.

"The consequences of climate change are devastating for children," said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell. "Their bodies and minds are uniquely vulnerable to polluted air, poor nutrition and extreme heat."

Not only is their world-changing - with water sources drying up and terrifying weather events becoming stronger and more frequent - so too is their well-being as climate change affects their mental and physical health. Children are demanding change, but their needs are far too often relegated to the sidelines."

The report, a supplement to UNICEF's

Uzbekistan's Deputy PM for Trade arrives in Pakistan on 2-day visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Uzbekistan's Deputy Prime Minister for Trade and Investment Dr Jamshid Khodjaev on Monday arrived in Pakistan on a two-day visit.

The visit is aimed at further strengthening bilateral trade and investment ties between the two countries, said a press release.

During the visit, Dr Khodjaev will meet senior government officials to discuss ways to enhance cooperation in a range of sectors, including trade and investment.

He will also lead a delegation of Uzbekistan's

business leaders for meetings with their Pakistani counterparts to explore new opportunities for investment and collaboration.

"Pakistan and Uzbekistan have enjoyed close economic ties for many years.

The bilateral trade between Pakistan and Uzbekistan has grown substantially in the last three years, from \$ 27 million in 2019-20 to \$ 126 million in 2022-23.

However, this is much below the full potential of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Uzbekistan," the press release added.

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

CHARSADDA (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday visited the residence of deceased former Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Azam Khan in Parang to condole with his family members.

He offered his heartfelt condolence to the sons of the deceased, Behram Azam Khan and Sikandar Azam Khan.

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

Senate told Govt blacklisted 111 social media-apps offering online interest based loans

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti on Monday informed the Senate that the government had not only blacklisted 111 social media-apps offering online interest based loans but also the Cyber Wing of Federal Investigation Agency confiscated Rs 1.8 billion amount of interest.

Winding up discussion on a motion moved by Senator Mushtaq Ahmed about mushrooming of the social media-apps offering online interest based loans in the country, he said that FIA had also registered cases against those who were running such mobile apps.

Their cases were pending before courts of law, he added.

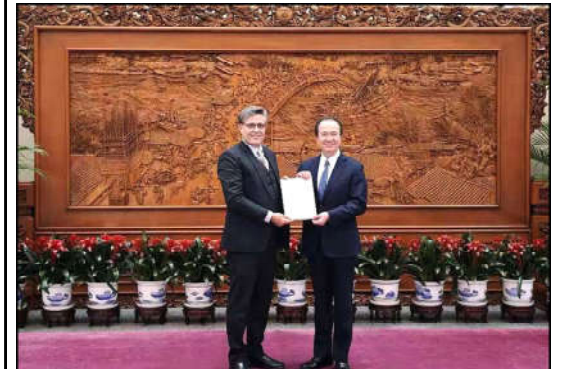
He said that soon after the emergence of the issue, the government had started actions against the apps which were not registered with Security Exchange Commission of Pakistan.

However, he said FIA's capacity regarding cyber-crimes was very limited, adding there were also some law related issues.

Earlier, Mushtaq Ahmed said many students and educated peoples had been trapped in the clutches of these social media-apps offering online interest based loans.

Initially the apps offered loans to the students and unemployment people on nominal interest but later, they were forced to pay hefty interest.

BEIJING: Ambassador Khalid Hashmi presented copy of his credentials to Mr. Hong Lei, Director General of the Protocol Department, Chinese MFA.



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All set to join Hong Kong Convention soon: SAPM Iftikhar Rao

KARACHI (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Maritime Affairs Vice Admiral (Retd.) Iftikhar Ahmed Rao has said that Pakistan is all set to join Hong Kong Convention (HKC) very soon.

He said, "We have competed almost all the formalities and just the formal decision by cabinet awaited. While addressing a three-day IMO National Seminar on 'The Ratification and Implementation of the Hong Kong Convention, Pakistan-2023' organized by International Maritime Organization (IMO), Ministry of Maritime Affairs of Pakistan, Balochistan Government

and Pakistan Ship Breakers & Recyclers Association at a local hotel here on Monday, the SAPM Iftikhar Ahmed Rao assured that Pakistan would be able to join HKC within this month and it would be a good step to promote this significant industry.

He said that the Pakistan government was fully behind this industry and the Ministry of Maritime Affairs was totally focused on it.

The SAPM said that the Ship recycling facility in Pakistan had been very important in the past and she wanted to take it up to the same level in the near future.

pecting the presence of prohibited or dutiable items.

Despite Ghani's denial of carrying any restricted items, Customs officers, unsatisfied with his response, subjected his luggage to a thorough scan.

The examination revealed a cache of smuggled items, including mobile phones, iPads, Apple watches, laptops, computer parts, perfumes, branded women's shoes, and coffee.

Consequently, the Customs officials seized the passenger's luggage and detained Bilal Ghani.

Smuggling attempt thwarted by Customs at Karachi Airport

KARACHI (APP): The Customs officials at the Jinnah International Airport (JIAP) Airport Collectorate successfully intercepted an attempt to smuggle goods valued at more than 5.5 million rupees.

Upon the arrival of Bilal Ghani via a Gulf Air flight from Bahrain, Customs personnel stationed at the International Arrival Lounge grew suspicious and halted Ghani at the Green Channel.

They conducted an inquiry regarding the contents of his luggage, sus-

pected the presence of prohibited or dutiable items.

Despite Ghani's denial of carrying any restricted items, Customs officers, unsatisfied with his response, subjected his luggage to a thorough scan.

The examination revealed a cache of smuggled items, including mobile phones, iPads, Apple watches, laptops, computer parts, perfumes, branded women's shoes, and coffee.

Consequently, the Customs officials seized the passenger's luggage and detained Bilal Ghani.



HYDERABAD: Members of Hindu Community are celebrating Diwali Festival held at local Temple in Hyderabad.

Steering Committee decides academic year for Sindh schools from April 15, Colleges from Aug 01

KARACHI (APP): The Steering Committee for Education in Sindh on Monday decided to start the new academic year for schools across the province from April 15, 2024, while the new academic year for colleges will start from August 01, 2024.

This decision was taken in the Steering Committee meeting chaired by Caretaker Education Minister Rana Hussain.

The Secretary School Education department and other officers concerned were present on the occasion. The meeting discussed matters pertaining to the start of the new academic year in Schools and colleges across the province while schedules of the examinations, holidays, and other

important issues were reviewed.

The meeting also decided that the new Academic year for Schools will start from April 15 while in Colleges new year will commence from August 01, 2024. The Steering Committee also decided that vacations for summer and winter schedules will remain the same. According to the decision, the annual Examination for Matriculation will commence in the first week of May, and Intermediate exams will begin in the last week of May 2024.

The result of SSC part II will be announced on July 31 and the HSC part II result will be announced in the second week of August 2024, the Steering Committee decided.



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

PPP has best programme to overcome financial crunch, claims Gilani

MULTAN (APP): Former Prime Minister, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, claimed that no political party other than the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has a better programme to overcome the economic crisis of the country.

Addressing a gathering in UC Muhammadpur Ghota in Qasim Bela, he stated that if the PPP voted to power with a two-third majority in the upcoming general election, it would bring great news for a better future of the next generations.

He reminisced that his party always served the people of the constituency in the true sense.

Haji Owais Bhupla, Malik Farooq Bhupla,

Factory shifted from residential area on Ombudsman's intervention

KARACHI (APP): On directives of Sindh Provincial Ombudsman Ijaz Ali Khan a factory set up on a residential plot has been shifted from the area.

The Ombudsman expressed satisfaction over implementation of his orders regarding shifting the factory from the residential area, said a statement issued here on Monday.

The complainant, Syed Kamran filed an online complaint that a factory has been established on a residential plot in the FB area that was causing noise and air pollution and become a nuisance for the residents of the area. The complainant,

Naat Khuwan shot dead in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A tragic target killing incident was reported from Karachi's Orangi Town area, where a Naat Khuwan was shot dead by two culprits on Monday.

According to the details, the Naat Khuwan and Mauzin of a local mosque - named Raheem Ullah - was shot dead in the Pakistan Bazar area of Orangi town.

Senior Superintendent of the Police (SSP) West confirmed the details, adding that the two culprits on a bike approached the deceased and fired three shots. After the incident, the mobile phone and other valuables were recovered from the victim, however, the forensic team also collected the 9mm bullet shells from the incident spot, while the body was shifted to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital.

Police detain 48 illegal Afghans

HYDERABAD (APP): Hyderabad police detained 48 illegal Afghan residents during various operations across the city and shifted them to a holding camp for their repatriation. The spokesperson for the district police informed on Monday that, in accordance with the instructions issued by the Sindh government, SSP Hyderabad Amjad Ahmed Sheikh directed Hyderabad Police to take strict actions against illegal Afghan residents.

In this regard, the police force conducted a combing operation around the Afghan Basti area under the supervision of DSP Chalgari Kashif Ali Qadri and SHO Hatari Inspector Ziad Ali Noonari, during this operation.

DC reviews arrangements for upcoming polio drive

HYDERABAD (APP): In order to overview the arrangements regarding the anti-polio campaign commencing from November 27 to December 3, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) chaired a meeting at Darbar Hall on Monday.

Addressing the meeting, DC said that the existence of the Polio virus in the country especially in Sindh Province was a danger to the health of future builders. DC said that in order to make the National Anti polio campaign successful, the preparation of a micro plan for the administration of polio drops to children up to the age of five years, polio teams selection and training, and finalizing of all other arrangements shall be ensured.

He said that the existence of polio-virus in the

MQM-P leader Rauf Siddiqui hospitalized after suffering heart attack

KARACHI (INP): Rauf Siddiqui, senior leader of the Mutahida Quami Movement Pakistan (MQM-P), has been rushed to the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) hospital after suffering a severe heart attack.

The incident occurred during Rauf Siddiqui's hearing at Sindh High Court, where he suddenly experienced chest pain. He was subsequently taken to NICVD Hospital for urgent medical attention. The former MPA's surgery is currently underway.

SRSO to organize 14th Sartyoon Sang Crafts Exhibition from Nov 1 in Karachi's Ocean Mall

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) with the support of different partners and sponsors will organize the 14th Sartyoon Sang Crafts Exhibition in Karachi's Ocean Mall from November 1st to 3rd 2023. According to SRSO Spokesperson, Jamil Ahmed, the exhibition will bring a variety of traditional arts and crafts to Karachi. These colourful and captivating products will be the work of thousands of rural women artisans from different districts of Sindh.



KARACHI: Fire Fighters are busy in fire extinguishing on high rise building t.I.I Chandigarh road in Provincial Capital.

Regional Ombudsman hears complaints against SPECO, SSGC

LARKANA (APP): On the special directives of Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi, Regional Head Federal Ombudsman at Sukkur Syed Mehmood Ali Shah heard complaints against SPECO and SSGC at the Provincial Ombudsman's Office, Larkana, on Monday.

Revenue Officer SEPCO Larkana Sohail Ahmed Khuhawar, R.O SEPCO Kambar-Shahdadkot Shah Murad, Executive Engineer (Rural) SEPCO and other related officers, while on behalf of Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), Syed Mazhar Ali Shah and Deputy Manager Saeed Ahmed Korejo and petitioners also appeared and presented their issues against SEPCO and SSGC including complaints of over-reading and deduction.

Regional Head Syed Mahmood Ali Shah reviewed the complaints received and 39 complaints presented against SEPCO of which 35 complaints were decided on the spot and the rest were given date in 04 applications/complaints. However, 19 com-

plaints were received against SSGC, 15 were reviewed and decided and 04 complaints were dated for the next hearing.

He directed the officials of the concerned department that the complaints of the victims should be resolved as soon as possible and no one should be treated unfairly.

He assured the petitioners that their complaints would be acted upon within 30 days, otherwise, the case would be sent to the Federal Ombudsman and legal action would be taken against the officers violating the order.

He also directed the concerned authorities to take strict legal action against the meter readers for over-reading. The Regional Head Ombudsman at Sukkur also directed that decisions will be implemented otherwise the case of non-compliance will be referred to the Federal Ombudsman and strict legal action will be taken against those responsible.

He said that Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi was committed to providing immediate justice to the poor people.