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Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Wednesday demanded the interim government of Afghanistan to hand over the Pakistani nationals who were illegally residing in Afghanistan and were involved in terrorist activities against their own country.

Addressing a press conference here at the PM House, the prime minister said the government was ready to receive and accept



any such illegal Pakistanis. PM Kakar also asked the Afghan government to take action against the hideouts of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and its

training centres in Afghanistan and ensure that "they must not be used against Pakistan".

Since the interim government took to power in Afghanistan in August 2021, he said Pakistan witnessed an increase in terrorist incidents by 60 percent besides a 500 percent surge in suicide blasts.

"Pakistan in last two years has lost lives of 2,867 innocent civilians, for which TTP is responsible

which is operating from Afghanistan," he said.

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

He said Afghan authorities were cognizant of these facts as Pakistan had been sharing these details with

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



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi in a meeting with Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf Saeed Al Malki

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on Wednesday agreed to further expand cooperation between the two brotherly countries in media, drama, and other related fields.

The decision was made during a meeting between Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi and Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf

Saeed Al Malki here. Special Representative of the Prime Minister for Interfaith Harmony Allama Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi was also present in the meeting.

In the meeting, it was agreed to speed up the implementation of agreements between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in the

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Iqbal Day to be observed today

ISLAMABAD: The nation will observe Iqbal Day on Thursday (today) to honor



the 146th birth anniversary of the renowned poet, Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal. The government has declared a public holiday nationwide to celebrate the day.

Born in Sialkot on November 9, 1877, Dr. Iqbal is fondly remembered as the "Poet of the East."

This special occasion promises to unite the nation in celebration, with public offices, educational institutions, and businesses shutting their doors to mark Iqbal Day.

It's a day of great national enthusiasm, especially for school students, who find various creative ways to pay tribute to this literary legend. From crafting Iqbal Day charts to delivering heartfelt speeches and reciting his poetry, the spirit of unity and inspiration is everywhere.

Imran challenges in SC his indictment proceedings in cipher case

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

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

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

The petitioner took the plea in the petition that Islamabad High Court (IHC) October 26 order be declared null and void. The court should declare October 23 order of special court on framing indictment against law and constitution. The petitioner is one among some honest and respectable politicians. The petitioner is being subjected to political victimization. The scope of political vengeance has been extended to political party of the petitioner and its allies.

Pak, Uzbekistan resolve for early finalisation of Strategic Partnership Agreement

TASHKENT (APP): Pakistan and Uzbekistan on Wednesday reiterated the resolve to finalize the Strategic Partnership Agreement at the earliest to promote regional economic integration.

The bilateral ties were discussed in a bilateral meeting between Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, on the sidelines of the 16th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) being held here.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to play an active role for the regional connectivity. The leaders exchanged views on deepening bilateral cooperation in a range of areas including political, trade, economic, security, defence, and connectivity. Expressing satisfaction at the growing level of bilateral cooperation, Prime Minister Kakar stressed the importance of sustaining the momentum.

He underlined that the recent operationalization of Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and Transit Trade Agreement (UPTTA) would boost bilateral trade and transit trade in addition to streamlining Economic Cooperation Organization Trade Agreement (ECOTA).

Youth must comprehend philosophy of self-consciousness of Allama Iqbal: CM Domki

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stressed that youth should comprehend the philosophy of Poet of the East, Allama Muhammad Iqbal and work for the country's stability, development and prosperity utilizing their capabilities and potential.

The Chief Minister stated so in a message is-



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

Effective measures taken to stop spread of Congo virus in Balochistan

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the effective measures are being taken to stop spread of Congo virus in the province, and adding he believed that the disease would be eradicated from the province.

He said that treatment of all the affected patients is being done at a private hospital of Karachi on the government expenses.

He mentioned that 13 doctors and paramedics of the Health department is continued in Karachi. In addition to this, two more healthcare workers have been shifted to Karachi by air ambulance.

He said that treatment of all the affected patients is being done at a private hospital of Karachi on the government expenses.



QUETTA: Renowned cricketer Shahid Khan Afridi meeting with Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi, in a letter addressed to Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday, emphasized holding of free and fair elections, saying that all political parties and leaders have the right to contest polls.

"There is a resonance in Pakistan that for free, fair and credible elections, all political parties and leaders have the right to contest and it is up to the people to decide," he wrote in the letter, according to a press release issued by the President's House.

The president, in this regard, also forwarded a let-

ter he received from Omar Ayub Khan, General Secretary of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.

President Alvi highlighted that democracy was the only viable way forward for the State and the people of Pakistan, the "essence of which lied in giving people the right to partake in political activities and to be able to voice their opinions through a free media".

The president stated that it was of utmost importance that the caretaker government under the prime minister's leadership made efforts as a neutral body to provide a level-playing field for all political parties.

"In this context, it was reassuring to hear your recent statements whereby you stated that it was the caretaker government's policy that all registered political parties should have equal rights and opportunities to contest the forthcoming elections," he wrote.

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



Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar chairing 3rd Senate meeting of Mir Chakar Khan Rind University Sibi

NEPRA jacks up electricity tariff

ISLAMABAD (INP): In another shock to the already overburdened power consumers, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has notified a hike of Rs0.40 per unit in electricity tariff.

According to the notification issued by the power regulatory authority, NEPRA approved hike in electricity in the wake of the monthly fuel adjustment for September.

It added that electricity consumers would have to make additional payments in November bills.

The increase in the electricity tariff will be applicable to all the consumer categories except lifeline ones and K-Electric users.

Earlier in October, NEPRA approved an increase in electricity tariff by Rs1.71 per unit.

Two terrorist killed near Afghanistan border, ISPR

RAWALPINDI (Online): Security forces conducted an intelligence based operation (IBO) in general area Ursoon near Pakistan - Afghanistan border, Chitral District.

During conduct of the operation, intense fire exchange took place between troops and terrorists, resultantly two terrorists were sent to hell, while four terrorists got seriously injured. Sanitization of the surrounding areas is being carried out to neutralize any other terrorist found in the area.

Locals of the area appreciated the operation by Security forces of Pakistan, who remain determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country.

Secret of progress of nations lies in modern education: Governor calls for paying full focus on imparting quality education to students

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that the secret of the progress of developed nations lies in acquiring modern education and as such we should also pay full attention to impart quality education to the students.

The Governor was addressing the meeting of senate of Mir Chakar Khan Rind University here on Wednesday.

Those who were present in the meeting were the Vice Chancellor of Mir Chakar Khan Rind University, Professor Janosh Baloch, Vice Chancellor of Lasbela University, Dr. Dost Muhammad Baloch, Secretary Hafeez Jamali, Principal Secretary to Governor, Hashim Khan Ghilzai, Secretary Janed Anwar Hashmi, Additional Secretary Finance, Mumtaz Langove and other concerned high ups.



QUETTA: Mr. Sami Shark presenting gift regarding Right to Information to Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai

Pakistan neither supplied arms to Ukraine nor does it intend to do so: FO

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan on Wednesday said that rejecting the notions of any discussion on arms supply between defence ministers of Pakistan and Ukraine in their telephonic conversation, said the country neither supplied arms to Ukraine, nor it intended to do so.

Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, in a statement clarified that as a matter of policy Pakistan did not supply arms to a region in conflict.

"This topic, therefore, was not discussed during the telephone conversation between the Ministers of Defense of Pakistan and Ukraine on 7th November 2023," she remarked. She said that as a matter of policy Pakistan did not supply arms to a region in conflict.

"It has not supplied nor does it intend to supply any arms to Ukraine," she remarked. The spokesperson said that Pakistan had stressed the need for a negotiated solution to the conflict in Ukraine.



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

Judge sitting in chamber is not supreme court: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has observed the judge sitting in chamber is not Supreme Court (SC).

He further observed judges sitting in court are SC. The SC proceedings cannot be run while sitting in chamber. Only chamber appeals are heard in chamber. No constitution, laws and rules and regulations allow this to former CJP.

He gave these remarks while presiding of SC bench during the hearing of human rights case against Faiz Hameed on the charges of occupation of land.

The case came up for hearing before SC bench presided over by CJP Qazi Faez Isa Wednesday.

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Planning minister for expediting climate-resilient projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the progress on Climate Change-related projects, directing the quarters concerned to expedite the implementation process of the climate-resilient projects. The meeting was attended by the Secretary of the Planning Ministry, Member Climate Change and Food Security besides other stakeholders, a news release said. During the meeting, the Member Climate Change gave a detailed briefing on the projects initiated by the Planning Ministry, particularly under the 'Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Framework' (4RF).

He highlighted key initiatives taken by the Planning Ministry which include the National Climate Finance Strategy (NCF), Climate Investment Plan and Sustainable Finance Bureau (SFB). Under these initiatives, he told climate funds set up by multilateral and bilateral institutions will be accessed.

He explained the functioning of SFB which has been established to provide advisory services to ministries and provinces to access sustainable finance funds and promote financing options such as bonds, insurance, credit enhancement and others.

The minister directed the quarters concerned to start the preparatory work for the upcoming COP28 to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The government has devised a comprehensive 4RF framework, which proposed effective coordination and participation arrangements among federal and provincial governments, development partners, donors, international and national NGOs, academic and private sectors.

Last year, Pakistan faced an unprecedented devastation due to torrential rains and flooding in most parts of the country, which affected 33 million people and resulted in economic losses worth \$30 billion.

In response, the government devised the 4RF framework under which, the development projects are being executed across the country to make the infrastructure 'resilient.'

Highlighting the significance of the climate-resilient infrastructure, Minister Sami Saeed said the government was committed to adopting a climate-resilient infrastructure. "Climate change is now a reality which requires continuous work from the formulation of an action plan to its implementation."

The minister emphasized the need to increase capacity at the central and provincial levels to deal with natural disasters.

Recently, the Federal Cabinet has approved the National Adaptation Plan (NAP)-2023 aimed at protecting communities that are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change.

Under the NAP, the government, along with other stakeholders would take measures to protect vulnerable communities from the adverse effects of climate change.

Dr Nadeem Jan said that when there was an outbreak in Balochistan, the National Institute of Health (NIH) immediately sent a mission to find out the causes of the outbreak.

He said, "The ministry is in full contact with the provincial governments and continuously monitoring the situation."



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of Indonesia, Mr. Adam Mulawarman Tugjo, calls on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President for promoting trade, investment, cultural ties with Indonesia

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday called for further promoting trade, investment, economic, cultural and political relations with Indonesia to bring the two countries further closer.

The president expressed these views while talking to the outgoing Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Mulawarman Tugjo, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Talking to the outgoing envoy, the president said that Pakistan cherished its close, friendly, and fraternal relations with Indonesia, which were marked by religious and cultural affinities and commonality of views on different issues.

He stressed that expanded trade, investment, and economic cooperation was a vital element of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Indonesia.

He added that Pakistan was keen to further deepen its cooperation in the fields of commerce, culture, tourism, and people-to-people contacts.

President Alvi said that Indonesian businessmen should explore investment opportunities in Pakistan and benefit from its investment-friendly policies.

He said that increased mutual political and cultural exchanges were imperative to further improve the brotherly ties between Pakistan and Indonesia.

The outgoing Indonesian Ambassador, Adam Mulawarman Tugjo said that Pakistan and Indonesia should diversify trade and investment cooperation to further boost bilateral relations.

He informed that they were planning to open direct flights between the two countries that would bring the two nations further closer.

He further apprised that Pakistani students were among the major recipients of academic scholarships in Indonesia.

President Alvi thanked the ambassador for his valuable support and cooperation during his tenure and expressed the hope that the momentum of growth in bilateral relations between the two countries would be maintained.

He also expressed his best wishes for the ambassador for his future endeavours.

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Health ministry takes preventive measures against Congo virus

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan on Wednesday said that the Ministry of Health is taking effective measures to prevent citizens from the Congo virus.

In a statement, the minister said that after the outbreak of Congo virus in Balochistan, the Ministry of Health is monitoring the current health situation.

Dr Nadeem Jan said that when there was an outbreak in Balochistan, the National Institute of Health (NIH) immediately sent a mission to find out the causes of the outbreak.

He said, "The ministry is in full contact with the provincial governments and continuously monitoring the situation."

He made it clear that there is no vaccine to prevent Congo fever.

Dr Nadeem Jan asked the citizens to follow the guidelines of the National Institute of Health.

"Therefore, this disease can be avoided by following preventive measures," he added. "The virus is mostly found in the hair follicles of sheep, goats, cows, buffaloes and other livestock." "When this tick bites a cattle or human, the virus becomes active in it," he added.

"The virus can also be transmitted through the blood of an infected person or animal."

He advised, "Before buying or slaughtering sheep or goats, citizens make sure that there are no ticks on animal body."

He asked to use gloves when examining the animal and protect pets from fleas and use medicines in consultation with the Livestock Department.

He said citizens should use gloves when slaughtering animals and preparing meat besides protecting from animal blood contamination.

He advised to dispose of blood and offal carefully after slaughtering animals.

He asked doctors to use personal protective measures such as gloves and masks when treating a Congolese patient.

He asked to keep the patient in a separate room (isolation) during treatment and implement all infection control guidelines.

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ISLAMABAD: Chairperson National Commission on the Rights of Child Ayesha Raza Farooq presents a shield to Chief Guest Senator Nuzhat Sadiq.

Detained Hurriyat leaders reduced to skeletons in jails of India and HIOJK: APHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has expressed grave concern over the deteriorating health conditions and safety of the incarcerated Hurriyat leaders and activists languishing in jails of Jammu, Utter Pardash, Jodhpur, Haryana, and Punjab in India and in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar said that the detainees were suffering from multiple ailments and had been reduced to skeletons due to criminal apathy of the fascist jail authorities.

He said that detainees are lodged in dark cells and are subjected to physical torture. The spokesman warned India of dire consequences if any incarcerated Hurriyat leader was killed in custody like Zia Mustafa. He demanded immediate release of all illegally detained Kashmiri Hurriyat leaders and activists.

The APHC spokesman paying rich tributes to the steadfastness and strong commitment of thousands of political detainees including APHC chairman, Masarrat Aalam Butt, Shabbir Ahmed Shah, Mohammad Yasin Malik, Aasiya Andrabi, Fehmeeda Sofi, Naheeda Nasreen, Nayeem Ahmad Khan, Shahidul Islam, Ayaz Akbar, Pir Saifullah, Raja Merajudin, Farooq Ahmad Dar, Shahid Yousuf, Shakeel Yousaf, Dr Hameed Fayaz, Dr. Shafi Shariati, Dr. Muhammad Qasim, Muhammad Yousaf Falahi, Dr. GM Butt, Muzaffer Ahmad Dar, Bilal Siddiqi, Molvi Bashir Irfani, Mushtaq-ul-Islam, Ameer Hamza, Noor Muhammad Fayaz, Fahim Ramzan, Hayat Ahmed Butt, Rafiq Ahmed Shah, Showket Hakeem, Aadi Zargar, Omar Adil Dar, Advocate Zahid Ali, Zaffar Akbar Butt, Ghulam Qadir Butt, Rafiq Ahmad Ganai, Eng Rasheed, human rights defender.

Minster for Human Rights calls on to issue salaries before Dewali

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Human Rights George Kahlil has called upon the government to issue salaries to the Hindu community before the festival of Diwali.

The Hindu community is going to celebrate Diwali from the 13th to the 15th of November 2023. In this regard, letters were issued to the concerned officers of the federal and provincial governments.

In his message here on Wednesday, the Minister said Diwali, the festival of lights, would be celebrated to commemorate Lord Rama's return home after a fourteen-year exile.

Fraud case: Fawad Ch sent to jail on 14 days remand

ISLAMABAD (Online): Local court of Islamabad has sent former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry to jail on 14 days judicial remand in fraud case.

Fawad Chaudhry was presented in the court of judicial magistrate Yasir Mahmood on expiry of one day physical remand.

On the request of counsel for Fawad Chaudhry, the court ordered to open the handcuff of one hand of former federal minister.

Defence counsel Qamar Inayat Raja requested the court to allow meeting of his client with Faisal Chaudhry.

During the hearing of the case Fawad Chaudhry came on rostrum and told the court the plaintiff has not come to fore so far. If recovery has to be made then take Rs 5000 or 7000. I don't possess arms while policemen are gunmen.

The court ordered to send Fawad Chaudhry to jail on judicial remand on completion of arguments.

In his informal chat with the journalists in courtroom Fawad Chaudhry said if Nawaz Sharif wins in the election like this then who will accept it.

Six new Covid cases across country reported

ISLAMABAD (APP): Health officials on Wednesday said that six new coronavirus cases were reported during the last week across the country.

As per data shared by the National Institute of Health (NIH), the case positivity ratio was 0.16 percent while no patient was in critical condition. No death was reported from the coronavirus while 3,674 Covid-19 tests were conducted. Meanwhile, the official of the Ministry for National Health Services, said that the government had strengthened the role.



ISLAMABAD: Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Neil Hawkins posing for a photograph wearing traditional "Chitrali Cap" in KPK Pavilion during annual 10 days Lok Mela 2023 at Lok Versa in Federal Capital.

IWMI, USAID focused on converting "Hill Torrent Risks into Opportunities"

ISLAMABAD (APP): The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Pakistan, supported by USAID funding, organized a significant consultation workshop centered on the critical theme of "Hill Torrents: Turning Risk into Opportunities".

The workshop underscored the pivotal role of community engagement, cross-sector collaboration, and expert guidance in harnessing the potential for transformative change in these challenging environments.

The event reaffirmed IWMI Pakistan's commitment to sustainable water management practices that empower communities and enhance productivity in hill torrent-affected areas.

"This workshop was marked by engaging discussions, collaborative presentations, and expert insights, as community members and stakeholders gathered to address water-related issues and explore solutions in the challenging context of hill torrents," said Dr. Sarfraz Munir, Researcher, IWMI Pakistan. "Through this consultation, our aim is to foster collaboration and engagement with relevant government departments, policymakers, the private sector, academia, and most importantly the local communities. We are committed to listening to and learning from your firsthand experiences, as we collectively work towards addressing and mitigating the challenges posed by changing rainfall patterns and the increasing threat of floods," said Muhammad Nawaz, Development Specialist, USAID/Pakistan. The Community Listening Session served as a platform where community members were convened to engage in a meaningful dialogue regarding their experiences and challenges.

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ISLAMABAD: A group of students and faculty members of Government boys school Bhunat Islam Nagar, Bagh Azad Kashmir visiting senate museum at Parliament House.

Smoke emitting vehicles banned in Islamabad to combat smog

ISLAMABAD (APP): Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, has approved the extension in admission date till November 20 with late fee charges for open distance learning (ODL) programs offered in phase 2 of the autumn semester 2023 due to the hundreds of applications received from interested students. The Programs offered in this phase include Associate degree in Arts (BA General), Associate degree in Commerce (B.Com).

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ISLAMABAD: In an effort to curb the detrimental effects of smog and environmental pollution, Islamabad has imposed a ban on the entry of vehicles emitting smoke within the city limits.

This prohibition extends to all types of vehicles, including private, government, and commercial ones. The directive, issued by Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, mandates the restriction to remain in place until January. Violators of the ban will face legal consequences under the enforcement of Islamabad authorities.

IHC reserves verdict on bail petition of Qureshi

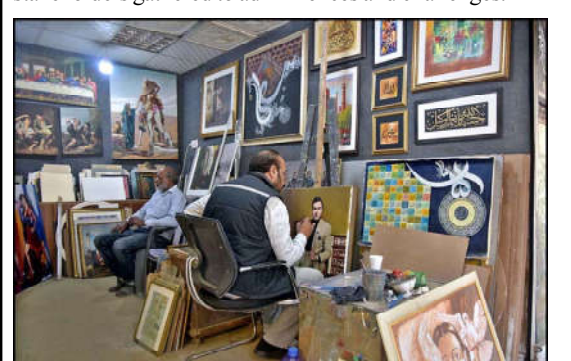
ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday reserved its verdict on petitions of PTT's vice chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi against his indictment and seeking his post-arrest bail in cipher case.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the cases filed by Shah Mehmood Qureshi against the judgments of trial court. Petitioner's lawyer Ali Bokhari Advocate and FIA Prosecutor Raja Rizwan Abbasi heard the case.

At the outset of hearing, the FIA's prosecutor objected over the post-arrest bail petition of Mr. Qureshi. He said that it was essential for the petitioner to submit the certificate as per the judgment of the top court.

The chief justice rejected the objection of prosecution and asked the FIA to give arguments in the case. The defence lawyer said that his client was accused of keeping the cipher in his custody and misusing it. But his client had not committed any offense like this, he said. Ali Bokhari Advocate said that the trial court had dismissed the post-arrest bail petition of his client while it had approved the bail of Asad Umar.

He said that the trial court has not provided the copies of case record and defence was only provided the copies of statements of 161 and 164 so far.



ISLAMABAD: Artist giving final touch to his painting during "Folk Festival Lok Mela" at Lok Virsa.

Tabad Karachi Company Police nabs 64 individuals during last month

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Karachi Company Police arrested 64 individuals last month and the recovery of valuables is estimated to be worth Rs 11.3 million.

According to police, these arrests included four members of two notorious criminal gangs known for their involvement in various heinous crimes and unlawful activities.

Islamabad Police have amplified its crackdown on criminal elements to purge the city of crime. The recent actions by the Karachi Company police teams have resulted in the apprehension of 64 offenders, including 37 absconders, proclaimed offenders, and target offenders over the previous month.

In the course of these operations, law enforcement officials successfully recovered four stolen vehicles, eight stolen motorcycles, 1.420 kilograms of heroin, 43 grams of opium, 194 bottles of liquor, and 125 litres of alcohol. Additionally, the teams confiscated four pistols, three daggers, and 37 rounds of ammunition from the possession of the arrested individuals.

Emphasizing the gravity of the situation, ICCPO Dr Akbar Nasir Khan has instructed all senior officials to maintain a stringent approach towards combating drug peddling and the possession of illegal weapons.

He has stressed the need for continuous monitoring of the performance of police personnel in this regard, underscoring that any negligence in official duties will not be tolerated.

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ISLAMABAD: A view of damaged car due to accident in the Federal Capital at Jinnah Avenue.

Iqbal's ideas direly needed to cope with present-day challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal's philosophy is not only the source of guidance for the nation to deal with social issues but it is also a beacon of light for the entire Muslim Ummah to cope with present-day challenges.

Popularly known in the country and other parts of the world as the "Poet of the East", Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal was born in Sialkot on November 9, 1877.

His Allahabad address of 1930 was a watershed moment in pre-partition history.

He also played a prominent role in inspiring millions of Muslims across the sub-continent for an independent homeland where they could practice Islam.

The youngsters need to pay attention to the works of the poet to enrich their understanding of the true message, especially that is directed toward them. His philosophical works play a vital role in boosting the self-esteem of the youth in surmounting the day-to-day challenges by infusing the spirit of hard work, consistent struggle and commitment.

This year, November 9 is being observed to mark the 146th birth anniversary of Dr Allama Mohammad Iqbal (1877-1938) across the country. In 1927, Iqbal was elected to the Punjab Provincial Legislature, and in 1930, he became president of the Muslim League.

Alongside his political activism, he was also considered the foremost Muslim thinker as his poetry and philosophy (Urdu and Persian) stresses the need to nourish Muslims through moral, ethical and self-development.

The parents are urged

to play their role to bring the teachings of the poet into the limelight for nourishing the spirit of their youngsters and to mould their minds and shape their characters in light of the core philosophy of Dr Allama Mohammad Iqbal.

Iqbal was an acclaimed poet and philosopher. He is credited with writing poetry and using his political influence to demand the creation of a separate homeland for Muslims. His address gave a clear direction and separate identity to Muslims of the sub-continent to achieve Pakistan.

He was undoubtedly a great poet, thinker and philosopher. His poetry for children was a great asset and carried moral lessons. The poetic contributions of Allama Iqbal are acknowledged both at national and international levels. His teaching is a precious legacy for the nation and there is a dire need to make his works accessible in its true spirit and content.

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ISLAMABAD: Senator Seemee Ezdi, Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Thursday November 09, 2023

Congo virus outbreak

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

Given the severity of CCHF — fatalities can occur in up to 40pc cases — there is an urgent need for the development of a vaccine to prevent its spread. Until then, the only recourse available is public awareness and preventative measures. Those involved in the livestock industry must be informed about the risks associated with the virus to reduce tick-to-human and animal-to-human transmissions. They must wear protective clothing when handling animals, use approved acaricides on clothing and examine themselves for ticks regularly. Human-to-human transmission can be controlled by avoiding close contact with infected persons, enforcing hand hygiene, and using protective equipment in healthcare settings. The government should act quickly to contain the virus, protect healthcare workers, and ensure public safety. It has enacted some measures, including a temporary ban on the use of private slaughterhouses in populated areas. Time is of the essence, and the lives of healthcare providers, as well as the broader community, hang in the balance.



Rafia Zakaria

If you are one of the many millions on Earth in possession of a social media account, then none of what you are about to read here will be at all surprising to you. Social media platforms like Meta or X are designed to lure us to them and then keep us hooked.

The longer we scroll, and we are scrolling more and more, the greater the number of advertisements we will glance at and thus the greater the revenue the platforms will earn. There is no small irony in the fact that this scrolling is fuelled not by what the platforms offer us but the proliferation of details of our own lives.

In promising us the opportunity to present

ourselves to the world, or at least some version of it represented by the few hundred 'friends' or 'followers', social media platforms have weaponised human curiosity and the human predilection for exhibitionism. These critiques of social media platforms and their manipulation of our attention are not particularly new. Many of them were detailed in a 2021 report that looked closely into the tactics utilised by social media giant Meta on its Facebook and Instagram platforms.

Unsurprisingly, this kind of research has revealed that the easiest and most sought-after targets of social media platforms are young people whose developing brains are most easily manipulated and who have fewer defence mechanisms against the machinations of social media algorithms.

It follows then that young people are the most vulnerable to being addicted to social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram. In turn, these young people, many of

them barely adolescents, develop poor mental health owing to these addictions.

The data to substantiate this was the subject of a 2021 exposé by the Wall Street Journal which found that Meta's own research revealed, for instance, that 13.5 per cent of teenage girls said that Instagram "makes thoughts of suicide worse". And 17pc of teenage girls had reported that it made eating disorders worse as well.

Even though there are laws in place that should prevent children under 13 from having social media accounts, most know how to get around this ban either with or without the knowledge and consent of their parents. Similarly, time limits such as the 60-minute default instituted by TikTok can also be ignored easily when children enter a passcode.

Frustrated by this state of affairs and what might be characterised as a lack of seriousness in dealing with the issue among social media giants themselves, a bipartisan group of attorneys general are now

suing Meta.

According to a complaint that is being brought by 33 different states, the social media platform is liable for creating social media addiction and consequently very poor mental health among children and young people.

According to the complaint, the social media platform has deliberately misled the public about the tactics used to create social media addictions among young people.

Even while deploying these tactics, social media platforms like Meta may try to gloss over just how dangerous it can be for young people to spend hours and hours on these platforms because they are designed to keep them hooked and addicted.

In this first-of-a-kind effort the 33 states that have signed on to the lawsuit are demanding restitution and financial damages from Meta for what is seen as an underhand tactic.

Where other strategies to stop the targeting of young brains may not have worked perhaps the threat

of huge financial losses if the lawsuit succeeds in its purpose, could be the key to finally stopping the exploitation of young minds in this way.

Meta's Facebook and Instagram platforms are widely popular in Pakistan as well. Even rudimentary cellphones often have Facebook and Instagram applications on them. This means that an inordinately large number of Pakistani children also have social media accounts.

Despite this, few Pakistani parents pay enough attention to the amount of time that their children are spending on these platforms, and are not asking whether that amount of time is negatively affecting the mental health of their offspring.

Children everywhere are susceptible to feelings of unbelonging or alienation because they see others their age having more fun or having more friends than themselves and Pakistan is no different.

If unchecked or exclusion can create lifelong

problems with self-esteem, mood regulation and a general sense of well-being being affected.

If this lawsuit is successful it may lead to the company being held accountable for the many mental health challenges being confronted by kids who are addicted to social media platforms.

Even if such lawsuits are not possible in every country where large online platforms operate, forcing the company to be more open about its tactics and the targeting of young people may provide a much clearer picture as to just how children are hooked on spending hours upon hours scrolling through their social media feeds.

Endless scrolling late into the night may not seem like a particularly ominous activity but it is just this harmless appearance that has pernicious consequences, which in turn, are creating a generation that confronts more mental health challenges than any that have come before it. -- Courtesy Dawn

Thousands of Miles with CPEC: The Symbol of Pakistan-China Relations

The shared vision of China and Pakistan, under the guidance of the BRI, promises a future even more prosperous and vibrant for this enduring partnership.

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani.

In a celebration of an enduring partnership that has withstood the test of time, the All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises Association (APCEA) and the Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) came together to launch a groundbreaking promotional endeavor titled "Thousands of Miles with CPEC: The Symbol of Pakistan-China Relations." The event, held on 6th November 2023, at the Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS) Islamabad, not only commemorated the ten-year milestone of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) but also underscored the strength and significance of the diplomatic ties between Pakistan and China.

CPEC, a monumental initiative that was set in motion in 2013, has evolved into a symbol of the unwavering brotherhood between Pakistan and China. Its influence is felt far and wide, touching every facet of life in both countries. Beyond its macroeconomic contributions in sectors such as Power, Infrastructure, IT, and Agriculture, CPEC has played a pivotal role in fostering cultural ties and forging a Pak-China community of shared interests.

The "Thousands of Miles with CPEC" project

look deep into the social aspects of this transformative endeavor. It captures the personal experiences of individuals who have witnessed the profound changes brought about by a decade of CPEC. From common citizens to government officials, from local employees to diplomats, this project paints a vivid picture of how CPEC has left an indelible mark on the lives of people from diverse walks of life.

The event featured a powerful screening of an exclusive video documentary, which showcased the exceptional significance of CPEC as the flagship project of the "Belt and Road" Initiative. The documentary emphasized the strategic importance of Gwadar Port, the zenith and focal point of CPEC, serving as a bridge between the One Belt, One Road and the Maritime Silk Road. With breathtaking scenic shots, the documentary provided a bird's-eye view of the major contributions made by CPEC projects, substantiated by compelling facts and figures.

To pay homage to the ten years of unfaltering support and cooperation offered by China, a special feature report titled "Thousands of Miles with CPEC: The Symbol of Pakistan-China Relations" was unveiled. This

report not only outlines the narrative of CPEC but also extols its accomplishments as a landmark in the enduring Pak-China relationship. It narrates stories of Chinese companies fulfilling their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and shines a light on the depth of the friendship shared by Pakistan and China.

As a testament to the spirit of collaboration and solidarity, Chinese enterprises operating across Pakistan, spanning various sectors, contributed mini documentaries. These films feature testimonials, personal accounts, and inspiring experiences of project employees and local individuals. They will be released as part of a docuseries under the "Thousands of Miles with CPEC" umbrella, exemplifying the shared journey towards a prosperous and promising future for both Pakistan and China. It has been elaborated that, CPEC stands as a testament to the enduring brotherhood between Pakistan and China. It is not just an economic initiative; it's a bridge of friendship, a symbol of collaboration, and a beacon of hope. As President Xi Jinping once said, "Our friendship with Pakistan is unbreakable, and our cooperation is unique." In the spirit of CPEC and the Belt

and Road Initiative (BRI), Pakistan and China are bound by a shared vision, one that promises a future even more prosperous and vibrant. As we celebrate a decade of CPEC, let it serve as a reminder that, together, there are thousands of more miles to cover on the road toward a brighter tomorrow.

CPEC has many impressions on Pakistan economy and its society. One of the most significant impacts of CPEC has been on Pakistan's energy industry. Notably, it brought forth the introduction of supercritical coal-fired power plants and pioneering hydropower projects. These initiatives have not only illuminated the lives of Pakistan's citizens but have also provided a significant boost to the nation's economic prospects.

CPEC's contributions extend far beyond the energy sector. It has catalyzed the development of critical infrastructure projects. The Lahore Orange Line project, cross-border optical fiber cable, and the Sukkur-Multan Motorway have revolutionized transportation and connectivity within Pakistan.

Chinese enterprises involved in CPEC have demonstrated their commitment to corporate social re-

sponsibility. During times of disaster, they generously donated funds and essential supplies. Moreover, these enterprises have invested in technical schools, offered scholarships to Pakistani students, and provided crucial technical training to local farmers and women. The results of these initiatives have been empowering, enriching the Pakistani workforce.

Beyond the confines of Pakistan, CPEC has also created opportunities for local engineers and technicians. Many of those trained during the corridor's development have found opportunities to work abroad, contributing their expertise in countries across the Middle East, South Asia, Africa, and Europe.

While international uncertainties persist, Pakistan's inherent strengths in terms of human resources and geographical advantages continue to instill confidence in CPEC's potential. It is firmly believed that the Pakistani government and its people will successfully navigate the challenges that may arise, bolstering the corridor's long-term success.

CPEC has been a game-changer for Pakistan's

economy. The project has helped Pakistan overcome its energy crisis by adding thousands of megawatts of electricity to the national grid. It has also improved Pakistan's transportation infrastructure through the construction of new highways, railways, and airports. Additionally, CPEC has created thousands of jobs in Pakistan, reducing poverty in the country. As Pakistan marks a decade of CPEC, it reflects on a remarkable journey that has had a transformative impact on its present and future. The shared vision of China and Pakistan, under the guidance of the BRI, promises an even more prosperous and vibrant future for this enduring partnership.

(About the author: In the realm of fostering Pakistan-China relations, there exists a visionary, a guardian of friendship. Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani is the Secretary General of the Pakistan China Friendship Association's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter, a luminary who orchestrates bonds between nations. Nestled in the vibrant city of Peshawar, he is not only a Senior Media Consultant but also a bridge-builder between cultures. To connect, reach out to him at syed.gilani@gmail.com)

Food safety



Navaira Ali Bangash

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

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

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

of a challenge, but the situation is, in fact, the reverse.

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

A few years ago, the commerce ministry issued SRO 237 that clearly mentioned that packaged food products should have at least 66 per cent of their shelf life left at the time of import, and added that the ingredients should be printed in both Urdu and English on the packaging, along with the authentic halal certification logo.

Sadly, food items that do not conform to the standards set in SRO 237 are being smuggled through Taftan and flourish in markets in Balochistan near the border, and are even accessed by wholesalers and high-end retailers in urban centres.

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

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

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

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

Porous borders and poor enforcement of food laws have boosted this illicit trade. Stakeholders, policymakers and the government should focus their attention on curbing the illegal inflow of these products from across the border for the sake of public health. Apart from health risks, the economy faces staggering financial losses due to these practices. Pakistan loses \$2.6 billion in tax revenues due to the smuggling of food items. Smuggled food cost is estimated at \$9bn.

Uniform legislation should be in place to impose stringent measures. The Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority, Pakistan Customs and the Ministry of Commerce should ensure a stronger crackdown on the grey or black market and tighten border controls to protect the health of the masses. Consumers should also try to learn about product quality and the grave consequences that they are exposed to in case of sub-standard food consumption. -- Courtesy Dawn

Reheated soufflé?



Mahir Ali

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

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

That's 'Bring on the Lucie (Freda Peo-ple)' from Lennon's Mind Games album, released 50 years ago. And 'Imagine', from a couple of years earlier, is perhaps even more pertinent: "Imagine there's no countries/ It isn't hard to do/ Nothing to kill or die for/ And no religion too".

I know it's true/ It's because of you/ And if I make it through/ It's all because of you... Now and then/ I miss you' doesn't quite measure up. Lyrically, it's even less impressive than the Beatles' first single from 61 years ago, 'Love Me Do'. But, recorded by

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

The surviving Beatles last went down this long and winding road in the mid-1990s, alongside the fascinating Anthology series of outtakes and unfinished songs. The archival material was embellished by two 'new' tracks, with the Threeles, as they were dubbed at the time, adding vocals and instrumentation to two Lennon songs from the late 1970s that he hadn't bothered with for either his 'comeback' album, Double Fantasy — released weeks before he was assassinated — or its posthumous sequel, Milk and Honey.

Alongside the potentially inspiring 'Free as a Bird' and the relatively mundane 'Real Love' on the tape of demonstration recordings that Yoko Ono provided were another two tracks, 'Now and Then' and 'Grow Old With Me'. The latter, riffing off Robert Browning — "Grow old along with me/ The best is yet to be" — might have been a poignant choice, given Lennon's demise at 40, but perhaps also a bit mawkish. It remained untested.

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

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

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

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

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

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

CM Azam unveils e-office software system in KMU

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

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

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



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

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

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

campaign is also being run on social media to create more awareness about the environmental damage caused by burning solid waste and the effects of crop burning. He said that smog is being generated in India due to the burning of waste in rice factories and increase in air pollution, adding that Pakistan is using its diplomatic channels and urged the Indian government to ensure that the crops stop burning which is causing smog in the winter season. He said that both India and Pakistan should recognize the imperative

nature of tackling the challenge of crop residue burning, adding that Pakistani farmers are very aware of the problem but crop burning is still alive in India. He said in Pakistan we are introducing our financial assistance programs and subsidies for machinery aiming to encourage farmers to adopt modern practices. Responding to a query, he replied that the Punjab government has declared a health and environmental emergency and directed authorities to devise a comprehensive plan to combat the issue.

Aamer directs authorities to preserve historical record of tribal areas

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Dr. Aamer Abdullah Wednesday said that Tribal Research Cell is an important heritage for the availability of authentic records related to the historical background of the merged districts and former tribal areas of the province while directed the relevant authorities to preserve the available historical record and other written materials in the cell. He said that the authorities should submit a reasonable development scheme for approval so that to not only ensure the long-term preservation of records available in the research cell, rather make the availability of these historical materials and literature possible for researchers through online facilitation. He expressed these views during a visit to the

historical Tribal Research Cell, established under the Home and Tribal Affairs Department in Namak Mandi here. During the visit, the minister inspected various parts of the research cell and checked the historical records and official files of the pre-independence and post-independence periods related to the affairs of tribal areas, former states merged into the province and neighbouring country Afghanistan. Speaking on this occasion, he described the cell as a very important asset for the convenience of researchers from a historical and research point of view, and directed to get support from the Archives Directorate to preserve all the old records here, while digitizing all the records of the cell. He also directed to prepare a PC.I and submit it within a week time regarding technological facilitation of digitizing the old record available in the cell.

He said that the authorities should submit a reasonable development scheme for approval so that to not only ensure the long-term preservation of records available in the research cell, rather make the availability of these historical materials and literature possible for researchers through online facilitation. He expressed these views during a visit to the



HYDERABAD: Caretaker Sindh Minister for Finance, Revenue and Planning and Development, Muhammad Younus Dagher talking to media persons during Revenue Convention.

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

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has allowed PTI to hold corner meeting in Shahdara on November 19. Justice Ali Baqar Najafi took up PTI candidate from Shahdara Akmal Khans' petition for hearing Wednesday. The petitioner took the plea we want to hold corner meeting in Shahdara area of Lahore in connection with election. The administration is not allowing PTI to hold corner meeting. The court should order the administration to allow us to hold corner meeting.

is held by Manika family since 1938 and it has never remained with Auqaf department. The court should order to grant bail after arrest petition of Khawar Manika in grave yard land occupation case. Justice Ali Baqar Najafi took up for hearing the bail after arrest plea from Khawar Manika, former husband of Bushra Bibi Wednesday. Counsel for Khawar Manika took the plea Khawar Manika is charged with occupying Auqaf department land. The land



KARACHI: Journalists holding playcards during a rally in support of Palestinians, and express solidarity with Palestinian journalists and their families during Gaza March (Save Gaza Save Journalists) at the Karachi Press club to Governor House Sindh.

Sindh Minister disappointed over slow revenue case progress in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD (APP): Caretaker Sindh Minister for Revenue, Industries, and Commerce, Mohammad Younus Dagher, expressed his dismay over the slow progress of district administrations and officers of the concerned departments in the Hyderabad division in evaluating the cases of suspicious entries and authenticating revenue matters. He expressed his dismay while presiding over a meeting of Deputy Commissioners from all districts of Hyderabad division through a video link at the office of the Commissioner of Hyderabad on Wednesday. According to a spokesperson for the division administration, the caretaker minister asked questions about the progress reports submitted by Deputy Commissioners following last month's meeting.

He emphasized the need for Deputy Commissioners to promptly investigate cases of suspicious entries and authentic revenue cases, in order to reduce the backlog of revenue cases. He added that Deputy Commissioners should regularly submit reports to the Commissioner's Office and warned that any Mukhtiar or Assistant Commissioner found involved in the manipulation of records would be held accountable. He stressed the importance of organizing open katcheries at the taluka level for resolving revenue-related issues and directed the Deputy Commissioners to ensure transparency throughout the revenue matters process. He mentioned efforts being made to re-empower Deputy Commissioners to decide on suspicious entries cases as per the Revenue Act.

Fake director caught from office of DG Excise

LAHORE (APP): A fake director Establishment was caught from the office of DG Excise on Wednesday. According to the details, a man named Jaan Muhammad came to meet Director General Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control Punjab Muhammad Ali in his office who introduced himself as Director Establishment. He tried to get favour of the DG Excise for the transfer of a female Excise Inspector named as Tanzeela Abdul Rahim from Region C Lahore. On suspected gestures shown by Jaan Muhammad, the ET department officials opted to get verified his status from the relevant agencies which revealed that he was not employed as he claimed. On the instructions of DG Excise, the police was called. Department official Ameen Haider filed an FIR in Shadman police station against the culprit who was arrested on spot. Further legal action is being taken against Jaan Muhammad under Sections 170 and 171 of the Pakistan Penal Code.

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

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

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

LHC allows PTI to hold corner meeting in Shahdara

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has allowed PTI to hold corner meeting in Shahdara on November 19. Justice Ali Baqar Najafi took up PTI candidate from Shahdara Akmal Khans' petition for hearing Wednesday. The petitioner took the plea we want to hold corner meeting in Shahdara area of Lahore in connection with election. The administration is not allowing PTI to hold corner meeting. The court should order the administration to allow us to hold corner meeting.



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

PEC chairs meeting to review arrangements of general election

HYDERABAD (APP): Provincial Election Commissioner Aijaz Anwar Chohan here on Wednesday chaired a meeting regarding arrangements of General Elections 2024. The meeting reviewed the arrangements for security, availability of water, electricity, washrooms, furniture and other basic requirements including polling process and training of polling staff. Addressing the meeting, the Provincial Election Commissioner said that the election would ensure the constitutional, national and most important responsibility in Sindh and all over the country. He stressed that all departments shall take steps on the priority basis for holding of fair and transparent elections with

national spirit by providing all facilities at polling stations. He said that Sindh Police and Rangers would play an important role in maintaining law and order by providing security. He said that on the occasion of election, the installation of CCTV cameras at more sensitive polling stations shall be ensured with focus on security and communication plan so that the miscreants fail to get a chance to deteriorate the environment. He directed the officials of Education, Works and Services Department to complete the repairing work at polling stations' buildings throughout the division and submit its report to the Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner.

Foolproof security devised for 8th desert jeep rally

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Foolproof security is devised for gala of 8th Jeep Rally set to open tomorrow (Nov 9) at Thal desert here with great pomp and show on Wednesday. DPO Syed Husnain Haider said the arrangements were being finalized in collaboration with district administration and the tourism department. Around 600 police officer deployed to protect the event. About 24 pickets work setup at different roots including internal and external courses of the rally. Separate duty of traffic police was designated to control and maintain the traffic flow. The DPO assured of all-out arrangements for making the event successful. The Desert Jeep Rally is globally recognised as trademark of far-flung district of Southern Punjab. Renowned drivers hailing from across the country are set to prove their driving proficiency to make championship title in their name. Registrations of vehicles would kick off tomorrow, same day of starting the event to be culminated on 12th of the same month.

KP gov't for inclusion of Potassium Chlorate in import policy order, 2022

PESHAWAR (APP): The Home and Tribal Affairs Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has requested the Ministry of Commerce to include Potassium Chlorate in the import policy order, 2022 and make it import subject to NOC from the Department of Explosives and Home Departments. In a letter to the Federal Ministry, the provincial government informed that Potassium chlorate is not locally manufactured in Pakistan and is being imported from China, India and the USA without any Customs duty. It said that the

chemical is being used in firecrackers, matchsticks and fireworks, adding that there was no regulatory mechanism to check the quality of Potassium chlorate and the provincial government had decided to amend the Arms Rules and include permission for import of the chemical. The Home Department therefore requested the Federal Ministry to include the Potassium Chlorate in the Import Policy Order 2022 to regulate its import and avoid risks attached to it. It further said that the provincial government had already directed the district governments.

One killed in road mishap

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): A 70-year old man was killed after being hit by speeding motorbike here Wednesday. An incident took place near basti seetpur in Khan Garh where a passerby who was an old man named Bashir Hussain, son of Azeem Bukhs was hit by speeding motorbike and died on the spot due to multiple injuries. Eyewitness confirmed that the death cause due to over-speeding of bike rider who later fled from the scene. Rescue ambulance was dispatched from Alipur as the nearby rescue office where the call received. Body of the deceased was handed over to the heirs on their special request instead of shifting to hospital.

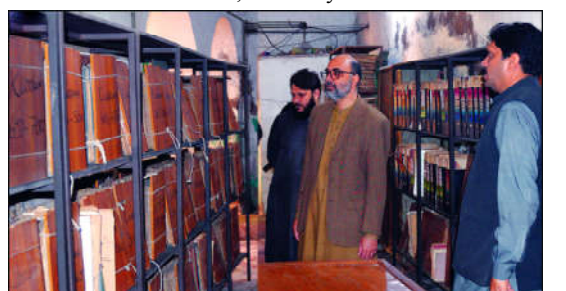


KARACHI: A large number of Afghan gatherings outside SSP Office Sobhrab Goth Par for NADRA Registration.

Nisar Khuhro says: PPP believe in religious harmony

MIRPURKHAS (APP): The Provincial President of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Sindh Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, said on Wednesday that religious harmony is the philosophy of the PPP party. Nisar Khuhro, while talking to the media, said that the PPP's belief in the supremacy of people and its philosophy is to respect everyone, irrespective of their gender and religion. As per details, in connection with preparations for the celebration of Diwali, a

major religious festival of the Hindu community, to be held on November 13 in Tharparkar by Chairman of PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Nisar Khuhro, Jilani House Mirpurkhas, Former Federal Minister Pir Aftab Hussain Shah Jilani, President of the PPP Mirpurkhas Division, organized a gathering for Nisar Khuhro and local leadership. Information secretary of the People's Party Sindh Aajiz Dhamrah, divisional president of the People's Party Pir Aftab Shah Jilani.



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

Parents of 26,411 children refused polio vaccination in Peshawar, Khyber

PESHAWAR (APP): During the seven-day anti-polio vaccination in two specific districts of the province, the parents of 26,411 children in districts Peshawar and Khyber refused to vaccinate their children on one pretext or the other. According to the Emergency Operation Centre, a population of 1,130,820 children under the age of five in districts Peshawar and Khyber were to be immunized against the crippling polio disease under the

campaign, adding that there were 901,985 children in Peshawar and 228,835 children. It said that 14,856 children in Peshawar were not present at home at the time of polio vaccination, despite repeated visits by polio teams, while parents of 8471 children rejected immunization of their children. Similarly, in Khyber 2823 children were missed during the campaign due to the non-cooperation of the parents while 261 parents refused polio drops.

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

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

This was said by Secretary Ministry of

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

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

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

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

She added that the meeting was held after

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

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

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



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



QUETTA: A delegation led by Head of Retail Banking Bank Al-Falah, Mahreen Ahmed meeting with Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

APPAC delegation visits FPCCI to discuss trade, investment ties

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

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

Philip Ramos, at the occasion, proposed a number of measures aimed at formalizing cooperation between APPAC, NY State Assembly and FPCCI which included the formation of two high-powered committees to explore the opportunities for enhancing investment and economic cooperation

and B2B alliances and matchmaking between New York businessmen and FPCCI.

He also assured to lobby with New York State government for humanitarian and economic assistance to Pakistan, look into the advocacy options to facilitate the visa issuance to businessmen from Pakistan. American-Pakistani Public Affairs Committee (APPAC) will facilitate trade promotion activities of FPCCI delegates in the U.S. while New York Chamber of Commerce will be encouraged to form chamber-to-chamber alliance with FPCCI, he stated.

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



FAISALABAD: A power loom worker busy in routine work to earn livelihood at his workplace.

Industrialists demand withdrawal of gas, electricity prices

PESHAWAR (Online): Industrialists have termed the recent increase in gas and electricity prices, including collection of fixed charges as unconstitutional and unfair and urged the government to withdraw its decision to safe industries of KP from further destruction, which had adversely affected by the terrorism and coronavirus pandemic lockdown.

The manufacturers demanded the property tax exemption should be extended till the formation of the next government while keeping in view the current economic, business and industrial slowed down.

The industrialists also emphasized to ensure timely provision of all financial resources from the approved a dedicated police station in Hayatabad Industrial Estate Peshawar.

According to a press release issued here on Wednesday, a high-level

delegation of industrialists headed by the president of Industrialists Association Peshawar, Ayub Zakuri held a meeting with the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali, at the Governor House.

During the meeting, the president of the association explained in detail the concerns of the factory owners regarding these above mentioned matters and issues.

The delegation consisted of former Presidents Riaz Arshad, Malik Niazi Ahmed, and Secretary General Muqtasid Ahsan, Executive members Farhad Asfandyar, Junaid Altaf, Secretary Wasiullah and member Faisal Shah and others.

Ayub Zakuri, the association president while speaking during the meeting said that KP has first right to utilize its gas, electricity and other natural resources under Article 158-A.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships namely, MSC Jemima, Sun Flower, Hoanh Son Planet and SG Pigasus, scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice, Canola Seed and Palm oil, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Grain Terminal and Liquid Terminal respectively on Tuesday.

Meanwhile another bulk carrier 'Pacific Pride' also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port on same day.

A total of seven ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a gas carrier 'Hania Prestige' left the Port on today morning, while three more ships, Discovery, MSC Jemima and Wide Alpha are expected to sail on today afternoon.

A cargo volume of 88,713 tonnes, comprising 61,911 tonnes imports cargo and 26,802 tonnes export cargo carried in 2,275 Containers (861 TEUs Imports and 1,414 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are fifteen ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them three ships, Pan Fortune, Bellini and Pacific Pride & two more ships, Wide Alpha and Maersk Pittsburgh carrying Steel Coil, Gas oil, Coal and Containers are expected to take berths at Multi-Purpose Terminal.

SBP announces closure of banks on Nov 10 in Smog hit areas of Punjab

KARACHI (APP): State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Wednesday, announced closure of bank branches on Friday, November 10, 2023, in Lahore division and certain other districts of Punjab severely hit by Smog.

All banks and Micro Finance Banks (MFBs) shall keep their branches closed in Lahore Division (viz. Lahore, Nankana Sahib, Sheikhupura and Kasur districts) and Gujranwala, Hafizabad, Sialkot and Narowal districts on November 10, said a statement issued here by the central bank.

The decision has been taken pursuant to the Punjab government's Notification dated November 08, 2023 in the regard, it added.

The Punjab government has declared an "environmental and health emergency" in Lahore and two other divisions for four days, Nov 9 to 12, to mitigate the impact of smog and according to the notification all markets.

Fawad chairs first meeting of SIFC Working Group

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hasan Fawad on Wednesday chaired the first meeting of SIFC Working Group to discuss impediments in the development of special economic zones (SEZs) with the objective of fast-tracking industrialization.

The meeting was attended by all stakeholders in the provincial governments and their industrial zone authorities, an official press release said. The Additional Secretary of Board of Investment (BOI) and Director General of Special Economic Zones highlighted the major impediments faced by existing ones and the framework requirements of future SEZs, including the development of a 'One Stop Shop' facilitation.

The forum discussed the limitations of the concept of 'One Stop Shop' and pointed out the need of a mutual agreement between the federal and provincial governments for a development framework based on international best practices and standards, with a legal mandate in the constitutional scheme.

The issues of identification and allotment of land, cost competitiveness, provision of utilities, human resource constraints and consistency of policies were also discussed. It was agreed that based on the key takeouts of the meeting a working paper containing solutions and a clear roadmap for future would be circulated for the second and final meeting of the Working Group to be held next week.

US tech entrepreneurs urged to invest in upgrading Pak tourism industry

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

"With digitalization of necessary information, including bookings, lodging, transportation and availability of accurate information, the tourism sector of Pakistan will witness a transformative change," he said at a special session of the Annual Open Silicon Valley Forum 2023

in San Francisco, a city in the US state of California.

The subject of the conference was "Exploring Pakistan's Tourism Treasures: From Mountains to Metropolises." "Our joint ventures will help tapping the existing potential of tourism. Your equity participation will pay you off well," Ambassador Masood Khan said. He thanked the organizers of the session which he said would "induce people to visit Pakistan and get a first-hand experience of witnessing its pristine beauty."



HYDERABAD: Women busy in selecting and purchasing old cloth pieces from vendor at cloth market road.

Export based industry backbone of country's economy, says Sajjad

MULTAN (APP): Chief Commissioner RTO, Sajjad Tasleem Azam, on Wednesday said that the taxpayers, especially the export-related industry were the backbone of the country's economy.

"It is necessary to establish an atmosphere of mutual trust by promoting liaison between the business circles and the tax authorities at the regional tax office level in order to promote tax culture in the country."

He expressed these views while addressing a meeting with All Pakistan Bedsheet & Upholstery Manufacturers Association (APBUMA) members in which the tax issues faced by the exporters and sales tax refunds were discussed.

Reacting to the various issues raised by the participants in the meeting, he said that the Regional

Tax Office (RTO) Multan staff was making every possible effort to deal with all the matters as soon as possible as per law. He however stated that the APBUMA members could contact him personally in case of any delay.

Chief Commissioner assured that he will play his role in conveying the suggestions of the association to the competent authority not only in matters at the regional tax office level but also in policy making.

Commissioner Corporate Zone Zahida Sarfraz and Commissioner Multan Zone Zahid Mahmood

were also present in the meeting. Chairman APBUMA, Syed Muhammad Asim Shah informed Chief Commissioner RTO about the problems of manufacturers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



QUETTA: Warm clothes are being selling at a roadside stall as the demand of warm clothes increased in city on the arrival of cold waves of winter season, near Benazir Flyover in Quetta.

Pak regional exports increase 3 percent in Q1

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's exports to its seven regional countries witnessed an increase of 3 percent in the first quarter of the fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the corresponding months of last year.

The country's exports to the regional countries including Afghanistan, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, and the Maldives account for a small amount of \$981.410 million, which is 13.98 percent of Pakistan's overall exports of \$7018.956 million during July-September (2023-24), State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

China tops the list of countries in terms of Pakistan's exports to its neighbouring, leaving behind other countries such as Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

Pakistan carried out its border trade with the farther neighbour Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, and Maldives.

Pakistan's exports to China witnessed an increase of 26.42 percent to \$633.374 million in three months of this year from \$501.000 million during last year while exports to Afghanistan also surged to \$128.533 million from \$127.157 million.

The country's exports to Bangladesh however decreased by 38.28 percent to \$144.506 million this year from \$234.144 million.



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

ICCI demands urgent privatization of loss-making SOEs to reduce fiscal deficit

ISLAMABAD (APP): President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari on Wednesday leading a delegation, met with the Irfan Siddiqui, Chairman, Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training and discussed with him the contours of a future economic policy for the country. Senior Vice President, Faad Waheed, Engineer Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI, Zafar Bakhtawari Former President and Secretary

General UBG Pakistan and Rizwan Chheena Executive Member ICCI included in the delegation. Addressing the delegation, the Senator that the business community was the major stakeholder in the development of the economy and he would raise their key issues at every relevant forum for their redressal. He welcomed the proposals of the delegation for future economic policy, promoting entrepreneurship among the youth to make them skilled and professional

and assured that the proposals would be discussed in the committee meetings so that they could be considered for implementation. He also appreciated the suggestions of the delegation to make the manifesto of PML-N business friendly and assured that if PML-N comes to power, it will take measures to facilitate them in business development. Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari urged the government.



QUETTA: Zonal Director General BISP Abdul Jabbar, Sarwar Barohi, Abdul Khaliq Agha, Asad Khan and Malik Nadeem Kasi during their visit to Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries.

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

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

Receiving General Zhang Youxia, vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission, and Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, Putin sent his best wishes to Xi, saying the two leaders had developed a good friendship and working relations. "Russia and China are not building any military alliances along the lines of the Cold War," Putin told Zhang at his Novo-Ogaryovo residence outside Moscow, adding that the Russian-Chinese relationship was a stabilising force for the world.

The United States casts China as its biggest competitor and Russia as its biggest nation-state threat while US President Joe Biden argues that this century will be defined by an existential contest between democracies and autocracies. Putin, who heads the world's biggest nuclear power, said military cooperation between Moscow and Beijing was increasing and focused on high-tech areas that would ensure strategic security.

"Of course, our cooperation, our contacts in the military and military-technical sphere are also becoming increasingly important, as for military-technical cooperation, here, of course, our work in high-tech spheres comes first," Putin said. "I mean space, including high-orbit groupings, I also mean modern and promising weapons that will certainly ensure the strategic security of both Russia and the People's Republic of China."

A bipartisan panel appointed by the US Congress said last month that Washington must prepare for possible simultaneous wars with Moscow and Beijing by expanding its conventional forces, strengthening alliances and enhancing its nuclear weapons modernisation programme.



High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell, Britain's Foreign Secretary James Cleverly, Germany's Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Japan's Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, Canada's Foreign Minister Melanie Joly, France's Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna, and Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani.

Ukraine gets good news about its EU membership quest as Balkans countries slip back in the queue

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia received positive news on Wednesday about their quests to join the European Union but countries in the volatile Balkans region that have waited years longer to become members of the world's biggest trading bloc appeared to slip back in the queue.

In a series of reports, the EU's executive branch recommended that war-ravaged Ukraine should be permitted to open membership talks, once it's addressed some shortfalls. The European Commission lauded Ukraine, which Russian troops invaded last year, saying that the government "has shown a remarkable level of institutional strength, de-

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

Monitoring Desk
ABUJA: A Nigerian court on Wednesday granted bail to former central bank governor Godwin Emefiele, who is charged with procurement fraud and has been in detention since June.

Indonesian chief justice dismissed over ethics breach

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: A judicial panel dismissed Indonesia's top judge on Tuesday after finding him guilty of an ethics violation over his role in a ruling that allowed President Joko Widodo's son to run for vice president.

Chief Justice Anwar Usman, who is Widodo's brother-in-law, was found guilty of a "gross violation" of the court's ethics code for deciding with the 5-4 majority that changed the rules around candidacy for the presidency and vice presidency.

China urges Estonia not to allow opening of Taiwan office

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China's foreign ministry on Wednesday urged Estonia not to allow Taiwan to open any official organisations in the country after the Chinese ambassador reportedly threatened to leave Estonia if Taiwan opened a representative office in the Baltic nation.

Organisations and effectively safeguard the political basis of bilateral relations," ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told a regular press briefing. Taiwan's Foreign Ministry said last week that it was still in the discussion phase about setting up a representative office in Estonia and that the two sides had not yet reached a consensus on the matter.

BD garment workers reject 56pc pay rise

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Bangladesh raised the minimum monthly pay for the country's four million garment workers by 56.25 per cent on Tuesday, a decision immediately rejected by unions seeking a near-tripling of the figure.



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

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

Monitoring Desk
GENEVA: A month after the unrest erupted, the Red Cross demanded on Tuesday an end to the horrific suffering of civilians, and especially children, decrying a "moral failing".

Children's plight proves world's 'moral failure', says Red Cross. "Children have been ripped from their families and held hostage. In Gaza, ICRC surgeons treat toddlers whose skin is charred from widespread burns," she said in the statement.

Doctor in Gaza finds his own relatives dead

Monitoring Desk
GAZACITY: Iyad Shaqura, a doctor of pharmacy turned by the Gaza crisis into an emergency physician, had become used to the flow of dead and wounded streaming into the hospital in Khan Yunis.



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

This year 'virtually certain' to be warmest in 125,000 years, EU scientists say

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: This year is "virtually certain" to be the warmest in 125,000 years, European Union scientists said on Wednesday, after data showed last month was the world's hottest October in that period.

Massive bombardments are gutting civilian infrastructure across Gaza, sowing seeds of hardship for generations to come," the ICRC statement said. The organisation's president Mirjana Spoljaric said she had been particularly shocked to see the suffering that children have had to endure.

More Palestinians fleeing combat zone in northern Gaza, UN says

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

The war, now in its second month, was triggered by the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on southern Israel. The number of Palestinians killed in the war passed 10,300, including more than 4,200 children, the Hamas-run Health Ministry in Gaza said Tuesday.

Italy's deal with Albania on migrant camps capped at 3,000 migrants

Monitoring Desk
ROME: Albania will hold a maximum of 3,000 migrants at any one time under a deal announced this week allowing Italy to build two migrant reception and detention camps there, official documents showed on Wednesday.

The densely populated northern area of Gaza, specifically Gaza City and adjacent crowded urban refugee camps, are the focus of Israel's campaign to crush Hamas, the militant group that has ruled Gaza for 16 years. The scheme is the first example of a non-EU country accepting migrants on behalf of an EU nation, and is part of an bloc-wide drive to clamp down on irregular immigration.

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

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

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

Philippine typhoon survivors pray for victims on 10th anniversary

Monitoring Desk
TACLOBAN: Survivors of Super Typhoon Haiyan prayed for their dead loved ones in the devoutly Catholic Philippines on Wednesday as they commemorated the 10th anniversary of a storm that killed more than 6,000 people.

Those who helped rebuild the city. Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos attended the ceremony along with members of his Cabinet, foreign diplomats and survivors of the storm. "Ten years have gone by, and yet the memory of this tragedy remains indelible in our hearts and in our thoughts," Marcos told the audience. He said the Philippines - typically affected by more than 20 major storms a year - needed to build "stronger and more resilient communities" in the face of climate change, which scientists have long warned is making storms more powerful.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

When asked if the Pakistan government had received any requests from

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

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

He told the interviewer that he would be traveling to Riyadh this week for an extraordinary session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to discuss Israel's attacks on Palestine.

"You can't just kill children and say that you have got the right to defend yourself. It's the license to barbaric retaliation."

Asked if Muslim nations were doing enough for Gaza, Prime Minister Kakar also raised questions about the role of the world's estimated 1.8 billion Muslims, who make up 24 percent of the global population, in "facing the kind of situation which we are in."

"We need to ask more deep questions from this entire [Muslim] population, that what kind of contribution globally we are having... toward science and technology, what kind of defence capabilities these different or 50 or 57 countries are developing for themselves."

Jamali urges nation to study Allama Iqbal's philosophy

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs Muhammad Zubair Khan Jamali has urged the nation to delve into the poetry, philosophy, political wisdom, enlightenment, and social struggles of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

In a message related to Iqbal Day, Jamali said that the nation is proud of its hero who gave a new direction to the continuous struggle of the Muslims of the subcontinent for their rights and awakened them against oppression.

Jamali said that Allama Muhammad Iqbal,

as a true Muslim, conveyed the correct assessment and message of Islam to the corners of the world through his poetry.

He added that Iqbal's inspiring thoughts and poetry awakened the Muslims of the subcontinent for political and social rights and their freedom.

Jamali also noted that Allama Muhammad Iqbal presented the concept of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the subcontinent in 1930. His poetry, Jamali said, taught Muslims about unity, harmony, and compassion, breathing a new spirit into the movement.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly, Raja Pervez Ashraf Wednesday said that Pakistan can achieve sustainable progress by embracing Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal's doctrine of self-reliance and self-determination. He said this while paying deep respect to Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal on the eve of his 146th birth anniversary through a message.

The Speaker noted that Iqbal not only envisioned a separate homeland for the Muslims of the sub-

continent but also provided a blueprint for the nation's enduring growth and development through his philosophy of "Self" (khudi).

He was a visionary leader with the ability to see beyond surface-level phenomena and discern underlying events as they unfolded. Raja Pervez also recalled Iqbal's staunch support for the Palestinian cause. He vigorously rejected Zionist claims to Palestinian territory and emphatically opposed the establishment of a Jewish homeland.



QUETTA: Principal Bolan Medical College Dr. Raz Muhammad Kakar and Incharge Health Care Asad Khan Kakar meeting with Caretaker Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezei.

WAPDA Chairman visits Mohmand Dam Project

LAHORE (APP): Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) Chairman Engr. Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Sajjad Ghani Wednesday visited Mohmand Dam Project being constructed across River Swat in Mohmand District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. He reviewed construction activities on different sites of the project - the spillway and the river diversion tunnels in particular. At present, construction works relating to excavation, stabilisation

and concreting are being carried out simultaneously on these sites. The Chairman also presided over a progress review meeting during the visit, according to WAPDA spokesman here. The meeting was attended by the GM/PD Mohmand Dam Project, senior members of his team and representatives of the Consultants and the Contractors. The Chairman was briefed about the progress achieved so far on river diversion tunnels, spillway excavation and concreting.

Martyrs' families plead for speedy justice through military courts

ISLAMABAD (APP): The families of Shuhada-e-Pakistan (Martyrs of Pakistan) on Wednesday urged the military courts to restore the military courts to ensure speedy justice to the victims of terrorism as their abolition had further added to their pain.

Addressing a presserum-protest at the National Press Club, the martyrs' families appealed to the Supreme Court to review its decision against the military courts.

Nawabzada Jamal Raisani, Haji Sanaulah Khan, Rahimullah, Wazir Farman Elahi, Anwar Zeib, Fawzia, Muhammad

Jamshed and others were among the heirs of martyrs, who addressed the presser.

They said that the military courts were all the more important to provide justice to the victims of terrorism and rioting as, otherwise, it might lead to higher terror incidents. It might also embolden enemy secret agency to go for any misadventure like Kulbhushan Yadav.

The families said: "The martyrs are the nation's pride and the apex court is requested to have a thorough review of underlying factors in order to effectively curb anti-state activities and terror acts while

delivering verdicts through military courts."

They indicated that they would formally file a petition in that regard in the apex court on Monday (November 13).

The martyrs heirs said that they had gathered at this point to demonstrate their unity to carry forward a movement for the restoration of military courts.

They said that they were just trying to uphold the sanctity of the martyrs' blood and added that the military courts would surely take the elements involved in terrorist activities to task and give solace to their heirs.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat presides over the meeting to review overall situation and arrangements for anti-polio campaign.



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

PM, ECO SG discuss Kashmir, ME situation

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

In the meeting on the sidelines of the 16th ECO Summit, they discussed the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir and Middle East.

They reviewed the recent developments in the ECO, especially in the domains of trade, connectivity and economic cooperation.

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

Pak ranks 45th in world internet development index: Blue paper

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan ranks 45th out of 52 countries in the world internet development index with a score of 41.82, as per the World Internet Development Report 2023 launched on Wednesday at the 2023 World Internet Conference in Wuzhen, Zhejiang province.

The world internet development index consists of six metrics: information technology infrastructure, digital technology and innovation capability, digital economy, digital government, cyber security, and cyberspace international management. Pakistan ranks 47th, 43th, 42th, 45th, 45th, and 40th in these six indicators respectively. This is the first time that Pakistan has been included in the evaluation for the internet development blue paper.

Gaza, not an issue of Palestinians, Arabs but humanity: Ashrafi

ISLAMABAD (APP): The chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council said Israeli brutalities had taken the lives of more than 11,000 people in Palestine and Gaza.

He unveiled the Israeli sinister design of expansion being executed to forcefully evacuate Palestinian people from the Gaza Strip and translate their dream into reality.

He urged the people to raise their voices against this brutal act of Israel with all possible resources being within the constitutional domain.

He said, "We must expose the real face of those who used to highlight the rights of pet animals, now they were giving logic on the massacre of innocent children."

Addressing a conference on Palestine organized by Human Rights Council of Pakistan here at Allama Iqbal Open University, he

Govt paying special attention on construction of roads in remote areas: Dashti

QUETTA: The Secretary Communication and Works (C&W), Qambar Dashti has stated that the provincial government is paying special attention on construction of roads in the remote areas. He was speaking on occasion of the briefing conducted on different projects of roads at the Commissioner office Loralai on Wednesday.

The Secretary C&W said that the purpose of his visit is to personally review the projects and expedite their pace to complete the same at the earliest.

He also directed the supervising engineers of CW& department to visit the projects and ensure smooth work on them.

He said that it is also the government's priority to resume work on the roads projects where it was closed due to any reason.

Moreover, the buildings, which are completed, would be handed over to the concerned departments, he added.

On the occasion directed to establish a complaint cell in all districts where general public may lodge complaints.

He also directed the supervising engineers of CW& department to visit the projects and ensure smooth work on them.



QUETTA: Members of Voice for Baloch Missing Persons are holding protest demonstration for recovery of their loved one, at Quetta press club.

Smina Mumtaz Zehri says BAP will be more active under leadership of Khalid Magsi

QUETTA: Balochistan Awami Party believes in democratic values. Khalid Magsi's success is a democracy's success. These views were expressed by Central Vice President Balochistan Awami Party Senator Smina Mumtaz Zehri in a congratulatory statement while congratulating the newly elected President of Balochistan Awami Party Khalid Magsi on his success.

Senator Smina Mumtaz Zehri further said that the newly elected party president is the pride and assets of Balochistan Awami Party and under his leadership, the party will play its best and key role in the development and prosperity of Balochistan province.

Key role in the politics and development of Balochistan and will lead Balochistan on a new path of development by winning the upcoming elections with a huge majority. She said that the political situation in Balochistan was deteriorating for a long time, but the manner in which the BAP leadership and colleagues handled the crisis is commendable and this is the beauty of democracy.

Senator Smina Mumtaz Zehri further said that the newly elected party president is the pride and assets of Balochistan Awami Party and under his leadership, the party will play its best and key role in the development and prosperity of Balochistan province.



QUETTA: Vice Chancellor BUTEMS Prof. Dr. Khaliq Hafeez meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Amjad Rasheed says Govt working on provision of suitable facilities for promotion of investment in Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Finance, Amjad Rasheed has stated that the government is working on provision of suitable facilities alongside making policy for promotion of the investment in the province.

He mentioned that the same is being done on special directives of the caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar and Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki.

The Minister Finance stated so while speaking to a delegation comprising the high ups of Bank Alfalah who called on him here on Wednesday.

The Group Head Retailers Banking Mehreen Ahmed and Head of Branch Banking Imran Asad Khan led the delegation.

They discussed the matters about banking based on government and private cooperation.

The delegation apprised the Minister Finance about the jurisdiction of their banking institution as well as services and future course of action.

Speaking to the delegation, Minister Finance said that the overall economic, trade and industrial activities would be boosted following the initiatives being taken by the government.



Chairman WAPDA Lt. General (Retd) Sajjad Ghani being briefed about construction projects during his visit to Mahmand Dam Project.

Efforts afoot to bring down sugar prices to Rs 140 in Quetta: Commissioner

QUETTA (APP): The Quetta administration has resolved the sugar shortage issue in the city, following successful negotiations with sugar dealers. The price of sugar, which had soared to over Rs 200 per kilogram due to the shortage, is expected to drop back to Rs 140 per kilogram.

Commissioner Quetta Hamza Shafiqat announced at a press conference on Wednesday that the supply of sugar from other provinces has been computerized in collaboration with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and the Industries Department. This will ensure a smooth supply of sugar to Quetta, preventing further shortages.

The sugar shortage was caused by a strike by sugar dealers who were pro-

testing against the misconduct of Sindh and Balochistan Customs staff.

Shafiqat assured the dealers that the administration will provide them protection from any misconduct. He also directed the anti-smuggling agencies to not interfere with the trade of legal sugar dealers.

The sugar dealers have agreed to end their strike and resume the supply of sugar to Quetta. They welcomed the measures taken by the administration to address their concerns.

On the occasion, the President of Central Anjuman Tajran Balochistan Abdul Rahim Kakar said that they held talks with Commissioner Quetta and Special Secretary of Industries Department.