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Dr. Shakrullah died of Congo virus declared martyr:

Govt. imposes Health Emergency in Balochistan following Congo virus outbreak in SPHHQ

Section 144 imposed on private slaughter houses in Quetta for two weeks; funds for RBC and extension in contract of employees of public health labs approved; CM directs to Livestock Dept to start anti-Congo spray at cattle markets immediately; Secretary claims situation under control

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has imposed Health Emergency in the province after outbreak of Congo virus in a medical ward of the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital Quetta (SPHHQ).

The decision to this effect was made in a high level meeting held with the care-

taker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki in the chair here at the CM's secretariat on Monday.

The caretaker Minister Health, Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezi, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Secretary Health, Abdullah Khan, besides other concerned high ups were in attendance.

The meeting reviewed

the situation of Congo virus besides the measures being taken for its prevention and further spread in Quetta and other parts of the province.

It was decided to declare the medical officer, Dr. Shakrullah Jan died of Congo virus the other day as martyr and give all due incentives to his bereaved family.

The meeting decided to impose section 144 in the private slaughter houses of Quetta for two weeks.

While there would be ban on the private slaughter house for two weeks in Quetta, the animals may be slaughtered at the slaughter houses located far away from the city, it was decided

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QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over a high level meeting regarding Congo virus situation in Balochistan



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar witnesses a ceremony of the signing of letters of understanding between WHO and the Government of Pakistan on Universal Healthcare

Interim Govt wants to see Gwadar deep seaport fully operational: Caretaker CM

Mir Ali Mardan Domki pledges to make Gwadar exemplary city of Balochistan, says decision of review on Gwadar Master Plan to be made in light of outcome of multidimensional consultation with all concerned stakeholders

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the interim provincial government wants to see the Gwadar deep seaport fully functional.

He said that it is our utmost endeavour to make Gwadar exemplary city of

the province.

The Chief Minister Ali Mardan Domki, who also happens to be the Chairman of Gwadar Development Authority (GDA), was chairing meeting of the GDA's governing body here on Monday.

The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir

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In areas of common interests Solangi assures all possible coop to Chinese enterprises in developing greater understanding

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi here on Monday said that as China-Pakistan cooperation was proceeding to greater depths, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting shall play a greater role in extending all possible cooperation to Chinese enterprises in developing greater understanding and cooperation on the areas of common interests.

Delivering his speech at the launching ceremony of the report on ten years of China Pakistan Economic Corridor by All Pakistan China Enterprises Association and Pakistan China Institute, he said that the Ministry of Information and its associated organizations like Pakistan Television, Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation and Associated Press of Pakistan were already engaged with their

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KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking to media persons

Feb 8 sun will rise with PPP's victory: Zardari and Bilawal

KARACHI (INP): The PPP chairman and co-chairman has extended congratulations to the party candidates who won the local body by-elections in different cities of Sindh.

In a post uploaded on X platform on Monday, PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari expressed his gratitude to the people for party's victory in the LB by-elections in Karachi and other parts of the province.

The heart of Sindh also raised the slogan of Jeay Bhutto, Zardari said, adding the success of Murtaza Wahab and Salman Abdullah Murad is a special message for PPP's rivals in Karachi.

Asif Zardari paid rich tributes to party workers for victory in by-elections, saying "Every PPP worker should start the election campaign by becoming the ambassador of Ms Benazir Bhutto Shaheed."

Interior Minister vows wipe out terrorism from Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom of Lt. Col. Muhammad Hasan Haider and other soldiers in the operation against terrorists in Tirah Valley on Monday.

Sharing grief with the families of the martyrs, the minister prayed for the martyred Lt. Col. and other martyrs.

In his message, the minister said that the security forces fought bravely and brought the three terrorists to their logical end.

Martyrs are the real heroes of the nation and the glory of the beloved country, said Sarfraz Bugti

The whole nation salutes the martyrs, the minister said adding that the eternal sacrifices of the security forces are unforgettable and the entire nation stands with them in the fight against terrorism.

Court to hear cipher case today

ISLAMABAD (Online): Special Court established under official secret act will hear Cipher case today (Tuesday). The list of the lawyers who will appear on behalf of chairman PTI has been filed in the court.

NADRA cancels over 18,000 illegal identity cards

ISLAMABAD (INP): National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has canceled over 18,000 illegal identity cards through a robust system, coordinating with other stakeholders, says in media reports.

The step has been taken to address the issue of counterfeit identity cards and fake documents, which pose a threat to national security. New measures include biometric verification of parents and relatives during the processing, SMS alerts to family heads, and two-stage verification for data access. Disciplinary actions are also taken against facilitators of forgery.

NADRA has also strengthened its accountability and inquiry system, leading to penalties and dismissal of those involved in illegal practices.

Lt Colonel among four martyred, three terrorists killed in Khyber operation

RAWALPINDI (APP): A Lieutenant Colonel was among four soldiers of Pakistan Army, who embraced martyrdom on Monday while eliminating three terrorists and injuring as many during an intense exchange of fire amid an intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted in the general area Tirah of Khyber District on reported presence of terrorists. During the conduct of operation, the troops led by Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Hassan

Haider, effectively engaged the terrorists' location as a result of which three terrorists were sent to hell, while three terrorists got injured, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The martyrs, brave sons of soil, were identified as Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Hassan Haider, Naik Khushdil Khan, Naik Rafique Khan and Lance Naik Abdul Qadir having fought gallantly embraced, Shahadat, during intense exchange of fire.

Jamali directs PDMA, other concerned to remain alert during rainy season

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Captain (Retd) Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali has directed the concerned authorities of Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), police and other department to remain alert during rains in Quetta and other parts of the province.

According to an official hand out issued here on

Monday, the Minister Home directed to the PDMA and other concerned high ups to take wholehearted part in the relief activities in the rain affected areas.

He also directed to the authorities to personally visit the areas and review the situation there.

In addition to this, the flow of traffic should also be ensured in the rain hit areas, the Minister Home directed further.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Jan Achakzai inaugurating Balochistan Health Card

Mehmood Achakzai says Legitimate demands of Pashtuns must be accepted

By Sardar Khondai

CHAMAN: If the passport decision is not revoked, then it will not be a barbed wire, now if this alliance remains, no one has the courage not to withdraw this passport visa policy.

Mehmood Khan Achakzai said that we are not terrorists and demanded for withdrawal of the decisions of oppression, do not force the people of Aman to start a strong protest and remove this fence. He said that the legitimate demands and rights of Pashtuns must be recognized to make this country Pakistan and Afghanistan peaceful. I pay my respects and InShaAllah the time is not far that we will own our rights

Earlier Mahmood Khan Achakzai was given a grand welcome on arrival at the meeting hall.



CHAMAN: Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) Chairman Mehmood Khan Achakzai addresses a public gathering

WHO, health ministry join hands to upgrade 464 hospitals for Universal Health Coverage

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination and the World Health Organisation on Monday joined hands to refurbish 464 health facilities across the country as a step forward to achieving the government's "top agenda" of Universal Health Coverage.

In this connection, a ceremony for the signing of Letter of Understanding between the health ministry and the world health body was held at the PM House which also marked the handing over of health equipment worth over Rs 2 billion including mobile health clinics, ambulances, and mobile vaccination

vans. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Caretaker Health Minister Dr Nadeem Jan witnessed the ceremony as Secretary Health Iftikhar Ali Shallwani and WHO Representative in Pakistan Dr Palitha Mahipala signed the document.

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QUETTA: A delegation of Kalat and Mastung led by Agha Qalandar Khan Ahmedzai meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar. Representatives of SSGC and QESCO are also present

Treatment of Congo affectees in Karachi: Jogezi calls Sindh counterpart; seeks cooperation

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Health, Dr. Ameer Muhammad Khan Jogezi has sought cooperation of Sindh government for medical treatment of the doctors and paramedics contracted Congo virus in Karachi.

He called to the caretaker Sindh Minister for Health, Dr. Saad Khalid Niaz in this regard and informed him about the details of spread of the Congo virus in Civil Hospital Quetta.

Dr. Jogezi informed his Sindh counterpart that the Congo infected doctors and paramedics have been sent to Karachi for treatment.

Therefore, we need cooperation of the Sindh government for provision of better medical treatment facilities for the affected doctors and paramedics in Karachi.

On this, Minister Health Sindh assured Dr Jogezi of the wholehearted cooperation for treatment of the Congo virus patients in Karachi.

Zhob-DI Khan national highway blocked due to landslide

QUETTA (INP): The Zhob-DI Khan national highway has been closed at Dhana Sar point in Sherani district, Balochistan, since last night due to a landslide on Monday.

People have been facing a great deal of inconvenience due to the closure of the road. They have been waiting for the road to be cleared in vehicles lined up in long queues. All the people in Sherani district have been advised to avoid travel on the national highway till it is opened.

The National Highways Authority (NHA) and the district administration have been busy clearing the road.

According to the district administration, the road can be opened by this evening.

We couldn't succeed in ensuring modern scientific health system, regrets Governor

Malik Abdul Wali Kakar declares wearing of face masks for officers and staff of Governor House and Secretariat as essential

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has regretfully pointed out that we couldn't succeed in ensuring a modern scientific healthcare system and providing all basic facilities of health to the poor patients at their doorstep.

The Governor expressed deep grief over the news about doctors and medical staff getting infected from the Congo virus in Quetta.

He directed to the concerned high ups to provide all necessary facilities to the doctors and nurses who are making the life of patients and ridding them of pain and illness.

The Governor also stressed the need to ensure anti-Congo virus spray at the cattle markets and dairy farms besides establishing separate wards for the virus affected patients.

He noted with concern that Balochistan is the only province the thousands of patients of which are compelled to go to Sindh of Punjab for medical treatment.

He also urged media persons to play wholehearted role in creating awareness about prevention of Congo virus and implementation on all safety measures.

He also declared wearing of face masks essential for all officers and employees of the Governor House and Secretariat from today.

LAHORE: PML (N) supremo Nawaz Sharif addressing former parliamentarians and ticket holders of Sialkot

Nawaz Sharif says Those talking about deal living in fool's paradise

MANANWALA (Online): PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif has said those talking about deal living in fool's paradise

Future of PML-N is bright. Decision about party tickets will be made on merit. I salute those who stood with party in hard time. There is no room for opportunists in the party, he said this to possible candidate of PML-N Khan Jahanzeb Khan from PPP

143 Sheikhupura who met Nawaz Sharif at his residence. He held country is passing through a critical

phase in the prevailing situation. We will have to work for integrity and restoration of national economy so that country could regain its lost stature. "I salute to tigers of PP-143, he added.

INP adds: PML-N supremo and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif arrived at party's secretariat in Model Town on Monday morning after more than four years.

The elder Sharif reached the PML-N secretariat with his daughter and party's senior vice president Maryam Nawaz.

Significance of Gadani ship breaking yard

By Mohsin Naseer
One of the biggest ship-breaking yards in the world is located in Balochistan, near the sea-side town of Gadani. The Gadani ship breaking yard has 132 ship-breaking plots spread on a sea-shore that is 10 km (6.2 miles) long. After Alaga of Turkey and Alang of India and Chittagong of Bangladesh, Gadani of Pakistan is the third-largest shipbreaking yard globally.

The ship breaking industry is a major source of income and employment for Balochistan. International Labor Organization (ILO) states that the Gadani ship breaking yard directly employs about 6,000 people and indirectly supports another 30,000.

The Gadani ship breaking yard supplies raw materials to several enterprises that produce steel, iron, copper, brass, aluminum, and wood, which bolsters our national economy. Lo-

cal steel mills and rerolling mills use the steel scrap from Gadani to make steel bars, rods, pipes, and sheets. Foundries and engineering workshops use iron scrap to create castings and machine components. The electrical and metal industries use the scrap copper, brass, and aluminum to manufacture wires, cables, cutlery, and ornamental objects. Carpenters and furniture makers use the left-over wood to create tables, cabinets, windows and doors.

The Gadani ship breaking yard also recycles various items from the ships, such as generators, engines, boilers, compressors, pumps, valves, pipes, fittings, cables, switches, lights, fans, air conditioners, refrigerators, furniture, mattresses, carpets, curtains, utensils, crockery, books, magazines, paintings, and souvenirs. These items are sold in local mar-

kets or exported to other countries.

The Gadani ship breaking yard has a history of more than four decades. It was established in the 1960s and reached its peak in the 1980s when it was the largest ship-breaking yard in the world with more than 30,000 direct employees. However, it faced a decline in the 1990s and 2000s due to increased competition from newer facilities and higher import duties for decommissioned vessels in Pakistan.

In 2001, the Government of Pakistan reduced the ship-breaking duties including taxes and tariffs from 15% to 10% and aimed to offer further incentives if industry activity improves. As a result, the Gadani Ship breaking yard witnessed a revival in the 2010s and achieved a record output of 107 ships with a combined Light Displacement Tonnage (LDT) of

852,022 tons in the fiscal year 2009-2010.

The Gadani ship breaking yard is also known for its efficiency and speed in dismantling ships. It can break up to 125 ships of all sizes per year with a combined light displacement tonnage of 1 million tons. It takes only 30 to 45 days to break a ship with 5,000 LDT at Gadani compared to more than six months at Alang or Chittagong.

The Gadani ship breaking yard is a vital source of income and employment for Balochistan and a significant contributor to the local and national economy. It is also a place where old ships are given a new life by being recycled into useful materials and items. The Gadani ship breaking yard is a testament to the resilience and resourcefulness of the people of Balochistan who have turned a barren beach into a bustling industrial hub.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar receives a key signifying the provision of multiple mobile health units to the Government of Pakistan by WHO.



ISLAMABAD: A sixteen-member delegation of the American Pakistan Public Affairs Committee led by Deputy Speaker of the New York State Assembly Phil Ramos called on Caretaker Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Dr. Nadeem Jan.

IMF asked for report on losses of govt-owned enterprises

ISLAMABAD (Online): IMF has asked Finance Ministry to report losses of government-owned enterprises for first quarter of current financial year.

According to documents, Finance Ministry has sought time from IMF to provide report by December 2023.

IMF mission has refused to accept report of outdated statistics on the losses of state-owned enterprises during negotiations.

IMF delegation has also inspected Central

Monitoring Unit team for the assessment of government-owned enterprises.

IMF mission has also requested Central Monitoring Unit team to provide its first assessment report.

According to sources, IMF delegation has responded that new statistics of government-owned enterprises are being examined and which will be completed soon.

Finance Ministry will send report of losses of government-owned enterprises to IMF by next month.

SC disposes of 1,419 cases in over one month

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court disposed of about 1419 cases during the period from September 18 to October 20, 2023. The bench headed by Justice Tariq Masood concluded 600 cases while the other four disposed of 819 cases during the period, an SC report said.

The bench No. 2 of Justice Tariq Masood disposed of 88 cases in the week starting September 18, 126 cases the week starting from September 25, 105 cases in the week starting from October 2, 81 cases in the week starting from October 9 and 200 in the week starting from September 19.

Sri Lanka vs Bangladesh: Mathews given timed out 1st time in cricket's history

NEW DELHI (INP): Sri Lankan batsman, Angelo Mathews on Monday was given timed out first time in history of international cricket during cricket match Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

After Sri Lanka lost fourth wicket, Mathews arrived on the field. However, there was a delay before Mathews was ready to face his first ball, owing to a problem with his helmet.

Bangladesh appealed for Mathews' wicket, on the basis that he was not ready to face his first ball

despite three minutes elapsing since the fall of the previous wicket.

After a consultation between umpires, Mathews was given out. He left the field in fury, throwing down both bat and helmet.

The laws of cricket state that the incoming batsman must be ready to receive a ball within three minutes of the previous wicket falling.

Umpires Richard Illingworth and Marais Erasmus consulted before giving Mathews out



QUETTA: DG Sports Dura Baloch presenting shield to Caretaker Provincial Sports Minister Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani

WHO, health ministry join hands...

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Being executed with the WHO's support, the project will have zero financial implication for the Government of Pakistan.

Under the project, the WHO would support Pakistan in renovation of 464 health facilities across the country including 41 in AJK and Gilgit Baltistan, 131 in Balochistan, 64 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 26 in Punjab and 202 in Sindh.

The WHO would support the upgradation of 21 health facilities, 14 labour rooms and six EPI training centers in AJK and GB; 99 health facilities, 26 labour rooms, and six EPI training centers in Balochistan; and

36 health facilities 21 labour rooms and seven EPI training centers in KP.

The project also consists of refurbishing 15 labour rooms, nine EPI training centers and two nutrition stabilisation centers in Punjab; and 150 health facilities, 46 labour rooms and six EPI training centers in Sindh.

The WHO support for upgradation of the health facilities throughout the country will contribute to meeting the objective of Universal Health Coverage besides creating a better image of the government in the public for provision of decent health care services to them.

This support will also

18 dead, 1330 injured in 1220 road traffic crashes in Punjab

LAHORE: The Emergency Services Department (ESD) responded to 1220 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. In these RTCs, 18 people died, whereas 1330 were injured. Out of these, 687 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 643 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of Hospitals.

The majority (73%) involved Motorbikes, therefore effective enforcement of traffic laws and lane discipline are essential to reduce the increasing number of road traffic crashes.

Furthermore, the analysis showed those 601 drivers, 35 underage drivers, 166 pedestrians, and 581 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 249 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 259 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by 89 Faisalabad in with 92 victims and at third Gujranwala with 69 RTCs and 68 victims.

KP government cracks down on non-compliance in education department

By M. Ilyas

PESHAWAR- the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, through its Higher Education, Archives & Libraries Department, has taken resolute action to address instances of non-compliance with regard to posting and transfer notifications within the department.

Reports have come to light, revealing that certain Principals have steadfastly declined to relinquish their positions to recently transferred or newly appointed officers. The Competent Authority, with a keen sense of responsibility, has regarded this matter with utmost seriousness and has, in response, issued directives for the initiation of disciplinary proceedings against those Principals and Staff members found to be in defiance of these crucial administrative procedures.

To proactively tackle this issue, the department is fervently

urging all stakeholders to ensure unwavering adherence to the transfer, posting, and adjustment notifications meticulously issued by the Department.

It is imperative that all parties, be it the Principal of the college or the officer in question, diligently comply with these directives.

In the event of any reported non-compliance, swift and decisive action is mandated, with the concerned department being instructed to promptly forward the case for the initiation of disciplinary proceedings.

The timeline for taking these imperative actions has been firmly set at a swift three days, underscoring the urgency and priority assigned to this matter. The overarching goal is to guarantee the seamless and efficient administration of educational institutions within the region, safeguarding the quality of education and the integrity of the system.



QUETTA: Honorary Consul General of Germany in Quetta Murad Baloch meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Solangi assures all possible...

Continued from page 1

counterparts in a structured framework to enhance the media cooperation.

Appreciating the Pakistan-China Institute for hosting such a timely and important event, he said, "This event is important in the sense that it will highlight the significance and outstanding work being done by Chinese enterprises in Pakistan to the world". He said that the PCI's commitment to promotion of the sustainable endeavors of Chinese enterprises had been pivotal in enhancing the understanding of the public regarding the work of the Chinese enterprises.

"Not even a day passes when we don't hear about development by Chinese enterprises on CPEC projects in the media", he said. The minister said that the professionalism and consistency through which Chinese enterprises continued work on CPEC despite a global pandemic when almost every project in the world had hit the snag, had been lauded by the governments of Pakistan and China as well as international media, which was flooded with stories regarding the resilience of a project of such magnitude.

The minister noted that over 201-member companies of APCEA have so far, invested \$ 25 billion in Pakistan and employed over 85000 locals, which affirmed the notion of CPEC being a game-changer and demonstration project of the Belt and Road Initiative. He said in the report, he had also noted that Chinese enterprises had devised sustainable development strategies and have not only remained confined to brick and mortar projects like motorways and power

plants, but have also contributed significantly to the empowerment of local communities in previously neglected areas like Thar in Sindh and Gwadar in Balochistan.

He said in one of the documentaries produced by the Pakistan-China Institute, he observed that women were driving dumper trucks on the Port Qasim Coal Power Plant. This was the change, the minister said that the world should be told about.

Similarly, Faqeer Primary School and Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute in Gwadar, he believed, were the seeds of change being brought by Chinese enterprises. Solangi also appreciated increasing cooperation between Pakistan and China in green development, special economic zones, textile sector, agriculture, and digital economy.

On the special invitation of President Xi Jinping, he added, Prime Minister of Pakistan Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar attended the Belt and Road Forum meeting. During the visit, Solangi said, both the countries reaffirmed their commitment to the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and deepened their cooperation across various sectors.

They underlined their support for each other on key issues and emphasized the importance of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in promoting global economic growth, said the minister for information.

In the BRI forum, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was recognized as a pioneering project under the BRI, and the two sides agreed to further enhance its development.

Senate rejects PTI Senator's resolution

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Monday rejected a resolution of Senator Sania Nishtar of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for setting up a cross-sectoral task force to identify gaps in financing for the food system. Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, on behalf of the minister concerned, urged the mover to defer the resolution as the minister wanted to respond to it personally.

He said that the minister could not attend the session due to some government obligations. However, Senator Sania Nishtar insisted to proceed with the resolution and called for a vote. The outcome of the vote showed that only 11 senators voted in favour and 22 against the resolution. Following is the text of the resolution: "Acknowledging that Article 38 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan stipulates that the State shall secure the well-being of the people and provide them with necessities of life, irrespective of sex, caste, creed or race, by raising their standard of living; "Observing that in pursuance of Goal No. 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, Pakistan has committed to achieving "zero hunger"; "Noting with concern that despite being an agrarian economy, Pakistan is far from reaching this goal, with the country being positioned at number 84 out of 113 countries in the Global Food Security Index 2022 and currently facing record food inflation of 46.8%; "Recognizing Pakistan's growing vulnerability to climate change, which will further threaten food security, as demonstrated by the devastating 2022 flood which resulted in an additional 7.6 million people experiencing food insecurity.

PM emphasizes significance of Pak, Canada strong ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Canadian High Commissioner Leslie Scanlon here Monday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and discussed matters related to mutual interests.

The prime minister and the High Commissioner discussed various aspects of Canada-Pakistan bilateral relations, including Canada's development programs in Pakistan, humanitarian support post 2022 floods, economic and trade ties as well as Canadian investments in Pakistan, particularly the Reko Dig Project, a press release issued by the Prime Minister Office said.

PM Kakar emphasized the significance of strong ties between the two countries.

He highlighted the steps being undertaken by the government in priority areas, particularly for the stabilization of the economy, facilitation of foreign investment through Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), and repatriation of illegal foreigners.

The High Commissioner appreciated the support extended by the government of Pakistan to Canada's Afghan Relocation Program.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar exchanging views with Leslie Scanlon, Canadian High Commissioner during a meeting

PM expresses deep sorrow over martyrdom of armymen

ISLAMABAD (APP): The prime minister said the Pakistan Army soldiers sacrificed their lives for the security of the country in Tirah. "The entire nation, including me, is proud of its martyrs."

He vowed to continue the war against terrorism until the complete eradication of terrorism from the country.

The evil designs of the enemies of peace would never be allowed to succeed, he added.



RAWALPINDI: Mr. Nicolas Galey, Ambassador of France called on Minister for Defence, Lt Gen (Retd) Anwar Ali Hyder in Ministry of Defence.

Govt. imposes Health Emergency...

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further.

The meeting approved the funds required for Regional Blood Center (RBC) and extension in service of contract employees of the public health laboratories.

Speaking on the occasion, caretaker Chief Minister said that 44 cases of Congo virus have been reported in the province so far.

He said that two more health workers are being airlifted to Karachi for treatment. He said that we are in contact with the Sindh government, and the necessary arrangements have been made for treatment of the patients at Agha Khan and other private hospitals of Karachi.

The Chief Minister mentioned that the treatment of all Congo virus infected patients is being made at the government's expense.

He also directed to GDA to prepare strategy for increasing the resources by decreasing the unnecessary expenditures.

He also announced that the next meeting of GDA for important decision about it would be held in Gwadar.

Commissioners, District Health Officers and Livestock officers to keep strict vigil on the situation.

Earlier, during the briefing, it was informed by the Secretary Health Abdullh Khan and other concerned that the Congo virus was spread in the Sandeman Hospital because of a patient who had been brought from Harnai there on October 22.

The patient was diagnosed as confirmed Congo virus case after confirmation through his positive report on October 25, 2023, it was informed further.

Afterwards, the blood samples of some 122 persons including doctors, paramedics as well as patients admitted in the hospital and their attendants were obtained for tests.

The Secretary Health also informed that the infected ward of the Sandeman Hospital has been sealed and other departments have been fumigated through special initiatives. However, the situation is under control and its further spread has been stopped, the Secretary Health claimed.

PM orders strict action against drug dealers supplying drugs in educational institutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday ordered the police authorities to take strict action against the drug dealers supplying drugs and narcotics in and around the educational institutions. Chairing a meeting regarding issues related to Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) here, he said protection of life and property of the citizens was the primary responsibility of the state. The meeting discussed in detail the ICT's

administrative issues, law and order situation and anti-narcotics' issues. He also directed the concerned authorities to take special measures for the protection of schools besides taking necessary steps on priority basis for the establishment of Dolphin Force in Islamabad. The meeting was briefed in detail about illegal encroachments, the development projects under Capital Development Authority, performance of the ICT Police and other issues.

The prime minister ordered to immediately resolve the problems created by the showrooms established in various parts of the city to trade vehicles that cause problems of traffic and parking in the respective areas. A comprehensive plan of a Car City should be made at a suitable location for the exhibition, auction and sale of vehicles in Islamabad, he instructed. PM Kakar also said that an effective strategy should be devised to reduce the traffic pressure in the

city. The meeting was informed that 160 new buses would soon arrive in the city that would help making the public transport system in the city more effective. The prime minister directed that a central digital system should be made for registration of cars in all cities across the country including Islamabad. Fitness certificates should be issued for old vehicles based on the internationally accepted environmental pollution standards, he said.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting regarding issues related to ICT.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani presiding over a senate house business advisory committee meeting at Parliament House.

Pakistan is a cradle of several diverse & pluralistic civilizations: Jamal Shah

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ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage-Lok Virsa in collaboration with UNESCO organized a conference on folklore and traditional heritage of Pakistan here at Lok Virsa on sideline of Folk Festival. Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah was the chief guest on the occasion. Adviser and expert on National Heritage and Culture Division Muhammad Kashif Irshad, Executive Director Lok Virsa Muhammad Uzair Khan

and representative of UNESCO were also present on the occasion. Addressing the participants, the Minister said that Pakistan's cultural heritage is over 9,000 years old, starting from Mehrgarh. "Pakistan is a cradle of several diverse and pluralistic civilizations", he added. He said that he was making efforts to bring investment for the protection and preservation of Mehrgarh and Takht-e-Bahi. He said that it will be more good to also invite ar-

tisans in such conferences for their awareness. We need to create more opportunities for our artists and artists," he added. He said that we need to change our attitude towards artists and artists as they are our strength. The minister termed projection of cultural diversity as the best source for promotion of peace and harmony in the society. He said Lok Mela is a valuable platform for artists to exhibit their talent and promote the national cohesion in a befitting manner.

Chairman Senate applauds Pakistan-China friendship, contributions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Monday highlighted the enduring and deep-rooted friendship between Pakistan and China and commended the substantial contributions made by Chinese institutions and organizations operating within Pakistan, underscoring their significance in strengthening the bond between the two nations. In his message lauding the remarkable achievements of "10 Years of CPEC" during a report launching ceremony titled "Thousands of Miles with CPEC", he emphasized the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China. The ceremony was held at the Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services and distinguished guests in attendance included Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Minister for Information and Broadcast-

ing, Murtaza Solangi, Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong, the Executive Director of Pakistan-China Institute Mustafa Hayder Sayed and Chairman of the All Pakistan China Enterprises Association Yang Jianduo. A heartfelt message on behalf of Chairman Senate, was read out to the audience by the Executive Director Pakistan-China Institute, Mustafa Hayder Sayed. In his message, the chairman emphasised the enduring friendship between the two nations and commended the significant contributions of Chinese institutions and organizations operating in Pakistan. Their contributions have played a pivotal role in strengthening bilateral ties, fostering not only government-to-government relations but also nurturing the invaluable people-to-people connections that underpin this exceptional friendship.



ISLAMABAD: Sindhi folk artist performing during annual Lok Mela 2023 at Lok Virsa in Federal.

Air pollutants below permissible limits in Capital

ISLAMABAD (APP): The air quality of the federal capital was recorded healthy on Monday as the air pollutants ratio in the atmosphere was below the permissible limits of the national environmental quality standards of Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency. The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) daily air quality report indicated a reduced ratio of air pollutants, recorded below permissible limits, and the air quality was healthy. The Agency is responsible to ensure the protection of the environment under the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act 1997. The hazardous air pollutant particulate matter of 2.5 microns (PM2.5), which was a hazardous atmospheric contaminant, remained 30.53 microgrammes per cubic meter on

average which was higher than the national environmental quality standards (NEQS) of 35 microgrammes per cubic meter and denoted the air quality unhealthy. PM2.5 is generated through the combustion of an engine, industrial emissions, burning garbage or inflammable material and dust blown up by fast-moving cars plying on non-cemented patches of the roads. The ratio of nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide (NO2&SO2 respectively) also remained below the NEQS that were mostly produced during the industrial emissions from the factories involving complex and extraordinary chemicals' use in production processes. The NO2 remained 8.31 microgrammes per cubic meter and SO2 was 14.52 microgrammes per cubic meter.

SECP, FIA sign MoU to enhance mutual cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Monday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to formalize mechanism for information sharing and cooperation between the two organizations.

and the SECP Chairman, Akif Saeed inked the MoU at a ceremony held at SECP head office. Akif Saeed, appreciated the DG FIA for extending cooperation and sought the agency's assistance for the capacity building of its officers, especially with regards to forensic evidence collections.

The MoU will serve as a foundation for future collaboration and capacity building to safeguard the country's digital financial system from cybercrime and fraud threats, said a press release issued here. Director General FIA, Mohsin Hassan Butt (PSP)

The DG FIA affirmed that the MoU would also facilitate the usage of shared resources and infrastructure, leading to a more efficient and effective disposal of investigations regarding illegal deposit taking and frauds that affected the public at large.

Turkish Red Crescent delegation forges closer ties with PRC in humanitarian collaboration

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: In a significant step towards strengthening the bonds of humanitarian collaboration, Head of Delegation from Turkish Red Crescent, Mr. Ergest LIMKA met with Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari. The call on, held at National Headquarter of Pakistan Red Crescent here on Monday, showcased the commitment of these two esteemed organizations to work hand in hand for the betterment of communities in Pakistan. The meeting commenced with warm greetings and expressions of solidarity from Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent, who emphasized the longstanding relationship between the two organizations. Mr. Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari acknowledged the pivotal role that Turkish Red Crescent has played in providing support and assistance during numerous humanitarian crises, both within Pakistan and on a global scale.



Head of Delegation Mr. Ergest LIMKA, representing TRC, reciprocated the sentiment and reaffirmed their dedication to support PRCs in humanitarian endeavors. He commended Pakistan Red Crescent for its tireless efforts in humanitarian work within the country. The discussions during the meeting revolved around various aspects of cooperation, including support in ongoing PRCs Recovery program in Sindh and Baluchistan which may cover Livelihood, Cash Voucher Assistance (CVA) Nutrition, Shelter and Migration program and also Strengthen the effective coordination between the PRCs and Turkish Red Crescent, Support for Iftaar and Qurbani project. Expressing gratitude for the continuous support, Chairman Laghari assured Mr. Ergest LIMKA of a close working relationship to fortify the partnership and deliver impactful, life-saving services to those in need. The meeting culminated with a symbolic exchange of tokens of appreciation, signifying the shared commitment of both parties to alleviate suffering and enhance the well-being of vulnerable communities. In the end, Chairman PRCs Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari presented memento to the TRC Head of Delegation Mr. Ergest LIMKA.

CPI organises training workshops for Child Protection Committees

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: To build the capacity of Islamabad based Child Protection Committees on child rights and protection mechanisms, the Child Protection Institute (CPI) organised three two-day trainings in collaboration with ILO and Sahil. These committees will be responsible for identifying and monitoring the cases of child rights violation, hazardous and worst forms of child labour and report to the respective institution including CPI, local police, Reconciliation Committees at local police office/Thaana, Child Help

Lines etc. These committees will compile and submit their periodic reports, including details on number of awareness sessions conducted, number of people educated (female/male) and number and type of cases identified and reported. Around 80 members of community-based child protection groups/ committees participated in the workshop where they were briefed about the Child Protection Act 2018, different forms of violence against children, and the existing mechanisms for child protection in the capital city.



Senator Muhammad Abdul Qadir along with others Senators in a group photo with the delegation of American Pakistani Public Affairs Committee (APPAC) at parliament House, Islamabad.

IHC summons record of cases against Afridi

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has sought record of cases against Shehr Yar Afridi. The contempt of court case against Deputy Commissioner Islamabad and others in connection with illegal detention of Shehr Yar Afridi came up for hearing in IHC Monday. Justice Babar Sattar of IHC took up miscellaneous petition for hearing. Justice Babar Sattar inquired from Qaisar Imam does he want to file report. Prosecutor Qaisar Imam took the plea record of cases be called from respective police station against Shehr Yar Afridi. Justice Babar Sattar remarked "I will pass orders on your plea. The court while summoning record of cases against Shehr Yar Afridi adjourned the hearing of the case.

FIA rescued 4 women, 3 children from flats

ISLAMABAD (Online): FIA Anti-Human Trafficking Circle Rawalpindi has recovered 4 women and 3 children from Islamabad. The victims belong to Azerbaijan. Women were brought from Azerbaijan under guise of employment. The accused were found involved in sexually exploiting the victim women. The affected women had come to Pakistan on visit visa which had expired and were residing illegally. Team of Deputy Director Anti-Human Trafficking Circle Rawalpindi has rescued women and children from flats located in E-11 area of Islamabad. Passports were also recovered from women during raid. FIA Anti-Human Trafficking Circle Islamabad has registered case against 3 human traffickers. Raids are being conducted in different areas to arrest the accused.

World Science Day to be marked on November 10

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan, like other parts of the world, will celebrate World Science Day for Peace Development on November 10 (Friday) through several activities highlighting the importance of scientific developments for the benefit of mankind. Different public and private departments will arrange various activities including seminars, conferences, rallies, discussion programmes and competitions highlighting this year's theme "Building Trust in Science". The role of science in shaping the collective future of mankind can only be fulfilled when there is trust in science. It is trust in science that fuels the development and application of evidence-based solutions to our world's multifaceted challenges. Trust in science is a complex issue. It affects how scientists operate and the way science is perceived by society.

Delegation of NIM Peshawar visits Safe City Islamabad

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the SSP Safe City welcomed the Mid-Career Management Course delegation from National Institute of Management (NIM) Peshawar at the Safe City Islamabad, a public relations officer said. He said that the delegation visits the command and control center, the data hub unit, modern technology-equipped cameras, and the Police operations center hall. They were fully

modern techniques, including the Police Operations Center, Emergency Control Center, Data Hub Unit, Dispatch Control Unit, E-Challan System, and the "Pucar-15" helpline. The delegation was also apprised of the functionality and benefits of the Safe City cameras in the city. The modern cameras of Safe City are playing a crucial role in ensuring the safety of the city and preventing crimes and safeguarding the lives and property of citizens. 42% of crimes are resolved through the Safe City Command



briefed about the procedures and advantages of this project. Furthermore, the delegation was informed that Safe City Islamabad is playing a significant role in identifying suspicious elements through

and Control Center. Face recognition cameras have been installed at the entry and exit points of the city which are playing an important role in identifying suspicious elements, he maintained.

OIC hosts three-day international conference on women in Islam

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia is hosting a three-day "International Conference on Women in Islam" in Jeddah starting on Monday. Organized by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the conference aims to highlight the successes of Muslim women and their role and contributions to the development of the OIC Member States. The moot also aims to counter the negative propaganda that portrays Islam religion as an obstacle to women's rights

and to demonstrate that Islamic teachings have always been just and towards women. It will also create a detailed plan for legal reforms and political initiatives to foster justice and empower women in Islamic societies. The event is also expected to adopt a comprehensive document titled "The Jeddah Document for Women in Islam". The event comprises five working sessions, where ministers, officials, scholars, and thinkers of both genders will delve into the status of women and their rights in Islam in addition to various issues related to women in contemporary societies.

Efforts afoot to ensure foolproof security arrangements at high security zone

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr.

plates from 689 vehicles, impounded 11 vehicles without papers and issued challan tickets to 505 motorcycleists for not wearing



Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police is using all available resources to ensure the peace and tranquility within the federal capital, a public relations officer said.

helmet and over-speed violations. Strict directions have been issued to police officers and officials performing their duties at high security zone checkpoints to excise their duty with full responsibility. The protection of important public and private property and embassies located in the high security zone is of paramount importance. The police officials were further directed to ensure the data entry of all citizens entering the high security zone, the identification documents should be thoroughly scrutinized, all suspicious vehicles should be searched and a positive attitude has been taken towards the public.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Tuesday November 07, 2023

Election season

The promise that democracy will be restored soon is a breath of fresh air in this current atmosphere of doom and gloom. After a rough start, the election machinery has started to click into gear.

The chief justice's stern warning to the media, telling it to desist from airing any further speculation on the timing of elections, has signalled to other stakeholders that there may be a finality to the Feb 8, 2024 date that can be banked on.

It is encouraging to note that the PTI, PML-N and PPP — the three largest political parties in the country — have all welcomed the announcement and seem eager to begin the contest. Right now, their attention should be focused on the upcoming electoral exercise rather than anything else. There is not a lot of time for them to regroup and launch effective campaigns. Now that the country is in election mode, the ECP should expect increased scrutiny of its actions. The immense task of ensuring that the upcoming elections are free, fair, impartial and inclusive rests on its shoulders, and it needs to do much better if it wishes to be remembered for discharging its duty responsibly.

There are several things that need immediate attention. For instance, the caretaker government is reportedly attempting to undertake a large-scale reshuffle of officers at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting despite the announcement of an election date.

All such tinkering with the executive branch must be stopped forthwith. The state must be oriented towards one thing alone: assisting the ECP in delivering a credible election. Everything else is unnecessary at this point in time. Secondly, the ECP must start utilising its considerable powers to ensure that the contest will be fair. The arrest of former National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser on corruption charges the day after elections were announced is not a good omen.

The public perception is that the PTI and its people will continue to be harassed with arbitrary detentions and arrests on trumped-up charges for as long as they refuse to toe the establishment's line. There is little justification, legal or moral, for a political party to be treated in this manner, and it is up to the ECP to put a stop to the victimisation.

Other parties have also been complaining about being denied a level playing field. They have accused the caretaker governments and other powerful forces of manipulating the state machinery to favour the PML-N.

There is no point in asking the electorate to vote if a handful of people are going to overrule their choices anyway. The Pakistani people must not be denied the right to choose their future themselves. The ECP should be wary of these sentiments and demonstrate it is working to counter them.



Maleeha Lodhi

How has the world responded to Israel's continuing war on Gaza and the humanitarian catastrophe there? Clearly, the UN Security Council failed in its duty to stop hostilities. This from a world body whose primary responsibility is to maintain international peace and security.

Its inability to pass resolutions calling for a truce or humanitarian pause exposed the polarisation among its members which paralysed the Council. The US was the principal stumbling block in efforts to achieve a ceasefire. Its unconditional support for Israel handed Tel Aviv carte blanche to continue its barbaric military campaign in utter disregard for world opinion.

The Security Council's inaction led to an

emergency session of the General Assembly, which approved, by an overwhelming majority, a resolution calling for a truce. Only the US and a handful of countries voted 'no'. While this resolution has moral and political weight and aimed to mount diplomatic pressure on Israel and its backers, it is non-binding. Therefore, it could do nothing to end Israel's war on Gaza.

These developments demonstrated America's increasing diplomatic isolation as several of its Western allies joined most of the international community to back an immediate ceasefire. While some European countries shifted their position to voice concern for the humanitarian crisis and loss of Palestinian lives, Washington refused to ask Israel to cease its bombardments or lift the siege of Gaza, showing indifference to the devastating humanitarian consequences of Israeli actions.

UN officials repeatedly declared that Israeli violence directed at over two million Palestinians trapped in Gaza was collective punishment and violated international humani-

tarian law. But the US and its Western partners only called out Hamas for the attack on Israel and accepted Israel's carpet bombing of an entire population as Israel's 'right to defend itself'.

They showed no compassion for thousands of Palestinian casualties, who were portrayed as human shields for Hamas — an egregious example of dehumanising Palestinians. President Joe Biden even questioned Palestinian casualty figures saying he had "no confidence in the numbers the Palestinians are using". When Washington began to voice concern for civilian deaths it was too little, too late especially as it continued to oppose a ceasefire.

These developments laid bare the US-led West's hypocrisy. While Western leaders denounced Russian military actions and targeting of civilians in Ukraine, they refused to apply the same principle to Gaza.

The EU Commission president Ursula von der Leyen once characterised Russia's "attacks on civilian infrastructure" that aimed to deprive people of water and electricity as

"acts of pure terror". But neither she nor any Western leader chose to describe Israel's action of cutting off electricity, water, food and fuel supplies to Gaza in a similar way. Nor did Israel's use of white phosphorus in indiscriminate artillery attacks urge Western governments to denounce this violation of international humanitarian law.

There was no Western condemnation of Israel's attacks on Jabalia refugee camp in which scores of people were killed and for which Tel Aviv claimed responsibility, justifying civilian deaths as a 'tragedy of war'.

Western countries who claim to be standard bearers of human rights and constantly lecture other countries on this adopted a deafening silence on Israeli atrocities and genocidal actions. This display of double standards was not new. Western concern for human rights has always been selective, its criticism usually directed at adversaries and opponents, while friendly countries have been shielded from censure. Germany and France imposed a ban on pro-Palestinian rallies in a bid to

criminalise expressions of sympathy for Palestinians. This made a mockery of their democratic credentials and showed the shallowness of their commitment to freedom of expression. In the US, donors threatened to cut off funding to universities where students rallied in solidarity with Palestinians. The Guardian reported that prominent American figures from magazine editors to Hollywood agents faced sackings or rebuke for supporting Palestinians. Elsewhere in Europe, pro-Palestinian activists were hounded on the pretext of being antisemitic. In the UK, Home Secretary Suella Braverman branded pro-Palestinian demonstrations as "hate marches", called for cuts on protests and urged criminalising waving the Palestinian flag. All this in so-called democracies who claim civilisational superiority over countries of the Global South.

The Western media's role has been as one-sided as that of their governments and blind to the suffering of the Palestinian people. Major networks echoed Israeli propaganda and mostly covered the war

from the prism of 'Israel's right to defend itself'. Western TV anchors seemed to read from the same script and disregarding massacres carried out by Israel, kept asking interviewees if they condemned Hamas.

Does all this mean the Palestinians have been abandoned? Yes and no. Yes, because the international community failed to stop the carnage in Gaza. No, because across the world, from west to east, people came out in unprecedented large numbers to show solidarity with the Palestinians and demand a ceasefire.

Public outrage over the humanitarian disaster expressed in protest rallies was in sharp contrast to the pusillanimous position adopted by their governments. Public opinion in the US was also at sharp variance with the Biden administration's stance. A Data for Progress poll found 66 per cent of American voters supported a ceasefire. The consequences of the biggest disaster to befall the Palestinian people since 1948 will be far-reaching for the region and for the world. I will take that up in another column. -- Courtesy Dawn

Entering the carbon market



Syed Akhtar Ali

CNG burns cleaner than petrol and diesel. In the internal combustion engines used in automobiles, CNG produces CO emissions which are less by 80 per cent and hydrocarbons by 44 per cent than conventional fuels like petrol and diesel. Fuel consumption is also less.

CNG cylinders are also stronger and safer than gasoline tanks, provided installation is done according to prescribed standards. Unfortunately, there is a lot to be desired in this respect in Pakistan. CNG ignition temperature is 600 C, almost double that of petrol and diesel. This means that the fire risk of CNG engines or cylinders should be lower than that of petrol and diesel engines.

In Pakistan, there is opposition to CNG; commercial vehicle operators

have been indulging in unsafe practices while installing CNG kits. It is also considered to be a waste of resources, keeping in mind the continuing scarcity of gas. Despite all this, there is a continuing demand for CNG and reportedly around 2500 CNG stations are still operating.

CNG, compressed natural gas, can be obtained from bio-organic sources as well, thus saving fossil gas whose reserves are going down on a yearly basis. The alternative product, although chemically the same as CNG is called bio-methane. Biogas is of two types: one, raw gas consisting almost equally of both methane and CO₂; it can be used for cooking and other miscellaneous uses. The other is biomethane which consists solely of methane, apart from some small impurities; this is used in automobiles as fuel after compressing it.

Currently most of the dung, bio-solid waste goes into air in the form of methane and CO₂. There are very few plants that can convert and capture it to be used as methane. If biogas and biomethane plants are installed, it would have two advantages — supply of

green energy/gas and reduction in GHG emissions. Methane emission is 28-80 times more dangerously effective than CO₂ against the climate change process. Thus biogas and bio-methane are great multi-benefit products. In addition to earning revenue from gas, one can earn revenue from the carbon market too.

There are companies and organizations which cause excess GHG emissions. They have an option to let other people, companies or nations engage in activities that reduce their GHG emissions. They may do it cheaply due to their resource endowment — for example, we have many opportunities to engage in forestry, mangroves cultivation, and also in the production of biogas. We will get carbon credit for that which we can sell to a GHG producer like an oil refinery or a group can buy this credit from us. It has been estimated that Pakistan has a potential of earning \$200 million a year by participating in the carbon market.

Unfortunately, Pakistan has been lagging in carbon market participation. Reportedly, only 10 projects have been registered with the UNFCCC and even

fewer projects have started earning. Even Nepal and Bangladesh have done more in this respect with 80 projects between them. And India and China have developed around 1600+ projects.

However, there is one success story that must be mentioned here: the mangrove development project in Sindh which has already earned \$40 million in carbon credit. It is expected to earn another \$60 million. Over a period of the 75-year life of the project, total carbon earnings of this project have been estimated to be \$12 billion. Similarly, there is tremendous potential in forestry, agriculture and energy conservation. Biogas and biomethane projects have already been approved as an eligible project for the carbon market by competent international authorities like the UNFCCC. Countries from Africa, and Vietnam and India have developed these projects and are developing more. Thus, Pakistan will not have to waste time and resources to get the type approval in this respect. It would be useful here to briefly mention a biogas project in India. There is an Indore Bio-CNG plant in India which processes 550 tons of organic solid municipal waste and converts it into 17 tons of bio-CNG per day earning 130,000 carbon credits. One unit of Carbon credit may earn as much as \$25.

Pakistan has the potential to produce 4.63 billion M3 only from cattle dung. If 70 per cent is collected, 3.24 billion M3 of biogas can be utilized. Other organic sources and biomass waste are extra. Some calculations and studies would be required to compute carbon revenue. However, it is evident that a good revenue potential for foreign exchange is there. This is besides the energy value that would be sold in the market.

It should be noted that both unprocessed biogas for rural homes and processed bio-methane for bio-CNG and feeding into gas pipe grids, can and should be produced. Both can earn Carbon revenue. It may be noted that Biogas production also results in the two main products — CO₂ and green fertilizers. The CO₂ industry can be developed which has uses in cold chain for refrigeration and air-conditioning. These may, apart from generating their intrinsic benefits and income, also generate direct or indirect

carbon revenues.

There has been a pessimistic outlook on the development of the biogas and bio-methane industry, probably due to lack of awareness and deeper investigation. India has embarked upon a bio-CNG programme involving installation of 5000 Bio-CNG plants. China and many ASEAN countries have built millions of rural biogas plants. Both rural and urban economic and social life can be influenced positively by the biogas industry.

Pakistan has updated its commitment to GHG reduction by 50 per cent by the year 2030. There are two parts to it: 15 per cent unconditional commitment and 35 per cent conditional commitment. These are substantial commitments and innovative and creative approaches will have to be developed and fast-tracked. Lack of a policy framework has sent away many potential investors, both local and foreign. This programme will be wholly invested into by the private sector and no public resources would be required. But nobody will spend his money in a policy vacuum. A framework that encompasses all the relevant aspects, risks and finances is needed. -- Courtesy TheNews

Building bridges



Neda Mulji

Oral storytelling is an ancient art form and has been a powerful tool in education since time immemorial. The first schools were built on the foundation of telling moral stories, thinking about life, and discussing problems of society. Later, as stories were transcribed, formal brick-and-mortar schools continued with this tradition. From Socrates to Aristotle, the art of storytelling led to intense discussions and deeper thought into life's existential problems.

Today, storytelling remains an indelible gateway to learning and can be used across all curriculum subjects. From sparking imagination and creativity to feisty discussions and critical thinking, storytelling can bring books to life, building bridges for key learning from textbooks. A story of volcanoes and their formation or the cause of earthquakes can help students retain important information if packaged as a well-narrated story, linking the topics to experiences in daily life, and supported by visuals.

In math, many concepts become clearer if narrated as a story. In science it can be used alongside experiments to start with a prediction of what will happen, structure thought processes, and summarise the findings at the end. In social studies, stories about our nation's history and culture, its movers and shakers and its struggles can instil a spirit of patriotism.

Not only can teachers use storytelling to build bridges between students and curricula, they can also help develop language skills along the way. Students love telling stories and discussions in class that enable them to practise speaking skills that help them develop confidence.

Contemporary pedagogy lays emphasis on delivery in class — teaching students to think about what they have learnt and be able to recap it for others as a gateway to effective takeaways in every lesson. A teacher described this as her 'signature style' — calling on students to 'tell us a story about what they had learnt in that lesson'. She asserts that it encouraged many shy students to speak up. She says it makes her students think about learning more consciously and run the key points in their minds as they tell their stories.

Another teacher uses visuals to trigger engaging discussions in class. She refers to the old adage 'a picture is worth a thousand words', to validate her strategy. Books have many lovely pictures that can be used to get children talking and practise those necessary language skills. As students build stories, they learn grammar through usage, develop verbal fluency, intonation and voice modulation.

Besides, storytelling has a powerful role in teaching positive social values and breaking destructive norms such as gender biases and stereotypes. Stories of heroism have long captured audiences and inspired motivation and action. Themes in many textbooks teach social and ethical values which are more palatable for students when they are packaged as stories. A book remains only a book until a great teacher uses storytelling skills to help

students access learning.

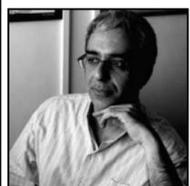
Digital storytelling is the most recent form of learning and is fast evolving into a massively popular form of learning. Stories across multi-media are so compelling that it is becoming increasingly hard to distinguish between authentic and fake news. It is this very aspect of storytelling that can be leveraged in curriculum delivery to package content in a compelling and accessible way for learners. The popularity of memes is rooted in their capacity to relay a story packed with information in a succinct visual.

For educators looking for active participation in class, with a boost of creativity and for those who wish to see students engaging with subject content for longer periods of time, the art of storytelling may be worth tapping into. Stories are not only entertaining for students, but also fun for teachers as they take away some of the burden of the traditional explanation.

Stories draw natural connections between events or concepts and human experience and students often find themselves relating more easily to text and to each other through shared narratives. In fact, research shows that using storytelling as a teaching tool can help build a sense of community and belonging in the classroom.

The human species makes connections through stories.

Stories help learners retain information and can be a great memory aid for subjects that require facts and figures to be learnt. Stories can also simplify the most complicated concepts. From classrooms to corporations, stories carry powerful messages and make an indelible impact. -- Courtesy Dawn



Zarrar Khuuro

For the third time in the past three weeks, Benjamin Netanyahu — PM minister of a nuclear-armed nation supported and funded by all major Western capitals — has invoked the apocalypse and used religious justifications for waging a genocidal war on Palestinians.

While bombing hospitals, he spoke of the prophecy of Isaiah, which calls for the land to be cleansed of evil. While murdering children in their thousands he referred to the Biblical call to destroy the people of Amalek down to infants and household pets. Now he has invoked the name of Joshua, who destroyed the people of Canaan in near-genocidal campaigns.

All this has been dutifully ignored by the Western media, and think tanks and rights organisations in the West who never fail to lecture the Muslim world on extremism every time a mullah gives a controversial sermon.

Does Netanyahu believe all this? Possibly. Is he using the language of religious extremism to appeal to an Israeli population that is now more radicalised than any nation-state in modern terms, barring possibly Nazi Germany?

Probably. Is he aiming this messaging at his strongest overseas constituency — evangelical Christians who believe that the founding of Israel was the first, but not the final step towards the end of times and the return of the messiah? Absolutely. But why would he want to appeal to those who, as per their own

Unholy war

doctrines, don't consider Jews worthy of salvation?

On Nov 7, 1917 a letter arrived at the home of British Zionist Lord Lionel Walter Rothschild. Written by British foreign secretary Arthur James Balfour the letter, later known as the 'Balfour declaration', stated that "His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people." It is this missive that led to the creation of Israel and all the pain and horror that continues.

This was the culmination of efforts that began in 1896, when Theodor Herzl, a non-practising Jew who knew little about Jewish culture, wrote a pamphlet titled The Jewish State, which led to the creation of the Zionist congress, which lobbied for a Jewish homeland to be created in the model of the settler colonies that were springing up as European powers divided the world between them.

An antisemite, Balfour had recently blocked a bill allowing Jewish victims of East European pogroms from settling in the UK. So, it wasn't love for the Jews that motivated him. Political Zionism was a fringe movement then and the greatest opposition to the declaration came from British Jews and the only Jewish member of the cabinet Edward Montague.

Geopolitics had a role but Balfour's personal religious beliefs were also critical. A Christian Zionist, Balfour, like many in his time, believed that the Kingdom of God could not be established until the Jews had returned to their homeland. Herzl himself recognised that antisemitism in Europe were the natural allies of Zionism, an alliance that has prevailed to this day. So for Balfour, it was not just a question of creating an allied European colonial buttress in the Middle East, he also

wanted to play a role in the fulfillment of prophecy.

That belief prevails today, and among the politically powerful, well-funded and religiously extremist evangelical Christians of America, it is what informs their absolute support for Israel; it's not that they like Jews — quite the contrary.

It is that they need Israel to play its role so that the Rapture can take place, after which all who do not believe as they do — Jews included — will either be converted or killed.

These aren't fringe movements, even though evangelicals are a minority (albeit a growing one) in the Christian world. This is a group that counts leading political figures among its adherents, including political influential televangelists and pastors of mega churches who play a major role in determining who their flock votes for. All of them stand with Israel in order to, quite literally, bring about the end of the world.

Influential figures like preacher Jerry Falwell declared "To stand against Israel is to stand against God", sentiments that were echoed when the newly elected US Speaker of the House stated that the Bible commands him to support Israel. But Israel's creation was the first step, and the shifting of the US embassy to Jerusalem, acknowledging it as the 'eternal capital' of Israel was taken as another. Now what remains is the birth of the red heifer and the rebuilding of the Third Temple. And then, they believe, the apocalypse will follow.

So, in this worldview, the hundreds of thousands — Jews and Christians included — calling for an end to these atrocities are ignored in order to fulfil the fantasies of fanatics wearing suits and ties and controlling the levers of the most powerful nation in the world. -- Courtesy Dawn

Israel committing unimaginable atrocities in Gaza, say politicians

LAHORE (APP): Lawmakers called upon the international community on Monday to intensify its efforts in securing an immediate ceasefire to halt the catastrophic humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Palestine. In this dire situation, Palestinians are desperately searching for their loved-ones amidst the widespread destruction of their homes.

Over the past two-and-a-half weeks, the world has borne witness to an unfolding tragedy of unprecedented proportions in the occupied Palestinian territories. Lawmakers characterise this conflict as a systematic attempt at the genocide of the Palestinian people, underscoring the urgent need for global intervention to address Israel's aggressive actions.

Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Defence Mushahid Hussain Syed emphasised the longstanding historical ties between Pakistan and Palestine, spanning centuries rather than mere years. He pointed out that leaders throughout Pakistan's history, including its founding father, Quaid-e-Azam, have consistently lent their political, diplomatic and economic support to the Palestinian cause.

Senator Mushahid stressed that the ongoing Israeli atrocities in Gaza represent the gravest genocide in human history, calling on the Pakistani nation to raise its voices in support of the oppressed. Referring to Israel's recent bombing of hospitals in Gaza, he condemned these actions as war crimes and urged an immediate cessation of such heinous acts.

Former senator Sehar Kamran told APP that more than two million people in the Gaza Strip are struggling to survive amidst a catastrophic humanitarian crisis and the level of civilian casualties has been manifold and unprecedented. She strongly condemned the dangerous and insane remarks made by the Israeli Minister Amichai Eliyahu about dropping of a nuclear bomb on Gaza.

Such comments and threats of violence reflect the irresponsible cruel attitude and criminal mindset, she said, adding it is not only morally reprehensible but also counterproductive to achieving lasting peace in the region.



MUZAFFERABAD: Speaker Lagestaltive Assembly of AJK Chaudhry Latif Akbar participate in the rally of Pasban-e-Hurriyat to mark the "Youm-e-Suhada" in the Capital of AJK.



RAWALPINDI: First Lady Begum Samina Alvi in a group photo with medical professionals and survivors of breast cancer during an awareness seminar, at Behbud Association of Pakistan.

Punjab Governor says: Promotion of technical education fosters employment opportunities for the youth

LAHORE: Chairman TEVTA Brigadier (Retd) Muhammad Sajid Khokhar called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore, here today. Promotion of technical and vocational education was discussed in the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the promotion of technical education fosters employment opportunities for the youth.

He said that skilled youth play a positive role in the economic development of the country. Governor Punjab said that technical courses provide employment opportunities to the students, which makes many families economically self-sufficient and prosperous. He said that it is commendable that Tevta is making them economically independent by providing technical and professional education to the young generation.

Governor Punjab said that seven (07) consortiums have been formed in the universities on his direction, one of which is on science and information technology and its aim is to strengthen the links between academia and industry.

are complete in this regard. He expressed these views while addressing a meeting regarding election preparation here. Besides, Secretary Local Government and Rural Development (LG&RD) Daud Khan, Special Secretary Muhammad Masood, Coordinator Local Governments Sajid Gul and other relevant officials also attended the meeting. On this occasion, the authorities gave a detailed briefing on the measures taken in connection with preparations for the general election in the province, challenges of facilities in the polling station for the election staff and other weather.

KP caretaker govt ready for elections, says Aamir

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Local Government and Rural Development (LG&RD) Engineer Aamir Durrani on Monday said that the caretaker provincial government is ready for the elections and is in contact with various departments in this regard.

Expressing satisfaction over preparations regarding elections by various departments, he said that the caretaker provincial government will play its full role in holding transparent elections, saying the preparations of all departments

Women urged to practice 5-min self-examination every month to detect breast cancer

RAWALPINDI (APP): Begum Samina Alvi, wife of the president of Pakistan, Rawalpindi, she stressed the need to sensitize the general public about shunning the taboo about breast cancer.

Samina Alvi mentioned that the world overall had a 98 percent recovery rate from breast cancer, however, pointed out that in Pakistan, insufficient mammographic facilities led to a high mortality rate due to the detection of malignancy at a late stage. She said women of all ages including teenage girls of 12-14 years were also being diagnosed with breast cancer. She urged the women and girls to learn the five-minute routine of self-examination and spread the word among at least 20 other women folks in their circle. For the Behbud Mother and Child Hospital, Samina Alvi announced a donation of Rs 500,000 on behalf of her family.

Five involved in different crimes in riverine areas arrested

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Rangers Sindh arrested five suspects allegedly involved in different crimes in the riverine areas and recovered arms and ammunition from their possession.

The accused were apprehended from a village in Obaro, district Ghotki, according to a spokesman for Sindh Rangers on Monday.

The arrested individuals, identified as Muhammad Hassan, Haji Imdad Ali, Nawab Ali alias Nawabi, Muhammad Umer and Falak Sher were involved in killings, robberies.

CS Punjab inaugurates Rescue Services centres in Lala Musa, Dinga

Independent Report LAHORE: Punjab Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman visited Gujranwala and Gujarat on Monday and inaugurated the newly-established Rescue Services stations at Lala Musa and Dinga. He also inspected the Punjab government's flagship project Motorway Link in Gujranwala and reviewed the construction work of 15.2 km-long dual carriageway that would link Gujranwala to Lahore-Sialkot Motorway.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, the chief secretary said that emergency services are being improved across Punjab and Rescue stations are being equipped with modern equipment. He said that Rescue stations have been provided with modern gadgets, ambulances and motorcycles. Officials briefed the chief secretary that the Rescue Station Lala Musa has been constructed with Rs 19.451 million, while Rescue Station Dinga with Rs 19.318 million. They said that establishment of Lala Musa and Dinga stations would help provide timely emergency services in the adjoining areas. Earlier, during the inspection of Gujranwala Motorway Link, the chief secretary directed the authorities to speed up work on the project.

Fawad Chaudhry files petition against anti corruption Punjab

RAWALPINDI (Online): Former minister Fawad Chaudhry has filed petition against Anti Corruption Punjab in Lahore High Court (LHC) Rawalpindi bench.

Punjab government and DG Anti corruption have been made respondents in the petition of Fawad Chaudhry.

Advocate Faisal Chaudhry brother of Fawad Chaudhry filed the petition on behalf of his brother.

The petitioner has taken the plea the allegations on anti corruption are false and baseless. The allegations on occupying state land are false. It was said in the petition lands were purchased from private persons. Affidavits of private persons are available. Fawad Chaudhry is being targeted on political basis. Anti corruption department is blackmailing Fawad Chaudhry.

Sindh Governor enquires health of mother of MQM-P leader

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori visited the mother of Muttahida Qaumi Movement convener Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui at Darul Sehat Hospital here.

The Sindh Governor also prayed for the speedy full recovery of the ailing mother of the MQM-P leader, said a statement on Monday.

Dengue cases decreases with changing weather

RAWALPINDI (APP): District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr. Sajjad Mehmood, Monday said that dengue fever cases had decreased as only four cases were reported in the district during the last 24 hours. He said that around five to 15 patients had been brought to the allied hospitals of the city during the last 15 days while earlier in September the number of patients was 50 to 60 per day.

"This year, around 2,431 cases were brought to the district health facilities while the number of cases was 1,972 in 2021 and 4,488 in 2022," he added.

The health official said that the district administration,

PRCS AJK distributes relief goods among affected families

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): The Pakistan Red Crescent Society Azad Jammu and Kashmir (PRCS AJK) is actively responding to a recent fire incident that has left the residents of the Refugee Camp in Ambore in dire need of assistance.

PRCS AJK, with the generous support of PRCS National Headquarters Islamabad and in collaboration with its dedicated volunteers and staff members, has swiftly mobilized relief efforts to provide support to the affected families.

On November 2nd, a devastating fire broke out in the Refugee Camp in Ambore, causing significant damage to the camp and leaving 25 families homeless.

According to initial report of PRCS AJK Disaster Management Department 13 houses have been destroyed as a result of the devastating fire outbreak. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, PRCS AJK immediately initiated a relief operation to address the immediate needs of the affected population.

The relief operation involved the distribution of essential relief items, including Tents, Shelter tool kits, Blankets, Hygiene Kits, Water Filter coolers, shelter materials, lamps, and tarpaulin sheets.

In this context, a distribution ceremony was held here at Deputy Commissioner Office Muzaffarabad. The Secretary PRCS AJK State Branch Gulzar Fatima,



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Senior Leader, Sharjeel Inam Memon addresses to media persons during press conference, held at PPP Media Cell Bilawal House in Karachi.

Participants of 50th specialized training program meet IGP

KARACHI (APP): The participants of the 50th Specialized Training Program met IGP Sindh, Riffat Mukhtar Raja, at the Central Police Office Karachi as part of the study program.

They benefited from the information obtained during the lecture and briefing on all matters and measures related to policing, according to spokesman for Sindh Police on Monday.

During the meeting, DIGP - Headquarters Sindh briefed the participants on the importance and effectiveness of IT-based policing, covering and investigative aspects and highlighting the successes achieved in combating crimes using modern techniques.

IGP Sindh emphasized that the success of policing depends on the quality of the investigation. If all investigative issues are handled with innovation and technique, it becomes impossible for the accused to escape the law. He also pointed out that poor investigation quality can be exploited by the accused.

The participants were reminded of the significance of their knowledge and skills in various fields.

Woman killed in wall collapse incident

FAISALABAD (APP): A young woman was killed in a wall collapse incident in the area of Bachiana police, here on Monday.

Police spokesman said that Muneeran Bibi died on the spot when the dilapidated wall of a house in Chak No. 658-GB caved in. On receiving information, Rescue 1122 team rushed to the spot and pulled out the deceased.

The police took the body into custody while further investigation was underway, he added.

Tractor driver killed in mishap

FAISALABAD (APP): A tractor driver was killed in a mishap in the area of Khurianwala police station. Police spokesman said here on Monday that one Zulfiqar (50), a resident of Chak No 105-RB, was driving a tractor when his vehicle lost control and fell into a sewerage drain. As a result, tractor driver was buried beneath the tractor and died on-the-spot before receiving any medical assistance. The police handed over the body to his relatives for burial after completing legal requirements, he added.

4000 close circuit secret cameras to be installed in Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): In view of the security risk, the authorities have decided to install more than 4000 closed-circuit secret cameras in Peshawar under the Safe City project.

In this regard, consideration will be given to installing about 3,000 closed-circuit secret cameras in Peshawar City and about 1,000 in Peshawar Cantt. These close-circuit secret cameras will also be installed at University Road and Hayatabad. Official sources

Delayed diagnosis major reasons behind spread of breast cancer: experts

PESHAWAR (APP): The health experts on Monday observed that lack of awareness regarding symptoms and signs of breast cancer and delayed diagnosis are among the major reasons behind the spread of breast cancer.

They were addressing an awareness seminar arranged here to sensitize the communities especially females about breast cancer and the need to develop new, targeted treatments that would improve survival rates among patients. Incharge RHC Putwar Bala, Dr Mir Karim Shah, Children Specialist Dr Taj Bahadar Khan and Gynaecologist Dr Hina briefed the participants regarding the symptoms and signs of the breast cancer and the ways to prevent breast cancer.



PESHAWAR: VC SBBWU Prof. Dr. Safia Ahmed (TI), Begum Chief Minister Dr. Parveen Azam and Mayor Mr. Haji Zubair Ali in a group photo with other officials during the inaugural ceremony of Dosti women's Literature Festival, 1st Edition held in District Assembly Hall.

Governance issues must be solved for achieving desired results: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik said on Monday the country was well aware of all challenges related to food security and governance issues needed to be managed to achieve desired results.

He said this while addressing a round table conference at Forman Christian College here.

He said, "The country has gone through two crucial phases one is Covid and the other floods and both changed the scenario." He said that the country was self-sufficient in all commodities.

The minister said that food security was governed by three 'As' that were availability, affordability and accessibility, adding

that more debate was held on availability of commodities but there was also a need to understand the significance of other two areas.

He further said that no doubt climate change was a fact and could not be denied, adding that to address the issue of climate change adoption of technology was necessary. He said that he was happy that our scientists and researchers were well aware of issues of climate change and climate resistant varieties were also being developed.

He said, "We are focusing on streamlining the regulatory issues."

Dr Kausar said that soyabean import issue had been solved up to 80 to 90 percent which was a big issue for the poultry

industry and added that only few hitches were left which would be solved as well.

The minister said that one thing should be kept in mind that in agriculture import and export were not indication of any food scarcity. "Water conservation is very important besides judicious utilization of available water.

Efforts are being made so that small farmers could maintain proprietary rights," he added. Earlier, FARM Scientific Director Matthieu Brun gave a detailed presentation on 'Agriculture and Food Security Cultivating Resilience in a world under constraints' followed by a question and answer session.



Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik attended the Round Table Conference held at FCCU.

NARC distributes over 300 tons of 7 high-yielding wheat seeds varieties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (NARC) has provided over 300 metric tons of certified wheat seeds to farmers in order to enhance per-acre crop output in the country and increase farm profitability for achieving sustainable agriculture growth and economic development.

The council had distributed 07 wheat seed varieties among farmers and different seed companies including Punjab Seed Corporation which will cement the efforts of the government to ensure the availability of certified seeds during the current, Wheat Program Coordinator in the National Agriculture Research Center Maqsood Qamar.

Talking to APP here on Monday, he said that the distributed seed varieties were comprised of heat and stem rest-tolerant,

which would help the local farmers enhance their crop output during the season and maximize their farm income.

Out of the total 07 seed varieties, four varieties were for rain-fed areas and three were for irrigated areas and would help to enhance local output of both irrigated and rain-fed areas, he said adding that NARC was taking other measures to assist local wheat growers to enhance per-acre crop output during the current season.

Meanwhile, Food Security Commissioner in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research Imtiaz Ali Gopangabout said that about 729,000 metric tons of high-quality certified wheat seeds would also be available to the local farming communities during the current season which comprises over 46 percent of the total local demand.

New law for resolution of trade disputes to define time frame

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General Trade Disputes Resolution Organization, Ministry of Commerce, Abdul Salam Shah on Monday said a 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 told APP here. President of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Dr. Khurram Tariq, told APP that trade agreements must be strictly implemented.

Earlier, the joint sitting of the parliament passed

"The Trade Dispute Resolution Bill, 2023" to establish a commission attached with the Ministry of Commerce to settle the dispute between trading parties and "The Trade Organizations (Amendment) Bill, 2023".

The House passed the bill with a majority incorporating minor amendments.

The Trade Dispute Resolution Bill, 2023 provides for the establishment of a comprehensive regime in Pakistan for the swift and effective resolution of disputes relating to the export and import of goods and services including through E-Commerce.

Clause 61 of the bill described as "All law enforcement agencies and authorities in the federal and the provinces shall be

under an obligation to provide and render full and complete assistance to the Commission as and when the secretariat thereof may require such assistance."

According to objects and reasons of "The Trade Dispute Resolution Bill, 2023", "as Pakistan embarks upon trade liberalization and expansion so does the probability of trade dispute arise between trading parties. If left unguided, such disputes could lead to serious conflicts between governments in addition to damaging private sector business interests." Moreover, the absence of a proper Trade Dispute Resolution Mechanism in Pakistan is adversely affecting its ranking in ease of doing business.



PESHAWAR: A delegation led by Founder / President Bajaur Chamber of Commerce and Industry Haji Lali Shah meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

Pakistan's exports to China increase by 26.42% in 3 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's export of goods and services to China witnessed an increase of 26.42 per cent during the first three months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

The overall exports to China were recorded at US \$633.374 million during July-September (2023-24) against exports of US \$501.000 million during July-September (2022-23), showing growth of 26.42 per cent, SBP data revealed.

On a year-to-year basis, the exports to China also surged by 68.57 per cent from \$167.923 million in September 2022, against the exports of \$283.077 million in September 2023. On a month-on-month basis, the exports to China rose by 42.29 per cent during September 2023 as compared to the exports of \$198.932 million in August

2023, the SBP data revealed.

Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed a decrease of 4.96 per cent in the first three months, from US \$ 7.385 billion to US \$ 7.018 billion, the SBP data revealed. On the other hand, the imports from China into the country during the months under review were recorded at US \$2744.241 million against US \$3233.046 million last year, showing a decline of 15.11 per cent in July-September (2023-24).

On a year-on-year basis, the imports from China witnessed an increase of 2.92 per cent from US \$855.975 million in September 2022, against the imports of US \$880.972 million in September 2023. On a month-on-month basis, the imports from China into the country dipped by 2.14 per cent during September 2023, as compared to the imports of US \$900.289 million during August 2023, according to the data.



FAISALABAD: A skilled man is busy in embroidery at his shop in Allama Iqbal Colony in City.

NPO Pakistan, APO organize workshop on Agriculture productivity

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Productivity Organization (NPO) Pakistan in collaboration with Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Tokyo, Japan on Monday organized an international workshop on Improving Agricultural Productivity through mechanization.

The opening ceremony was held in Lahore, said a press release issued here.

The said workshop will be attended by 19 overseas participants from 10 APO member countries, 07 local participants and sessions will be delivered by international resource speakers from Japan, Thailand and Pakistan.

The main aim of this workshop is to promote understanding of the latest technologies and measures for mechanization in agriculture, policies and frameworks to support mechanization on small farms. Farm mechanization is viewed as a package of technology to ensure

timely field operations, increased productivity, reduced crop losses and improved quality of grain or product.

Sikandar Mustafa, Chairman, Millat group of companies and Millat Tractors as Chief guest in his opening remarks on the Day International workshop improving agricultural productivity through mechanization appreciated the APO's role in the development of the Asia-Pacific region.

He further deliberated that it was the time to revitalize our commitment and to strive to achieve APO's vision of "Inclusive, innovation-led productivity growth in the Asia-Pacific".

He welcomed the international delegates and conveyed his gratitude to APO and NPO for addressing this important topic, he further added that working in tandem with APO, Pakistan will be able to find solutions to long-standing issues of productivity.

RCCI delegation calls on Charge D Affairs of Romania

RAWALPINDI (APP): A delegation of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) headed by President Saqib Rafiq called on H.E Mr Eduard-Robert PREDA Charge D Affairs/ Minister Plenipotentiary at the Romania Embassy here on Monday.

According to RCCI spokesman, Charge D Affairs of the Romanian Embassy appreciated RCCI's efforts in promoting trade and diplomatic ties.

He urged Pakistani businessmen to explore trade and investment opportunities for the mutual benefit of both countries.

Saqib Rafiq during the meeting urged for opportunities in non-conventional sectors including Pharma, IT, Services, Surgical Goods, Machinery tools and parts.

He said that Pakistan considers Romania an important country not only in the context of the EU but also in view of Romania's historical role as a supporter of multilateralism.

Matters related to enhancing bilateral trade, investment opportunities, networking and chamber-to-chamber connectivity, exploring new markets and visit of trade delegations and information sharing from both sides to enhance trade relations and to explore the potential cooperation between both countries came under discussion.

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PSX stays bullish with gain of 737 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 737.33 points, a positive change of 1.39 percent, closing at 53,860.37 points against 53,123.04 points the previous day.

A total of 546,547,257 shares valuing Rs17,905 billion were traded during the day as compared to 475,085,837 shares valuing Rs15,586 billion the previous day.

As many as 368 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 256 of them recorded gains and 97 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 15 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were Energyco Pk with 68,065,265 shares at Rs4.11 per share, Pak Refinery with 37,317,387 shares at Rs.23.30 per share and Pak Int Bulk with 34,524,000 shares at Rs.5.51 per share.

Kunwar highlights hope amid economic challenges in real estate projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation from the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), leaders from the business community, and government officials engaged in a comprehensive discussion on Monday concerning the opportunities and critical challenges faced by the real estate industry. During an exclusive business networking meeting, they expressed their commitment to working collaboratively to maximize its potential.

The Chief Guest, Caretaker Minister for

Law and Justice Punjab, Kunwar Muhammad Dilshad, remarked that in the face of economic challenges and political uncertainties, the projects in accordance with high standards offered a ray of hope to the investors, showcasing the nation's potential to thrive despite adverse circumstances. ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari encouraged the real estate developers and business delegates to actively participate in the journey toward a brighter future for Pakistan. Kunwar's Associates Chairman.



KARACHI: Labours busy making clothes with the help of thread to earn their livelihood their families, at local factory located on Nazimabad SITE area in Karachi.

UFL, PET join forces to achieve net zero emissions by 2050

ISLAMABAD (APP): Unity Foods Limited (UFL) and its affiliated companies have embarked on a transformative journey towards a more sustainable and environmentally responsible future.

In a landmark initiative, UFL has teamed up with the Pakistan Environment Trust (PET) to commit to achieving Net Zero emissions by the year 2050, solidifying their dedication to combat climate change and reduce their carbon footprint said

a news release issued here on Monday.

UFL and PET have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that encompasses a multi-faceted strategy to decarbonize their operations and foster responsible environmental practices. The strategy included conducting a Comprehensive Emission Assessment to conduct a thorough evaluation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across all three scopes—Scope 1, Scope 2.

Rupee sheds 89 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Monday witnessed an 89-paise devaluation against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 285.28 against the previous day's closing at Rs 284.31.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 285 and Rs 287.5 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs 4.51 to close at Rs 306.59 against the last day's closing of Rs 302.08, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen increased by 01 paise and closed at Rs 1.90; whereas an increase of Rs 7.01 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan H.E. Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali.

LESCO detects 68 power pilferers on 59th day of anti-power theft campaign

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has detected a total of 68 connections from where the customers were pilfering electricity in all its circles of five districts: Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara, on the 59th day of grand anti-power theft campaign.

A LESCO spokesman told the media on Monday that the company had also submitted the FIR applications against 68 electricity thieves, out of which 38 FIRs have been registered in respective police stations, while 10 accused have been arrested.

Grand anti-power theft operations against electricity thieves are being conducted on the directives of the Federal Power Division and the

LESCO Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Engineer Shahid Haider is supervising these operations.

The LESCO chief vowed that the operations would continue without discrimination until the complete end of electricity theft. The electricity pilferers as well as the LESCO officers and employees who facilitate them are also being brought to justice.

On the 59th consecutive day (Nov. 6) of the anti-power theft campaign, the spokesman added, large commercial consumers were also found involved in electricity theft and all of them were also disconnected and charged with detection units. Among the seized connections 03 were commercial, 2 agricultural.



LAHORE: President Dairy & Cattle Farmers Association Central Punjab Muhammad Khan Babar Bhatti and others addressing a Press conference.

E-Procurement system to bring more transparency in governance

MULTAN (APP): The Punjab government launched an innovative E-Procurement System to eradicate malpractices and bring transparency to the procurement and acquisition of goods.

South Punjab Secretariat initiated special training programme at Islamia University Bahawalpur, under the supervision of the Punjab Information Technology Board and the Punjab Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA).

Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab, Captain (Retd), Saqib Zafar, inspected the

training along with Secretary Services Engineer Amjad Shoaib Khan and MD PPRA Waqar Azim. He stressed the demand for embracing digital technology, highlighting how digitization can effectively combat corruption and ensure merit-based practices. The Punjab government has already been implementing E-Governance and E-Filing systems. Captain (Retd) Saqib expressed that the introduction of the E-Procurement System would resolve issues related to tendering complaints.



QUETTA: Anjuman e Tajran activites hold protest in front of custom office.

UN leaders say Gaza war must 'stop now', as dozens more die

Monitoring Desk
GAZA: U.N. agency leaders saying "enough is enough" demanded a humanitarian ceasefire on Monday nearly a month into Gaza's war, as the enclave's health authorities said dozens more people were killed in overnight attacks by Israeli fighter jets and troops.

Israel has rebuffed mounting international pressure for a ceasefire, saying hostages taken by Hamas militants during their rampage in southern Israel on Oct. 7 should be released first.

"An entire population is besieged and under attack, denied access to the essentials for survival, bombed in their homes, shelters, hospitals and

places of worship. This is unacceptable," the U.N. chiefs said in a joint statement.

"We need an immediate humanitarian ceasefire. It's been 30 days. Enough is enough. This must stop now."

The 18 signatories include the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk, the head of the World Health Organization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and U.N. aid chief Martin Griffiths. A Reuters journalist in the Gaza Strip described the overnight bombardment from the air, ground and sea as one of the most intense since Israel launched its offensive.

Health officials in Hamas-controlled Gaza



Meera Alul (C), a Palestinian-American, holds up a sign during a rally in support of Palestinians at the Colorado State Capital in Denver, Colorado.

Xi says China, Australia can become 'trusting partners'

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping told Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Monday their two countries stood to become "trusting partners" and were on the "correct path of improving and developing relations", state broadcaster CCTV said.

The two leaders met in Beijing during a four-day state visit by Albanese to China, a high-water mark in their nations' ties following years of tensions that cut billions of dollars in trade.

China and Australia, Xi said on Monday, "have no historical

grievances or disputes and no fundamental conflict of interests, and can totally become mutually trusting and mutually successful partners".

Xi told Albanese that Beijing hoped to "fully develop the potential of the China-Australia free trade agreement and open up cooperation in new fields including climate change and the green economy".

"Through both sides' efforts, China and Australia have resumed exchanges in various fields and returned to the correct path of improving and developing relations," Xi said, accord-

ing to CCTV.

"Where there are efforts to cause disturbances in the Asia Pacific region, we must firstly stay vigilant, and secondly oppose them," the Chinese leader said.

China, Xi said, is keen to "develop more trilateral and multilateral cooperation" with Australia.

Beijing also seeks to "support the strengthening of development resilience for south Pacific nations, tackle challenges including climate change, and protect the peace and stability of the Asia Pacific region with openness and tolerance", Xi said.

More than 20 killed in Sudan after shell hits market: NGO

Monitoring Desk
WAD MADANI: More than 20 people were killed Sunday after shells hit a market in a suburb of the Sudanese capital Khartoum, a committee of pro-democracy lawyers said in a statement.

It was the latest bloodshed in the fighting since April between the forces of army chief Abdel Fattah el-Burhan and his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

A statement from the committee for pro-democracy lawyers said the shells hit the market in Omdurman during an intense exchange of fire between the two sides.

"More than 20 civilians have been killed and others have been wounded," said the statement, which was sent to AFP. The committee keeps track of rights violations during the conflict and its civilian victims.

On Saturday, a medical source said shells that hit houses in Khartoum had killed 15 civilians.

Omdurman has repeatedly been the site of fierce battles between the two sides. Though most of the fighting was previously contained to the capital and the western region of Darfur, it has also spread to areas south of Khartoum according to witnesses.



Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba looks on during his meeting with his South African counterpart Naledi Pandor, as they hold a joint press conference in Pretoria, South Africa.

Ukrainian officers investigated for holding awards ceremony struck by Russia, killing 19 soldiers

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine on Monday launched a criminal investigation into military officers who organized a troop-honoring ceremony that was hit by a Russian missile strike, killing 19 soldiers in one of the deadliest single attacks reported by Ukrainian forces.

The State Bureau of Investigation said it aims to hold military officials accountable for the Rocket Forces and Artillery Day event held Friday near the front line in Zaporizhzhia, where Russian reconnaissance drones could easily spot the crowded gathering.

The carnage sparked a wave of criticism among Ukrainians who questioned on social media the planning of an event so close to the battlefield. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy lamented the deaths of the men of the 128th Separate Mountain-Assault Brigade of Zakarpattia as a "tragedy that could've been avoided."

The investigation an-

nouncement came as officials said Russian drone and missile strikes in the city of Odesa wounded eight people and damaged an art museum that is part of a UNESCO World Heritage site, and satellite photos showed damage done by a Ukrainian missile strike to a Russian naval ship.

Odesa's National Art Museum said seven exhibitions, most featuring the work of contemporary Ukrainian artists, were damaged by a strike that left a large crater outside the museum, which was celebrating its 124th anniversary.

Photos and video showed shattered windows, doors, and some paintings lying on the floor amid debris strewn across the galleries.

The attack followed reports by the Russian Defense Ministry that Ukrainian cruise missiles aimed at the Zaliv shipyard in Kerch, a city in the east of the Moscow-held Crimean Peninsula, had struck one of its vessels.

Russia's Putin to stay in power past 2024, sources say

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Vladimir Putin has decided to run in the March presidential election, a move that will keep him in power until at least 2030, as the Kremlin chief feels he must steer Russia through the most perilous period in decades, six sources told Reuters.

After defusing an armed mutiny by the leader of the Wagner mercenary group in June, Putin has moved to shore up support among his core base in the security forces, the armed forces and with regional voters outside Moscow, while Wagner has been brought firmly to heel.

Russian defence, weapons and overall budget spending has soared while Putin has made numerous public appearances, including the regions, over recent months.

"The decision has been made - he will run," said one of the sources who has knowledge of the planning.

Another source, also acquainted with the Kremlin's thinking,

Hamas leader Haniyeh briefs Iran's Khamenei over Gaza situation

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has met the leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, in Tehran, state media reported on Sunday, a day after a Hamas official said they held a meeting in recent days.

Iranian state media said Haniyeh, who has resided between Qatar and Turkey since 2019, "briefed Khamenei on the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the crimes of the Zionist regime in Gaza, as well as the developments in

the West Bank". "Ayatollah Khamenei praised the steadfastness and resilience of the people of Gaza and expressed strong regret over the crimes of the Zionist regime, supported directly by Washington and some Western countries," Iran's state TV said. Without elaborating when the meeting took place, Iran's Tasnim news agency said the country's top authority Khamenei "emphasised Tehran's consistent policy of supporting the Palestinian resistance forces against the Zionist occupiers".

Polish president to announce new PM on Monday

Monitoring Desk
WARSAW: Poland's president will tell the nation on Monday evening whom he will appoint as prime minister, an aide said, drawing a line under weeks of uncertainty after the ruling nationalists lost their parliamentary majority in an Oct. 15 election. President Andrzej Duda, an ally of PiS, said before the election he would give the first shot at forming a government to the largest single party. The ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party came first with 194 seats in the 460-seat lower chamber but it is unlikely to find a coalition partner.

France to give armoured vehicles to Lebanese army defence minister

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: France will send dozens of armoured vehicles to the Lebanese army so it can properly carry out patrol missions in the country, France's defence minister said in remarks published on Monday.

Speaking to Lebanon's L'Orient Le Jour newspaper after a trip to the country, Sebastien Lecornu said it was vital to beef up the Lebanese national army so that it could coordinate well with the United Nations peacekeeping force as tensions mount between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.

Paris will also provide medicines and is setting up a joint programme to purchase medical supplies at reasonable prices for the Lebanese army in the future, he said.

"We will pursue our partnership with military equipment, notably for the transport of troops protected by armour, which is key to maintain patrols," he said, adding that several dozen armoured vehicles would be given to the Lebanese army soon. "Our support for the Lebanese army is for the long-term whatever the current difficulties," Lecornu added.

Yellen will host the Chinese vice premier for talks in San Francisco before the start of APEC summit

Monitoring Desk
REHOBOTH BEACH: U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen will host Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng for two days of talks this week, the latest in a series of high-level talks between U.S. and Chinese officials as the world's two largest economies aim to ease tensions, the Treasury Department announced Monday.

The Yellen-He talks set for Thursday and Friday come ahead of the start of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco which starts November 11. President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping are expected to meet next week during the summit, what would be the first engagement between the two leaders in nearly a year.

"As a foundation, our two nations have an obligation to establish resilient lines of open communication and to prevent our disagreements from spiraling into conflict," Yellen wrote in a Washington Post op-ed to spotlight the upcoming meeting. "But we also

know that our relationship cannot be circumscribed to crisis management."

The meeting between the two senior government officials comes after Biden spoke with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the White House for about an hour late last month, when Beijing's top diplomat came to Washington for talks with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan. Xi similarly met with Blinken in June when the secretary of State traveled to Beijing for talks with Wang. Yellen last met with her counterpart He during a July visit to Beijing, when she urged Chinese government officials for cooperation on climate change and other global challenges and not to let sharp disagreements about trade and other irritants derail relations.

China's Foreign Ministry said that He, who is the government's lead person on U.S.-China economic and trade issues, would visit the U.S. from Nov. 8-12.

Hundreds of thousands still without power days after storm hits Brazil's largest city

Monitoring Desk
SAO PAULO: Half a million residents of Sao Paulo remained without electricity on Monday three days after a storm knocked down power cables, leaving much of Brazil's largest city in the dark.

The storm snapped branches and knocked down hundreds of trees that fell on overhead power lines in many streets of the city, initially cutting off 2.1 million customers, energy distribution company ENEL said.

"The storm was terrible. I had no electricity, no cellphone and no fuel on Friday," said carpenter Denilson Laurindo, who faulted the city for not pruning trees in the streets. He said ENEL promised to restore power supplies by

Tuesday.

Thiago Gonzalez, an electrical engineer, had to rent a room in a nearby neighborhood so he and his wife could get a hot shower and sleep with air conditioning.

"I saw the tree fall and hit the transformer post. There was an explosion and then the lights went out," he said. He complained the couple had lost food and could not refrigerate medicine in the blackout.

School classes were canceled on Monday in the worst-hit neighborhoods of the city, such as Morumbi where Gonzalez lives.

ENEL said it had restored its service to 76% of its customers but 500,000 were still without electricity on Monday.

Iran says 'Israeli spies' held in joint action with Afghanistan

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: State television in Iran reported on Sunday that three Israeli spies had been detained in a joint operation with Afghanistan's Taliban government.

The "three Mossad agents who held Iranian nationality" were detained in the mountainous region between Iran and Afghanistan, the broadcaster said.

News of the arrests came after a day after a Taliban delegation arrived in Tehran for meetings with Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and other top officials.

State television said the three Israeli agents had been "planning to launch kamikaze drone attacks from the Afghan border towards targets in Iran".

Pope talks and jokes with children at rally after brief health scare

Monitoring Desk
VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis talked and joked with crowds of children and appeared to be in good health on Monday afternoon, after a brief scare earlier in the day when he said he was not well.

The Vatican said he had been suffering from a cold that morning and had decided not to read a prepared speech to a delegation of European Rabbis to save time so he could greet them individually.

"It happens that I am not well and because of this I prefer not to read the speech but give you a copy," he told the rabbis at that event, without going into further details. Francis had appeared to be short of breath as he greeted the rabbis at the start of the meeting. He is missing part of one lung, which was removed when he was a young man in his native Argentina. But hours later he presided over a lively meeting with more than 7,000 children from around the world in the Vatican's audience hall.

Indian diplomat calls Nijjar's murder probe 'tainted'

Monitoring Desk
BENGALURU: Nearly five months after murder of a Sikh separatist in British Columbia, India's High Commissioner to Canada, Sanjay Kumar Verma, has alleged that Canada's police probe into the assassination has been damaged by a high-level Canadian official.

Canada has alleged Indian involvement in the murder in a Vancouver suburb of Canadian citizen and Sikh separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, whom India called a "terrorist." India denies the allegation.

South Africa recalls diplomats from Israel to assess its position -minister

Monitoring Desk
PRETORIA: South Africa is recalling diplomats from Israel to assess its relationship with the country amid a rise in civilian casualties from its war with the Palestinian militant group Hamas, its foreign minister said on Monday.

South Africa has long been an advocate for peace in the Middle East and has rallied behind Palestinians, likening their plight to its own under an apartheid regime that ended in 1994.

Calling the return of diplomats a "normal practice", Naledi Pandor said the recall was to determine "whether there is any potential for you to be of assistance and whether the continued relationship is actually able to be sustained in all terms."

South Africa does not have an ambassador in Israel.

The country is "extremely concerned at the continued killing of children and innocent civilians" in the Palestinian territory, the foreign minister said.

"We believe the nature of response by Israel has become one of collective punishment," she said, adding the country would continue to call for

a comprehensive ceasefire in Palestine.

During the Cairo Peace Summit last month, President Cyril Ramaphosa called on countries to not supply weapons to either side of the conflict while its foreign ministry urged the United Nations to deploy forces to protect civilians in Gaza.

Over 1,400 people were killed by Hamas in the deadly Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel, which South Africa has condemned, while also calling for the return of hostages.

More than 10,000 Palestinians have been killed since the war began, health officials in Hamas-controlled Gaza have said.

Pandor made the remarks in Pretoria during a joint press briefing with her Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba. She said there had been progress in two of the 10 points tabled during the African peace initiative aimed at ending the conflict between Russia and Ukraine - return of the children to Ukraine from Russia and continued exchange of prisoners. The minister did not provide any further details on the progress.



Ukrainian emergency workers examine the site of the Russian rocket attack in central Odesa, Ukraine.

APCEA in collaboration with PCI launch "Thousands of Miles with CPEC"

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises' Association (APCEA), in collaboration with the Pakistan-China Institute (PCI), launched "Thousands of Miles with CPEC: The Symbol of Pakistan-China Relations" here at the Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS). The essence of the "One Belt, One Road" vision, transcends the barriers of time, borders, and cultures.

It has spread across the world, creating in its wake the hallmark projects like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The China-Pakistan Economic

Corridor (CPEC) is the greatest milestone of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations. When Chinese President, Xi Jinping visited Pakistan in 2015, he formally determined the "1+4" cooperation formula and layout centered upon the construction of CPEC, and key focus on four areas that are: the Gwadar Port, Energy Sector, Infrastructure, and Industrial Cooperation.

From the large-scale industries to the young learners at school, CPEC has made an impact wherever it went since its inception in 2013. "Thousands of Miles with CPEC" is rooted in the social aspect

of this mega project, and takes the perspectives of those who have first handedly experienced the transformative power exerted by a decade of CPEC.

While hailing the macro-economic contributions of CPEC via the Power, Infrastructure, IT, and Agricultural sectors, etc., the cultural role it has played in building a Pak-China community of shared interest cannot be overlooked.

This unique project explores the very role of CPEC from the perspective of people belonging to various walks of life, ranging from common citizens,

atives around project sites, and talented local employees to government functionaries and diplomats. The launch ceremony was in attendance by dignitaries representing both Chinese and Pakistani leadership including Jiang Zaidong, Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Murtaza Solangi, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Li Yong, Counselor for Commercial Affairs, Senator Mushahid Hussain, Chairman of Senate Defense Committee. It also had significant participation from Chinese enterprises and companies as well as from local



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting to review Visa process and facilities given to Sikh Pilgrims.



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Ahmed Bin Salem Al Amri, President of the Riyadh's Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University at Kingdom of Saudi Arabia along with Nawaf Bin Saeed Al Malkiy, Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan and President Intl Islamic University, Islamabad Prof. Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi met with the Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi.

Fertilizers interests to be protected: Smuggling of fertilizers not to be allowed to anyone, asserts CT Home Minister

Independent Report
QUETTA: The interim Balochistan government would not allow anyone smuggling of the fertilizers in the province.

This was stated by the caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Captain @ Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali while speaking to the delegation of All Balochistan Fertilizers Association Naserabad who called on him here at his office on Monday.

Speaking to the members of delegation, Minister Home stressed the need to ensure sale of fertilizer at the government rate.

He assured that we would protect the interests of fertilizers.

He also said that smuggling of fertilizers would not be allowed anyway.

He said that the action would remain continued

against the smugglers as per law.

He also exhorted the fertilizers to join hands with the district administration to stop smuggling of the fertilizers.

He on the occasion also assured that proper mechanism of supply and distribution of the fertilizer would be adopted with consultation.

Earlier, the members of Fertilizers Association presented their problems to the Minister Home and sought his cooperation to resolve them.

The members of delegation assured their cooperation to the Minister for preventing smuggling of the fertilizers. In addition to this, the government directives about movement of the fertilizers would also be fully implemented, they maintained.

Dy Speaker New York State Assembly calls on Health Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): A sixteen-member delegation of the American Pakistan Public Affairs Committee led by Deputy Speaker of the New York State Assembly, Phil Ramos met Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan.

The meeting discussed in detail the promotion of mutual cooperation in the health sector.

Dr. Nadeem Jan welcomed the delegation and expressed the desire to forge close collaboration with American Pakistan Public Affairs.

He said Pakistani diaspora is making excellent contribution in the U.S. and across the world and we look at their role with utmost admiration. A detailed discussion was held on providing trained nurses, pharmacists, technicians and physiotherapists from Pakistan to the New York State.

On matters of bilateral interest Pak to continue work closely with France: Hyder

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Defence, Lieutenant General @ Anwar Ali Hyder on Monday said Pakistan would continue to work closely with France on all matters of bilateral interest.

He made these remarks during a call on paid by Ambassador of the France, Nicolas GALEY at him here at the Ministry of Defence, a news release said.

The Defence Minister

highlighted that Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with France both bilaterally and in the context of European Union. He emphasized on enhanced collaboration between the Armed Forces of the two countries.

The Minister stressed that Pakistan was committed to stability and peace in the region with particular focus on its relations with Afghanistan and India.



QUETTA: Additional Chief Secretary Home Zahid Saleem presenting shield to Federal Secretary for National Food Security Muhammad Mehmood.

Ch Shujaat Hussain for providing ample role to women in politics

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Pakistan Muslim League (Q) and former Prime Minister of Pakistan Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain has said that the role of women in the development of country is important and they should be given ample opportunities in politics to move forward.

While talking to APP, Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain said that women's passion is valuable and they need to provide active role in society building.

"There are important tasks that need attention, including education, the second skills development, and the third is the mainstreaming of women" he added. Muslim League

women should play their full role in the upcoming elections, he urged.

He said that Muslim League women are determined for the development of country and will play a full-fledged role in the upcoming elections.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Farrukh Khan told APP that more than half of the country's population consists of women, they hold an important position in every respect, so as long as we support our women.

The dream of national development will not be fulfilled until we do not carry it, she added. Pakistani women are showing their talent in every field.

PM directs maximum facilitation, swift visa issuance to Sikh Yatrees

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday directed the authorities concerned to extend maximum facilities to the Sikh Yatrees intending to attend their religious festivals in Pakistan.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to review the visa facilities being provided to the Sikh Yatrees by the Government of Pakistan, said the Sikh pilgrims coming to the country to visit their holy places were the guests in Pakistan.

He was briefed on the Sikh festivals being held

throughout the year, and the facilities for issuance of visas provided to the pilgrims.

He instructed the relevant authorities to extend all-out facilities to the Sikh Yatrees for carrying out their religious rituals and visiting their holy places.

The prime minister also directed to accelerate the visa issuance process while ensuring the transparency in the system.

He said the Sikh Yatrees coming to Pakistan via Kartarpur Corridor must be provided with the facilities of international standards.

Minister Population Welfare told by DG Draft of new family planning policy prepared

Independent Report
QUETTA: The draft of new family planning policy has been prepared and it would be sent to the higher authorities for approval.

This was informed to the caretaker Provincial Minister for Population Welfare, Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Khan Jaffar by the Director General Population Welfare, Ghulam Mustafa and Director Population Welfare, Abdul Sattar Shahwani who called on him here on Monday.

During the course of meeting, the DG Population Welfare informed about

new family planning policy the draft of which has been prepared.

He also informed that tenders for purchase of the anti-pregnancy medicines. In this regard, the strength of procurement committee would be increased.

Speaking on the occasion, caretaker Minister directed to ensure transparency in purchase of medicines for family planning.

He also directed to send the new policy for family planning for approval after its early completion.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan and Chairman Gwadar Development Authority Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over meeting of 27th Governor Body of GDA.

16 private member bills landed in Senate, one rejected

ISLAMABAD (APP): As many as 16 private member bills on Monday were introduced in the Senate while a motion to introduce the bill to provide for establishment of the Pakistan Future Council was rejected by the House with 25 votes against and 16 votes in its favour. Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Bugti did not oppose the motion to introduce the Pakistan Future Council Bill, 2023 by Senator Sania Nishtar.

However, majority of senators termed it creation of supra-body over the already existing bodies like Planning and Development Commission.

The chairman put the motion for vote on the request of Sania Nishtar. Some 25 senators voted against it while 16 senators supported it. Earlier, moving the motion, Sania Nishtar said it was not a supra body over any other institution rather the council has only advisory and

consultative role. She was of the views that all developed countries had such council and Pakistan had not such body.

However, Saadia Abbasi, Sherry Rehman, Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, Irfan Sadiqui and Mushahid Hussain Syed opposed it and said that in parliamentary system, the opposition and parliamentary committees played role of watch dog. The other 16 introduced bills were included, the Imports and Exports (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Civil Servants (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Cutting of Trees (Prohibition) (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Pakistan Ehsaas Targeted Subsidies (Riayat) Programme Bill, 2023, the Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Pakistan Emergency Treatment Coverage Programme Bill.

PUC calls for national unity, action against extremism, terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Executive and Consultative Body of Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC), under the leadership of Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, on Monday convened with more than 200 members representing various religious scholars and leaders from across the nation.

The gathering aimed to address the current situation in the country and full support to Pakistan's security forces and other relevant authorities.

The council emphasized that all scholars from different schools of thought in Islam had endorsed a Fatwa (religious decree) against unjust killings, and they vehemently opposed all armed groups operating against the state, which were not only in violation

of Islamic teachings but also a threat to national unity.

The council strongly condemned sectarianism, armed clashes based on sectarian differences, and attempts to impose one's ideology on others through force. It declared such actions as contrary to Islamic principles and against the laws of Pakistan.

Regarding the recent apex court decision to abolish the military courts, the PUC expressed its reservations and requested to reconsider it, especially in the current circumstances. It also urged the government to file an appeal against it in the larger interest of the country and nation.

The council reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the government in addressing the issue of illegal Afghan refugees.

Keeping in view the sensitivity of the situation, the PUC announced nationwide conventions of religious scholars and leaders, under the umbrella of 'Paigham-e-Pakistan' and urged to fully implement the 'National Action Plan' to combat extremism and terrorism effectively. It called upon all sects and schools of thought within Pakistan to unite against terrorism and extend full support to Pakistan's security forces and other relevant authorities.

PM, Sindh CM discuss action against smuggling, power theft

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister of Sindh Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqir on Monday called on Caretaker PM Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar wherein they discussed the ongoing action against smuggling and power theft in the province. In the meeting, they deliberated over the administrative matters as well as law and order situation.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Ministers Dr. Ameer Muhammad Jogezaei and Jan Achakzai exchanging views during a meeting.

Saudi delegation meets Education Minister to enhance cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of the Riyadh's Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University at Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Dr. Ahmed Bin Salem Al Amri Monday met with the Minister for Caretaker Federal Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi to enhance mutual cooperation in education.

Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, Nawaf Bin Saeed Al Malkiy and President International Islamic University, Islamabad Prof. Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi present on the occasion.

Madad Ali Sindhi said Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University had a

rich history and prestige, adding that he had prioritized the quality of education, reduction of out of school children and research on Seerat Nabi (PBUH) since taking over charge as minister.

The minister offered 15 research fellowships to KSA at QAU.

He said that the work and efforts of Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi had been exemplary.

The minister appreciated the upgradation of the systems in IIUI and said the standard of education at IIUI had been consistently on the rise under the leadership of Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi.



QUETTA: Afghan migrants standing outside afghan consulate.

Mushaal pays glowing tributes to martyrs of Jammu carnage of 1947

ISLAMABAD (APP): Paying glowing tribute to martyrs of Jammu carnage of 1947, Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussain Mallick said that the fascist India had been committing the genocidal acts and massacre of Kashmiri people for the last seven decades that continued to haunt the people of Kashmir like nightmare despite lapse of seventy-six years.

Mushaal recalled that the Jammu massacre was the most horrible incident of the history of IIOJK that continued to haunt the people of Kashmir like nightmare despite lapse of seventy-six years.

The SAPM on Human Rights and Women Empowerment contended that the notorious Indian state was committing genocide and massacre of Kashmiri people under its nefarious strategy to change demography of the blood-soaked region by converting the Muslim majority into minority, who constituted over 60 percent of the population.

and Kashmir (IIOJK); however, despite lapse over seven decades, no action was taken against India for the war crime that further emboldened the rogue state to accelerate its reign of terror in the occupied territory.

Mushaal said this in her message on the "Jammu Martyrs' Day" observed on November 6 on both sides of Kashmir and across the world to pay tribute to the victims of the Jammu massacre, said a statement.

She stated that the Jammu massacre of 1947 was the worst example of genocide and ethnic cleansing of Muslims in Indian illegally occupied Jammu



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Social Welfare Shaina Khan and Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh being briefed by senior officers regarding prevention of narcotics.