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PM Kakar, Palestinian President call for international collaboration to stop Israel from further bloodshed

Effects of ongoing disastrous situation in Gaza may go beyond the region; Series of attack on innocent Palestinians should be stopped immediately: Anwarul Haq Kakar

RIYADH (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar and President of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas met here Friday underlining the need for international collaboration to stop Israel from further bloodshed.

The two leaders are attending the Extraordinary Summit of the OIC convened to discuss the dire situation in occupied Palestine resulting from the aggression of the Israeli occupation forces both in Gaza and the West Bank.

The prime minister conveying unflinching solidarity of Pakistan with the Palestinian people,

strongly denounced the indiscriminate use of force by Israeli occupation forces and bombing of hospitals, refugee camps, schools and residential buildings, resulting in the loss of more than ten thousand precious lives and forced displacement of Palestinian families.

President Abbas appreciated Pakistan's expression of solidarity in this difficult time and its principled stance on the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people.

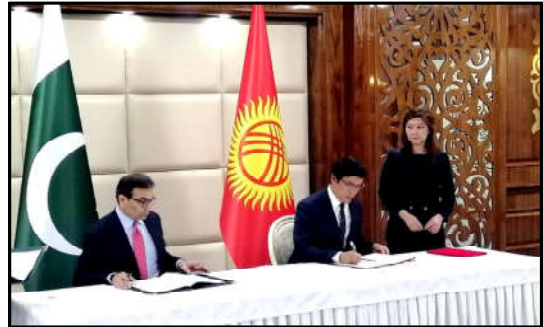
The two leaders emphasized the urgency of an unconditional ceasefire, end to the siege of Gaza and smooth delivery of vital

humanitarian aid and medical assistance to the affected population.

PM Kakar and President Abbas noted the timeliness of the Extraordinary Summit of the OIC and appealed to the global community, particularly the United Nations and its pertinent organizations, to take resolute measures to uphold principles of justice and humanity and end the carnage of the Palestinian people.

He underscored Pakistan's unwavering commitment to a fair and enduring resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Continued on page 2



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

Mushaal, Chairman of Muslim Scholars' organization discuss women empowerment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Mushaal Hussain Mullick called on Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Issa, Chairman of the Organization of Muslim Scholars and Secretary General of the Muslim World League in Riyadh.

During the meeting, they discussed several issues concerning women's empowerment within Islamic guidelines, said Mushaal Mullick in a post on the social media platform X (formerly known as Twitter).

According to the social media post, both of them shared common goals for working towards interfaith harmony, peace building, fostering unity, inclusivity, and the rights of human beings regardless of caste, colour and creed.

Ms Mushaal apprised



QUETTA: Vice Chancellor Khuzdar University Prof. Dr. Maqsood Ahmed meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Solangi vows to protect journalists, media workers' rights

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

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

The caretaker government had been taking steps to prevent any crime against journalists, he said while citing different occasions when he himself took the lead to protect journalists

Muhammad Issa of her ministry's 100-day plan to create more economic uplifting of women, trans-genders and minorities.

She appreciated Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman for enhancing the role of women in the field of sustained development. She appreciated the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for always standing with the plight of oppressed Kashmiris and hoped that a day would come when peace would prevail in the world.

Both of them called upon the international community to fulfill its obligations in addressing the appalling calamities unfolding in Gaza.

They strongly condemned the remarks made by a minister of the Israeli occupation government, which included a threat to detonate a nuclear bomb in the Gaza Strip.

Nation desires President to 'work as symbol of federation': Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Friday said President Dr Arif Alvi should play his role as the "symbol of federation" and fulfill his responsibilities in accordance with the Constitution.

"The entire nation desires that the President fulfills his responsibilities as the symbol of the federation and does not give the impression that associates him with a certain political party," the minister said in a post on the social media platform X.

He said the statements being made by the President especially in the wake of upcoming elections seemed to be in conflict with his constitutional role.

He said the Election Commission was carrying out its responsibilities with extreme diligence and responsibility. The election date had been announced, and all political parties were allowed to engage in political activities within the parameters of the Constitution and the law.

Jahanzaib Nasar appointed as Prosecutor General Balochistan

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has appointed senior lawyer Jahanzaib Khan Nasar as the Prosecutor General Balochistan.

This was announced in an official notification issued here on Friday.

According to the notification, the appointment of Jahanzaib Khan has been made for one year term.

Court orders to return Nawaz's confiscated assets

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

AC-I Judge Muhammad Bashir, while hearing the case, ordered the respondents to return 1,650 kanals land in Lahore, bank accounts, property and luxury vehicles, confiscated by them, to the former prime minister.

The court took the decision when it was told that Nawaz Sharif had traveled abroad for his medical treatment with the court's permission.

The judge observed that non-bailable arrest warrants against Nawaz Sharif were issued by the court instead of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) chairman.

He said that the court had already withdrawn arrest warrants after the former prime minister surrendered before it.



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

Balochistan to emerge as new world trade hub after completion of ongoing projects: Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has expressed the hope that the province would emerge as a new world trade center after completion of the ongoing development projects in time to come.

The Governor Balochistan is a very important province due to its specific strategic and geographic location besides the rich mineral resources, it has. Needless to mention that the eyes of world are on this region.

He said that the national and international investors and financial institutions can benefit from the resources available and investment opportunities available in the province.

The Governor was speaking to the Retail Banking Group Head of the Bank Alfalah, Ms. Mehreen

Ahmed who called on him here at the Governor House on Friday.

The Governor maintained that the banking sector can play important role in economic development and promotion of economic activities in the province besides providing ample opportunities of livelihood and employments through offering sort loans to the youth for small business in different sectors.

In addition to this, the banking sector can also play pivotal role in bringing investment in the province, the Governor believed.

The Governor said that the human resource development has key status in overall process of development, but we are lagging behind than other provinces in development of our human resource in the province.

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

RIYADH (Saudi Arabia) (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar arrived in Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh on Friday to represent Pakistan at the emergency meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on the volatile situation in Gaza.

Deputy Governor Riyadh, Prince Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Abdulaziz received the prime minister on his arrival at the King Khalid International Airport. Pakistan's ambassador Ahmed Farooq and senior Saudi and Pakistani officials were present on the occasion.

During his three-day official visit, the prime minister will participate in the emergency meeting being held in Riyadh, which will discuss the Israeli aggression on Gaza.



QUETTA: Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George addressing a seminar regarding human and women rights

Justice Mazahar Naqvi raises objections over SJC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Mazahar Naqvi has raised objections on Supreme Judicial Council (SJC).

The objections raised by Justice Mazahar Naqvi have been filed in SJC wherein he has raised objection over presence of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa and justice Sardar Tariq Masood have given opinion on declaring SJC rules unconstitutional.

He further said he was served show cause notice without verifying the allegations against him.

Necessary medicines available in Govt. hospitals of Balochistan, claims interim Minister

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Health, Dr Ameer Muhammad Khan Jogezi has claimed that the necessary medicines are available in the government hospitals of the province as per requirements and as such there's no issue of non-availability of the medicines at all.

In an official statement

Bazenjo tell senate Rs 300m grabbed as extortion money on check posts in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (Online): Senator Tahir Bazenjo has revealed in Senate that Rs 300 million is grabbed as extortion money on different check posts in Balochistan.

He said this while talking on matters of public importance in Senate Friday.

He said Congo virus is assuming the shape of epidemic. One young doctor has died due to this virus.

He regretted the health system in Balochistan is in shamble like PIA. We request the patients infected with this virus be shifted to Karachi or Islamabad. The life of doctor could have been saved had the personnel of coast guard been not there on check post of vendar. Check posts have turned into hub of extortion money. May be these personnel wanted to grab extortion money from ambulance carrying the doctor to Karachi.



LAHORE: Nawabzada Haji Mir Laskhari Khan Raisani meeting with PML-N president and former Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif

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

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

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

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

He strongly condemned the lethal bombing by Israel which even did not spare schools and hospitals. The barbaric actions, he said, resulted in killing of thousands of Palestinians, including women and children, healthcare workers, journalists and UN aid workers.

The president said the

current situation in Gaza was the reaction of decades of apartheid and unjust policies of Israel. He condemned Israel for ethnic cleansing against the Muslims and pushing them out of their territories.

President Alvi regretted the lack of action on part of the international



community to stop Israel from its murderous campaign against the people of Gaza.

He urged the international community to make efforts for urgent ceasefire, opening of an unhindered humanitarian corridor to Gaza, stopping further displacement of the Palestinians from their homeland and permanent solution to the Palestinian dispute in accordance with the UNSC resolutions.



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

CM grieved over death; pays homage: Another health worker from Quetta dies of Congo virus in Karachi

Independent Report

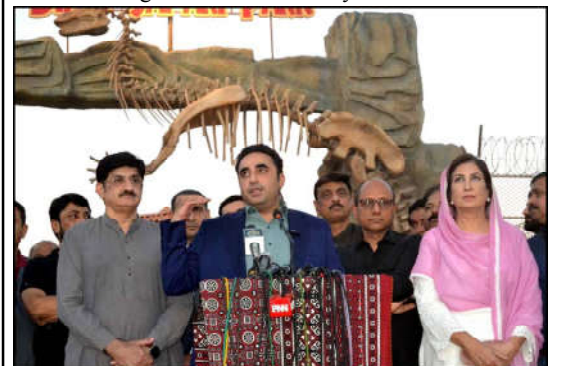
QUETTA: Another health worker belonging to Quetta died of Congo virus in Karachi on Friday.

The spokesman of Health Department informed that the paramedical staff namely Abdul Ghaffar Khan Achakzai serving in the ICU of Civil Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital was shifted to the paramedics who embraced martyrdom while fighting against Congo during duty time.

In a condolence statement issued here the same day, the Chief Minister paid rich tributes to the late paramedics who embraced martyrdom while fighting against Congo during duty time.

Mir Ali Mardan Domki said that the treatment of Congo patients is being done in Karachi on the government's expenses.

He also shared the grief of death of the paramedic with the bereaved family.



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

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

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

During an interaction with journalists in Safari Park, the PPP chairman said: "We worked hard to make him [Shehbaz Sharif]

prime minister. It was the need of the hour." He clarified that the decision was aimed at improving the situation as the country was facing a political and democratic crisis. The PPP leader said that they benefited Sindh during the PDM-led government.

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

Pakistan considers nuclear security as 'national responsibility'

UNITED NATIONS (INP): Pakistan regards as a "national responsibility" the safety and security of its nuclear power programme, Ambassador Munir Akram told the UN General Assembly, while underscoring the need to remove barriers for gaining equitable and non-discriminatory access to civil nuclear cooperation.

Speaking in the 193-member Assembly on the annual report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Vienna-based UN agency, he said Pakistan is party to several leading international instruments related to nuclear safety and security, with a rigorously enforced framework that complies with the highest global standards.

Earlier, IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi presented his report on its work, including in Ukraine, Iran and North Korea, as well as an overview of the development and transfer of nuclear technologies for peaceful applications, the enhancement of nuclear safety and security, and the strengthening of nuclear verification and non-proliferation efforts on a global scale.

In his remarks, the Pakistani envoy highlighted Pakistan's extensive experience in operating a secure and fully safeguarded nuclear power programme, pointing to

six nuclear power plants with a combined capacity of 3,530 megawatts, as well as the country's construction of another nuclear power plant, Chashma unit 5, with a capacity of 1200 megawatts.

Underscoring the fundamental importance of removing barriers for gaining equitable and non-discriminatory access to civil nuclear cooperation, Ambassador Akram affirmed that all States should fully comply with their safeguards obligations.

However, he said, "the Agency's safeguards should not be used to serve partisan political objectives". Its verification regime will remain credible only if it is applied on a non-discriminatory basis as stipulated in the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"Pakistan places the highest priority on nuclear safety and security as a national responsibility," Ambassador Akram added.

In light of recent developments, he proposed convening a special session of the General Assembly to establish a new consensus on disarmament and non-proliferation that better addresses the current and emerging realities and offers equal security to all States, large and small.



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



QUETTA: Vice Chancellor BUTEMS Prof. Dr. Khaliq Hafeez inaugurating final year thesis exhibition of students of Textile & Fashion Designing Department

SC admits for hearing petition seeking fixation of appeal plea against conviction of Musharraf

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has admitted for hearing the miscellaneous petition seeking fixation of appeal plea against conviction of former president late Pervez Musharraf.

A four members larger bench of SC presided over by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa heard high treason case against Pervez Musharraf Friday.

The counsel Suleman Safdar argued Pervez Musharraf remained absent from trial being ailing. Surrender is must in connection with appeal.

Hamid Khan also appeared in the court while Abid Saqi represented Pakistan Bar Council (PBC), Rashid Rizvi appeared on behalf of Sindh High Court (SHC) Bar.

Suleman Safdar appeared in the court from the side of former president Pervez Musharraf.

The CJP remarked it is good all lawyers are present. I want to clarify I am not in favor of changing benches.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah was included in the

bench for the reason he had heard this case in the past. It is beyond comprehension that as to why cases of 2019 have not been fixed for hearing so far.

The CJP inquired has any application not been filed by any one seeking early hearing of the case.

Suleman Safdar argued Pervez Musharraf remained absent due to ailment.

The CJP remarked tell us why your appeal was not fixed for hearing for so long period. The CJP inquired is surrendering for appeal a law or practice.

The lawyer Suleman Safdar said surrender was under order 23 rule 3.

The CJP remarked some appeals are of 2019 and some are of 2020 in this case.

The lawyers replied no one among us has requested for adjournment.

The CJP remarked we are hearing the case for first time. We will move ahead by comprehending every point of the case. The court approved miscellaneous petition seeking fixation of appeal against conviction of Pervez Musharraf.

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

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

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

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

The CJP remarked the entire judicial system was annihilated. However we will bring improvement in all the matters slowly. This case was prolonged for 14 years. The petitioner remained occupant of the land for such long period. The time of courts is wasted through fabricated petitions.

The court while dismissing the ownership of land case imposed fine as well.

It is pertinent to mention here that the petitioner had challenged Lahore High Court decision in ownership of land case.

APHC urges UNSC resolutions' implementation for Kashmir dispute

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) on Friday urged the Indian government to take steps to settle Kashmir dispute according to the resolutions passed by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

The APHC jailed leadership in their separate messages said India's obstinacy and stubbornness is behind the continued bloodshed, curbs, harassment and gross human rights violations in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

They deplored that instead of taking concrete measures for settlement of the lingering Kashmir dispute in its historical perspective, New Delhi wants to keep the territory under its feet through barrel of gun and military might policy, Kashmir Media Service reported.

They said India is forcibly denying the right to self-determination of Kashmiris, for which the people of Kashmir have been giving unprecedented sacrifices for the last over seven decades.

Taliban questions motivations behind Afghan asylum requests

Monitoring Desk

KABUL: Sirajuddin Haqqani, the Acting Interior Minister of Afghanistan, vehemently refuted claims of harm to returning Afghans, categorically asserting that citizens could live in tranquility anywhere within the nation's borders. Haqqani, addressing a spectrum of concerns, revealed that some Afghans returning from abroad had purportedly misrepresented their circumstances, fabricating tales of peril under the Taliban government.

Notably, he cited cases of Afghans who had previously resided in Pakistan and other nations, asserting their safety was compromised. Dismissing these narratives, Haqqani contended that there had been no repercussions for those who had allegedly worked as translators with NATO forces or written critically about the Afghan Taliban. Contrary to reports circulating in Western media, Haqqani adamantly denied any incidents of arrests or torture of interpreters or journalists within Afghanistan.

He challenged the veracity of these claims, attributing them to misinformation aimed at seeking luxury life through political asylum in countries such as the United States, Europe, Australia, the United Kingdom, and Canada. The Acting Interior Minister expressed skepticism over the motivations behind Afghan citizens seeking asylum abroad, suggesting financial motivations as a primary driver. He argued that, despite a financial crisis, there was no disturbance to the peace and order in Afghanistan, questioning the necessity for such requests. In a bold stance, Haqqani urged international organizations like the UNHCR and Western nations to prioritize refugees from other conflict zones, including Myanmar, Iraq, Palestine, Syria, and Sudan, over Afghan asylum seekers. He underscored the need to address the global refugee crisis while emphasizing Afghanistan's stability and debunking what he deemed as baseless claims propagated by certain media outlets.

Pakistan can get a big economic push from BRI: PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar has said that Pakistan could transform its economic position by tapping the potential of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

"I expect that Pakistan would be a very important partner in this journey with the BRI" and could get a big economic push, he said in an interview with the Chinese media group CGTN.

"This is a great opportunity knocking right at our door... President Xi is asking us to come and grab that opportunity, and I am hopeful that we can do that."

Replying to a query regarding the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he said the early harvest programme which was the first phase of CPEC had already been realized that encompassed development of the Gwadar Port, road and air connectivity, and the energy projects.

He said before the launch of CPEC, Pakistan was energy deficient country, however some 8000 MW of energy had been added to the national grid under the mega project.

He maintained that the projects under CPEC had

brought positive results among common people especially those belonging to the province of Balochistan.

"We are expecting and hoping that the transformation from first phase to second phase of course will be dependent on the transformation and diversification of industrialization especially in Special Economic Zones (SEZs)," he added.

He said the second phase would actually bring in jobs creation, more livelihoods and further infrastructure in Pakistan. He explained that the BRI would help enhancing global connectivity, and the connectivity between oceans and lands to such level that seemed to be unprecedented in the documented human history.

"Mankind has never seen such depth of physical connectivity with one another which definitely does stimulate our civilizational and cultural connectivity."

Replying to a question about his recent visit to Xinjiang- the North Western area of China, the prime minister said since it was the bordering area of Pakistan's northern area Gilgit- Baltistan, therefore, it was very important for the country.

"We can not only de-

velop a lot of tourism in that region but also in rest of Pakistan through that connectivity."

He said China was a natural and reliable ally of Pakistan in all the three domains, including security, politics and economics.

The prime minister stressed the need to promote bilateral cultural exchanges, people-to-people interactions, tourism, and also collaboration of media houses from both countries.

The host mentioned that his China Media Group had also recently signed an agreement of mutual cooperation with the Pakistan's state news agency - Associated Press of Pakistan (APP). The prime minister said it was important as "we need diversified approach for different media and cultural entities for different mediums, including digital, electronic space, and content creation."

Responding to a query about the personality of President Xi Jinping, the prime minister said he saw a wise man in him. "I see a profound depth of ocean in him. We should seek more inspiration from his leadership as there is a lot which can be learned and I am keen to learn from him."

Pakistan shares plan to get 60% of energy from alternative sources by 2030 to IMF mission

ISLAMABAD (Online): The plan to obtain 60% of energy from alternative sources by 2030 has been shared with the IMF mission, according to which there is a plan to introduce 30% of electric vehicles by 2030, while the plan is to ban imported coal.

According to the sources, there have been talks between the officials of the Planning Commission on Clean Air National Policy with the IMF mission.

A proposal to spend 1 percent of GDP annually on climate change has been agreed by the IMF mission. Briefing of IMF mission on Green Energy Mix, Billion Tree Tsunami Project under Clean Air Policy.

According to sources of climate change, there is a ban on burning crop residues to control environmental pollution. Euro 5, Euro 6 transport technology policy is being implemented under the National Clean Air Policy.

A briefing was given on the mission between the Federation and the provinces on extending credit and other financing options for clean air policy.

The mission was informed that preparations are being made for the upcoming COP28 to be held in the United Arab Emirates. According to the sources, the measures of early warning system under the National Adaptation Plan were also discussed.

People, publishers involved in publication of Quran with errors warned of severe punishments

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA) has warned that under "The Publication of the Holy Quran (Elimination of Printing and Recording Errors) Act, 1973", any person or publisher, involved in the publication, translation, recording or interpretation of the Holy Quran as a whole [book] or its any part [verse(s)] with errors or changes, which is against the faith of Muslims, would face severe punishments.

Moreover, a person found involved in blasphemy of the Holy Quran, the pages of the Holy Quran or its any saying, would face life imprisonment under Section 295(B) of Pakistan Penal Code, the

Ministry of Religious Affairs said in a statement issued for the information of the general public.

"Therefore, the general public (Muslims and Non-Muslims) is appealed to take utmost care about religious matters, Holy Books and Holy Personalities, and exhibit extreme responsibility while giving opinion, making comments or writing on these matters, especially on Social Media," it added. The statement made it clear that relevant institutions of the Government of Pakistan continuously monitor any illegal, hateful or blasphemous content, and act against people involved in such crimes in the light of the country's Constitution, relevant laws and court orders.

NHMP issues traffic updates for major National Highways and Motorways

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) issued traffic updates for major national highways and motorways on Friday.

NHMP's public relations officer said that M-4 Motorway's hard shoulder is closed near Shamkot (54-km) north due to a damaged fuel tanker.

The recent updates at Lahore-Islamabad M-2

Motorway were reported that the road is closed near Kalar Kahar Service Area Slipway (241-km) north due to a car accident.

The road at N-5 Highway was closed at Bhatnagar Bridge (157-km) due to a public outcry, he added.

The M-2 Motorway was reported slippery between Kot Momin (162-km) and Tallah (213-km) due to rain.



QUETTA: Muttabhida Tribal Federation Central Chairman, Malik Amanullah Khan Kakar addresses during a ceremony held in Quetta.



QUETTA: Acting Amir Jamaat Islami Liaquat Baloch, Maulana Abdul Haq Hashmi and Maulana Hidayatur Rehman inaugurating Election Cell Office

TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer Project Division-I Quetta Invites Bids From Eligible Bidders For Execution of Following Works For The Year 2023 Based On Composite Schedule Rates 2023.

Tender Fee Rs.2000/- for each work.

S.No	Name of Work	E/Cost	Bid Security
1	Patch Work and pavement marking Airport Road during VIP visit at Quetta International Airport. TS232410359083	9.746 M	200000/-
2	Restoration of Nawa Killi BDA Bypass Road Damaged due to Flood. TS232411361063	6.00 M	120000/-

The office of the Executive Engineer Project Division-I, Quetta invites technical proposal of Contractors/firms along with sealed financial proposals (Single Stage-Two Envelope Bidding Procedure) for above mentioned work from interested firms / Contractors. All interested bidders are required to submit documents as per following brief in support of their technical/Financial proposal. The Procurement shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **BASIC ELIGIBILITY:** The Contractor must have valid registration i.e 2023-24 registered with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in category C-6 & Above with specialized codes of CE01, CE09 and CE10 and valid registration with tax authorities i.e (NTN, sales tax Department and BRA). **The Technical Proposal** shall consist of the Following Documents:- a) Name of Firm / Contractor with year of establishment along with postal address and telephone number. b) List of Technical Supervisory staff / Management Staff along with their qualifications / experience and proof of their stay with the firm, with fresh affidavit (duly attested by first class Magistrate) as per criteria specified in bidding data. c) Detail of Road Works Machinery as per details mentioned in bidding documents. d) Valid Registration / Clearance from income tax Department and BRA Original must be shown on submission / Opening the technical Proposals. e) As per BPPRA rule 25 sub rule (2) serial 3 only one bid can be submitted against one NTN. f) Detail Financial Soundness with required Turn Over given as per criteria specified in the Bidding Documents. g) The firm will be held technically non responsive if any notice, poor performance, blacklisting, court case is found against the firm. Under taking on judicial Stamp paper (duly attested by First Class Magistrate) that the firm was never black listed by any Government / Semi Government Organization. h) It is mandatory that the Contractor must show the original fresh PEC valid registration i.e 2023-24 with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) on the time of submission / opening the Technical Proposals. i) Non satisfactory performance in past or present with any executing agency will lead to the disqualification of Firm / Contractor. j) At least 02 Similar nature Projects having same cost complexity completed during the last Five (5) years (Completion Certificate of the same is to be provided issued from the concern Department / Authority). At least 01 Similar nature of Project having equal cost of the estimated cost of the project must be in hand. k) Each page of the technical/Financial Proposal must be signed / stamped and numbered. **The Financial Proposal** shall consist of the Following Documents:- i. Detail BOQ with Quoted Rates in sealed envelope mentioned the name & Title of scheme. ii. A Fixed Bid Security for amounting to Rs.200000/- & 120000/- respectively must be in the form of call deposit in favor of the office Name of the under signed from a scheduled bank of Pakistan. **No any Bank Drafts & Banker Cheque will be acceptable. BIDDING / TENDER DOCUMENTS:** The bidders can obtain the bidding document from the address Mentioned below on production of green Challan of an amount of rupees as mentioned in above table (Non-refundable) deposited in the head of account C02716 Civil works through Govt. Treasury/National Bank of Pakistan or can be downloaded from the Website of BPPRA (www.bppra.gov.pk) during working hours, from the date of publication of this invitation in newspapers till one day prior to the last date of submission. **DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION:** Technical and financial proposals from intending contractors/firms sealed envelopes must be delivered by hand or through registered mail to the address mentioned below on or before **28th November, 2023 at 11:00 Hrs**. However, the contractor must observe the following:- a) Bid shall comprise a single package containing two separate envelope. Each envelope shall contain separately the financial proposal and the technical proposal. b) Envelope shall be marked as "FINANCIAL PROPOSAL" and "TECHNICAL PROPOSAL" in bold and legible letters to avoid confusion. **OPENING:** The envelope containing "Technical Bids" will be opened on the same day **28th November, 2023 at 12:00 Hrs** before procurement committee in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend. The Second sealed envelope containing "financial bids" of technically responsive / qualified bidders will be opened later, the date of which will be communicated after evaluation of the technical bids. **Bids Validity: Ninety (90) days. Place of issuance and submission will be:-** Address: Executive Engineer, Project Division-I, Whyte Road Quetta. Telephone No : 081-9203182 Fax No: 081-9203182 **Terms and Conditions:** Terms and conditions are mentioned (incorporated) in detail in bidding documents.

PRQ No.942/10-11-2023

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EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PROJECT DIVISION-I QUETTA

Senate told All former ministers, state ministers, assistants, SAPMs returned official cars

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Friday informed the Senate that no former federal ministers, ministers of state, special assistants or advisors to the prime minister (SAPM) have taken official vehicles with themselves rather, all such vehicles had to hand over to the cabinet division in a week on expiry of the respective government's tenure.

Replying to various supplementary questions during Question Hour, the minister said that later the cabinet division utilized the said vehicles.

He also clarified that he and other incumbent caretaker ministers had 1800cc cars. As per rule 24 of the Rules for Use of Staff Cars 1980, Federal Ministers/Ministers of State/Advisors/Special Assistants to the Prime Minister with

the status of Minister/Minister of State were entitled to use 1800cc cars to be provided by the respective Ministry, he said.

However, the minister said in case of non-availability of the suitable entitled car with the Ministry concerned, the Cabinet Division provides the vehicles from its pool for the use of Federal Ministers/Ministers of State.

In response to a question raised by Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi, the minister said presently, serving Officers in BS-20-22 of the Federal Government were not entitled to have any official/personal staff at their residences.

The government would carry out an exercise to take information from the concerned departments and in case of any violation, a report would be presented before the house, he said.

He said complete de-

tails of grade-21 and 22 of officers belonging to Balochistan would also be placed before the House.

To a separate question, Murtaza Solangi apprised the house that no separate funds were sanctioned against PWD Colony, G-8/4 (152 Cat-V flats), and funds sanctioned in residential buildings in routine maintenance work. However, no funds utilized for PWD Colony G-8/4 (152 Cat-V flats) for the last two years.

To a supplementary question, he said that electricity to the Qasr-e-Naz building owned by the federal government has been disconnected due to non-payment of dues since June. The matter would be presented in the cabinet meeting, he added.

To another question, he said under the Rule of Business private counsels could be hired in complex and challenging court cases.



ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Ambassador of the Indonesia to Pakistan Adam M Tugio addressing his farewell dinner at the residence of the Dr Abrar-ul-Hussain in Federal Capital.

HEC holds workshop to encourage varsities revenue generation thru non-traditional means

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) under the Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP) project conducted an extensive capacity-building session for public sector universities on financial autonomy and revenue generation.

The purpose was to encourage higher education institutions (HEIs) to develop projects that enable them to generate funds and revenue on their own. Seventy-five senior finance officials, including Vice Chancellors, treasurers, and registrars from various public sector HEIs attended.

The workshop was focused on 26 HEIs to whom the project has disbursed Rs. 30 million each

for this activity to equip these to submit their planned projects on time and learn from other HEIs' experiences.

The allocation of public funds for the higher education sector in Pakistan remains low compared to international standards. The situation remains vulnerable owing to competing demands from other sectors on Pakistan's national budget.

Moreover, except for Sindh, the financial contribution by the provincial governments for HEIs is also negligible. Realising this, HEC is encouraging public sector HEIs to enhance the revenues from non-traditional sources beyond government grants and student fees. It is one of the key development

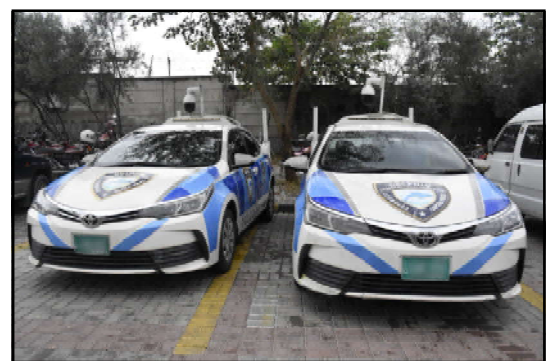
objectives of the HEDP project, where the governance of the higher education sector is to be strengthened by revenue diversification and fund generation from non-traditional sources.

Accordingly, after consultations with around 100 HEIs across Pakistan, two frameworks - one for revenue enhancement and fund generation and the other for improving financial autonomy for public sector universities have been developed.

Relevant stakeholders comprising the senior management of public sector HEIs from across Pakistan were engaged to review, improve, and provide feedback on this draft framework.

ICP enhances surveillance with Safe City smart patrol cars

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



Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police took a significant step by activating smart patrol cars equipped with high tech cameras to bolster security across the city effectively, a public relations officer said. He said that, the CPO

Safe City/Traffic has conducted a thorough examination of smart patrol cars. Prior to deploying these vehicles in the field, drivers

and operators received specific instructions to ensure optimal utilization. The Safe City Command and Control Center provides real-time coverage and oversees the surveillance of key commercial centers, markets, recreational areas.

They highly appreciated the quality standards NUST upholds and showed keen interest in developing deeper cooperation in an array of fields.

Saudi Arabian NDU delegation visits NUST

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-powered delegation from the Saudi Arabian National Defence University (SANDU), accompanied by members of the Saudi Ministry of Defence, paid a visit to the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST).

Headed by President SANDU M.G. Mohammed Alruwaili, the delegation was extended a very warm welcome, followed by a comprehensive briefing on the NUST ecosystem.

The delegates extolled the university for its remarkable global achievements and unwavering commitment to advancing applied research and fostering innovation across various domains, according to a news release.



ISLAMABAD: People are buying woolen clothes from vendors at Weekly Friday Market due to increasing coldness after first rain of winters in Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar departs for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to represent Pakistan in the emergency summit of OIC on the situation in Middle East.

Minister urges filmmakers to highlight Pakistan's true image, culture identity to local, int'l community

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah Friday stressed for boosting 'screen tourism' and reviving of cinemas in which film makers should highlight country's culture identity for local youngsters and international tourists.

Talking to a Private news channel, he said, "In Pakistan over 4000 new Cinemas are required to revive our entertainment industry, adding, present government had been taking measures to promote them to create a knowledgeable, educated and well-

formed society that could enjoy peace and prosperity."

He said, "Our regional languages, literature, culture and art will only defined the identity of a nation for our future generations, adding, poets, drama and film writers should highlight Pakistan's rich culture for not only educating the future generation but also promoting tourism at the global level."

Minister said, "The government is promoting Pakistan's narrative, focusing on heritage, youth engagement, and tourism through screen tourism,

adding, I wish to raise more awareness of the importance of viable cultural infrastructure as a way to stimulate our creativity, improve our quality of life and have tangible impacts on our economy."

Replying a question, minister stressed the need of promoting and projecting traditional culture as well as working for the uplift and betterment infrastructure of heritage sites in the country.

"It is need of hour to promote our culture sensibly to attract more international tourists in Pakistan," he added.

Benefiting common people Waseem for devising mechanism for timely signing of bills

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate Dr. Shahzad Waseem Friday called for devising a mechanism for the timely signing of bills passed by the National Assembly and Senate. During a point of order, he expressed his dismay and said that it was regrettable how bills favoring the affluent swiftly received approval, while bills designed for the betterment of the common people seemed to have disappeared.

Drawing attention to

a specific case, he highlighted a bill related to the observation of employees under the administrative control of the Federal Directorate of Education. This bill, addressing the protection of families where spouses work or reside in Islamabad Capital Territory, ensuring compliance with Article 35 and promoting the full participation of women in national life as outlined in Article 34 and guaranteed under Article 25 of the Constitution of Pakistan, has yet to be signed and is seemingly missing.

FGRF continues relief activities in war-hit Gaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Faizan Global Relief Foundation (FGRF) of the Dawat-e-Islami has been continuing its relief and aid activities for the innocent Gazans who have been facing the worst Israeli bombardment for over a month.

Molana Abdul Habib Attari, spokesperson of the Dawat-e-Islami, told APP on Friday that the FGRF had initiated relief work soon after the humanitarian crisis emerged in Gaza, Palestine due to Israeli aggression atrocities since October 7. He said the FGRF team members from Malawi, Turkey and the United Kingdom made tremendous efforts to start relief.



ISLAMABAD: Girls are writing their views on the board dedicated for the oppressed Muslims of Palestine, during the 10th Days of the Lok Mela 2023 at Lok Versa in Federal Capital.

Pak Hindu Council lights up Diwali to demand ceasefire in Gaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a striking show of solidarity with the people of Gaza, the Pakistan Hindu Council (PHC) on Friday decided to associate Diwali, the festival of lights and colours with a call for an immediate ceasefire.

The council's patron-in-chief, Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, said that Diwali is a celebration of peace and harmony, and that it is fitting to use this occasion to highlight the importance of ending the violence in Gaza.

"Diwali is the day of

victory of light against darkness," he said. "It is a message of hope for a better future. We cannot celebrate Diwali in peace while innocent people are suffering in Gaza." The council has called on the international community, including the United Nations, to take steps to ensure a lasting ceasefire and to protect the people of Gaza. "The brutal use of force is only compounding the suffering of the people of Gaza," said Dr. Vankwani. "We urge the international community to do everything in its power to end this conflict."

NA speaker remembers Captain Sarwar Shaheed on his birth anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Friday paid tribute to the courage and bravery of Captain Muhammad Sarwar Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider on his birthday anniversary being observed today (Friday).

The NA speaker in his message on the occasion said Raja Mohammad Sarwar Khan sacrificed his life while defending the homeland.

"His courage and valour will always be remembered in the history of the country," said Ashraf.

He said true nations never forget their martyrs who have made unforget-

table sacrifices for the defense of the country.

The NA speaker prayed to Allah Almighty for high ranks for the martyr.

Captain Sarwar Shaheed was born on November 10, 1910, at Singhori village in Tehsil Gujjar Khan.

He received the commission in 1944 and served at the Punjab Regiment in the newly formed Pakistan Army.

In 1947, he voluntarily took part in the battle of Kashmir.

During the battle, the Indian troops were outflanked and were forced to retreat to the Northern Areas.

AIOU inks MoU with FGEI (C/G)

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Federal Government Educational Institutions (C/G) yesterday.

According to MoU, both institutions will collaborate in teacher training, research activities and other areas of mutual interest. Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof Dr. Nasir Mahmood and Director School Affairs, FGHI (C/G), Brig Shahid Bashir signed the MoU.

On this occasion, Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that signing ceremonies are not enough, implementation of these MoUs within the time frame is necessary for the benefit of the community.

Dr. Nasir Mahmood expressed the hope that the collaboration between the two institutions will benefit the people deprived of education.

He added that the AIOU will provide full support to FGEI in the training of teachers and head teachers in inclusive education under its ongoing project GPE/Kix.

Brig Shahid Bashir emphasized strengthening the collaboration with Allama Iqbal Open University and said that we have modern training facilities, and we also provide support in teacher training including teaching children outside schools.

Director, Office of Collaboration and Exchange, Dr. Zahid Majeed, gave a detailed presentation on AIOU.

Dr. Amjad stresses commitment to social justice, empowerment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib said that BISP's mission revolves around the principles of social justice and addressing poverty by mitigating needs of the poor through income support.

Addressing at an event titled 'Bridging the Financial Inclusion Gap in Pakistan' organized by World Economic Forum's EDISON Alliance and Virtual Remittance Gateway (VRG), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib emphasized BISP's commitment to supporting disadvantaged families, enabling access to education for girls and boys, and empowering women.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan was the chief guest of this event, while Finance Minister Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Deputy Governor SBP Saleem Ullah Khan and representatives of Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, Utility Stores Corporation and JAZZ also addressed the event.

He said that Benazir Kafaalat initiative supports approximately 9.3 million families with quarterly cash assistance of Rs. 8,750 per beneficiary per family, pro-

viding crucial financial support.

Benazir Scholarship Program extends educational stipends to 8.2 million students from these families, this initiative promotes education by mitigating financial barriers, fostering future leaders.

He further said that Benazir Scholarships for Undergraduates aids 102,000 low-income students, covering tuition fees and providing an annual stipend of Rs. 40,000, ensuring equal access to quality education. Benazir Nashonuma is an essential intervention addressing malnutrition in Pakistan, benefiting 1.12 million pregnant mothers and their newborn children, significantly combating stunting.

Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib said that in times of national emergencies, BISP has been a lifeline, providing swift and efficient assistance during crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and flood relief in 2022.

Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib extended his gratitude to international donors, governmental agencies, and non-governmental organizations for their strong partnerships in achieving these milestones.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan Frederico Silva taking interest in the painting during exhibition entitled "Once you thought you knew, where you are going" at local hotel in Federal Capital.

Islamabad Admin launches anti-dengue fumigation drive

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad is facing a serious dengue threat, with the number of cases rising sharply in recent weeks and in response, the city administration has launched an all-out anti-dengue fumigation drive in various areas.

Fumigation is a process of spraying insecticide into the air to kill mosquitoes. It is an effective way to reduce the mosquito population and prevent the spread of dengue fever.

The fogging drive is being carried out under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon the Director of Health Services Metropolitan Corporation.

Health teams are fanning out across the city, spraying insecticide in residential areas, schools, slums, gardens, parks and other public spaces.

The Deputy Commissioner has urged residents to cooperate with the authorities' efforts to control the dengue virus.

He has also advised people to take precaution-

ary measures to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes, such as wearing long sleeves and pants, using mosquito repellent, and emptying any stagnant water around their homes.

The anti-dengue fogging drive is part of a larger effort by the city administration to combat dengue fever.

Other measures include increasing awareness among the public about dengue fever and its prevention, improving sanitation arrangements in the city, eliminating breeding grounds for mosquitoes, and providing treatment to dengue patients in government hospitals.

The city administration has also appealed to the private sector to cooperate with its efforts to control dengue fever. Various businesses and other organizations have been urged to take measures to prevent mosquito breeding on their premises.

The anti-dengue fogging drive is expected to have a significant impact on the spread of dengue fever in Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: Former PML-N MNA Anjum Aqeel Khan addresses during the event Youm-e-Iqbal to mark the 146th birth anniversary of National Poet, Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal at Islamabad Model School for Girls.

NIH issues advisory on Human Leptospirosis

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Institute of Health (NIH) issued awareness and communication alert for Human Leptospirosis on Friday.

According to NIH's Centre for Disease Control, the objective of this advisory is to alert and facilitate the health authorities and other stakeholders for ensuring early detection, timely management and laboratory detection of Leptospirosis cases.

The advisory said that Leptospirosis is a rare zoonotic bacterial disease caused by the bacterium belonging to Leptospira genus, transmits from animals mostly rodents, pets, cattle

and other wild animals to humans through contact with infected animal excreta.

Leptospirosis occurs worldwide but is more common in tropical and subtropical areas with high rainfall.

In recent years, cases of human and animal leptospirosis have been reported in numerous countries in the Middle East. However, sporadic cases are reported in Pakistan since past few years.

The disease is found mainly wherever humans come into contact with the urine of infected animals or a urine-polluted environment.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Saturday November 11, 2023

Pakistan's firm stand on repatriation of illegal immigrants

While the forced repatriation of the illegal and undocumented immigrants is continued uninterrupted all over the country including Balochistan, Pakistan has announced its plan to deport registered Afghan immigrants as well after their (illegal) repatriation.

Voluntary repatriation of illegal Afghan nationals to their homeland continued-nine days after the expiry of the deadline for voluntary repatriation on Oct 31.

According to the official data, on Thursday, 3,035 undocumented immigrants, including 785 men, 747 women, 1,468 children and 35 deportees, left the country for Afghanistan via Torkham border crossing.

In addition, 3,056 individuals departed for Afghanistan via Angoor Adda border crossing in South Waziristan.

As many as 197,652 immigrants-14,683 families comprising 55,394 men, 42,921 women, and 98,098 children-have so far left for Afghanistan via KP borders since September 17. An official document read that 1,207 people were also deported.

Meanwhile, the caretaker Minister Information Balochistan, Jan Achakzai's assertion is clear when he mentioned that the country's policy regarding repatriation of illegal and other immigrants is in reaction to militants using Afghanistan as a launching pad to foment terrorism in the country.

This is at time when JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman demanded the formation of a commission to deal with the issue of refugees, saying "unilateral decisions do not serve Pakistan or Afghanistan".

Earlier, at a press conference at Karachi Press Club, the provincial caretaker Information Minister claimed the government would start the same campaign against those living with legal documents in the country in line with the "state's decision".

Though the caretakers lack the authority to make policy decisions, the Minister claimed the deportation drive would not come to a halt after the elections due in February next year. And no one should be mistaken. This is the decision of a 'sovereign state' to repatriate all illegal immigrants. So any political government comes to power after the elections, this process would continue. The new government would be bound to follow this policy.

The minister claimed terrorists were using the Afghan soil to target "our security forces and that is why we have decided to send illegal immigrants to their home countries".

His claim was that six terrorists killed in Zhob last week were Afghan nationals. "With the new [Taliban] government set-up taking charge in Afghanistan two years ago, the incidents of terrorism in Pakistan have increased." During the presser, it was also mentioned by Jan Achakzai that Balochistan government has so far blocked some 100,000 fake Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) in two districts of the province. Action would also be taken against officials found responsible for the issuance of fake CNICs to the illegal immigrants. Similarly, some 20,000 fake CNICs had reportedly been blocked in Sindh.

According to him, the FIA is fully collaborating with the provincial government in tracing out the whereabouts of illegal immigrants. So far, 80,000 illegal Afghan immigrants have been sent back from Balochistan and the process of deportation would be accelerated in coming days. Needless to mention here is that talking to media in Islamabad, the JUI-F chief said Afghan refugees will have to ultimately leave Pakistan, but the "issue is being mishandled". He advocated there should be a bilateral commission to discuss and resolve the issue between both countries. However, still matter of fact remains that the interim government with full support of the military high command is firm to deport all the undocumented immigrants to their homeland at every cost. Afterwards, there would be turn of the registered immigrants including those having Proof of Registration and Afghan citizenship cards for repatriation in due course of time.



Faisal Bari

A friend wanted some advice. His son, studying for his 'A'-Levels, wanted to stop going to school, and instead, appear as a private candidate. The son's argument was simple. He said he was not being taught well in school and he wasted six hours there. All his 'A'-Level preparations were happening through tuitions that he was taking. He thought that, instead of paying for both school and tuitions, and "wasting" his time, why not just pay for tuitions, prepare more rigorously and have some time for other extracurricular activities as well.

Coming from another time, when most of the studying and learning happened in school, I tried to argue that he should stay in school. His friends were

there, he was learning social skills and could also participate in team sports. He said his school did not offer any sports opportunities and his social life was now mostly with friends who were not in his school anyway.

Times have changed. When we were in school, tuitions were rare and even when students were taking tuitions, many would not mention it to friends as it was thought that coaching outside school was for "weaker" students or an "unfair" advantage.

The 2018 sample for the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) showed eight per cent of children in government and 28pc in private schools taking private tuitions. The numbers were 7pc and 22pc in 2019 and then post-Covid, they were 20pc for students in government and 22pc for students in private schools. In other words, one in four children in their sample — and their sample is more rural and underrepresented children going to high-fee urban schools — get extra, private coaching after school. During Covid, given school closures, tu-

ition became even more important. Post-Covid, given the learning losses, tuitions continue to be important. ASER data showed 27pc of students getting tuitions during Covid.

There are coaching academies that specialise in the type of examination you want your child to sit for. For matriculation and intermediate, there are institutions that take three to four months to get your child ready for these examinations. They have demanding daily routines for practice that ensure a high level of memorisation as well as attempting past papers.

The 'A'-Level market is not dissimilar but there are individual teachers, with a reputation for preparing students for specific subjects, who have a significant market share as well.

Very much like the private school market, here too parental income matters in terms of whether a child gets tuitions or not and what quality of tuition she gets. Fewer children from government schools than private schools take tuitions (as ASER indi-

cates). This is not a reflection of a higher demand for education from parents or their children attending private schools; it is a reflection of the purchasing power of the parents.

Pakistan's education system is very inequitable as it is. Access to quality education for a child depends on factors such as parental income, the gender of the child, any disability, location and geography, religion, caste, and language. Public school education is generally of poor quality. Low-fee private schools are better but very expensive. Lahore has free government schools on one side and schools that charge up to Rs90,000 per month per child. Where education is supposed to level the playing field, allow social and economic mobility, and facilitate meritocracy, our education system entrenches existing inequalities, and in fact, exacerbates them intergenerationally. Private tuitions make the field even more uneven. Those who are better off can get better coaching for their children

while others cannot.

This problem is not unique to Pakistan. But in many other countries public education is not as bad, and private education is not as large a sector as it is in Pakistan. So, the problem, while there, is not as serious. Still other countries have also tried to deal with the issue.

There are two ways to deal with it. One is through regulation. Some countries have tried to shut down or limit the tuition market. But this is an implementation nightmare. Tuition transaction is between two willing parties. Even if it is legally banned, it is very hard to locate the transactions and try and shut them down. If a teacher is teaching in the afternoon or evening by either visiting homes or by having some children come to her home, how will the state find out about this? Even in the case of academies, if they are on every street, how can the state enforce the ban? So, this solution has not really been very effective. And it is definitely not the route one can recommend for Pakistan.

Two, some states

have tried to open up the tuition market for those who could not afford to pay for it. Stipends are given to children from lower-income backgrounds so that they too, like their peers from higher-income households, can pay for extra coaching. Again, this is not a simple solution. The Pakistani state says it does not even have money to spend on its schools and on the education sector, and we have 23 million-plus five-to-16-year-olds out of schools, so how can it give money for tuitions.

The only possible way for us to address the inequity here is by raising the quality of education at government schools. If that quality was above a certain threshold, many parents would not only shift away from private provision, they would also see that there is no need for extra tuition. Extra tuition is needed as schools are not giving adequate quality and parents feel competition requires extra effort. Short of this, the tuition market will continue to expand and develop and might, over time, even start crowding out the schooling market. - Courtesy Dawn

The tuition market

Trouble across the western border



Raouf Hasan

Given the paucity of ideas and strategy to deal with the induction of the Taliban government in Afghanistan in the aftermath of the US withdrawal, one could long foresee heating up along the Western border. But policymakers and planners, in the Foreign Office and elsewhere, have mostly remained in deep slumber.

This could either be because they felt genuinely frustrated in their effort to carve a way into the future, or they blundered in believing that, despite the drastic changes which had occurred in Afghanistan, all shall remain within their control. Well, it has boiled over, and for good reasons.

Pakistan has been caught up in an unceasing spate of terrorist attacks with origins across the border. These attacks, targeting the security personnel, have

registered a further increase in the recent past, mostly in the proximity of the former Fata region with forays deeper inside the country as well. The onset of terror intensified further after the decision by the Pakistan government to push unregistered Afghan refugees out of the country; they were given till the end of October to move out. This generated immense resentment at multiple levels encompassing the refugee population residing in Pakistan, their country of origin as well as international organizations dealing with the state of refugees throughout the world. The immediate reason why this decision was taken in such haste may never be known, but a fear had lurked for long that some from the refugee community were involved in conducting terrorist operations in Pakistan.

In the meanwhile, and mostly to placate the growing resentment, the government of Pakistan has extended by six months the validity of the registration cards held by the Afghan refugees. These cards had expired on June 30, 2023.

In an ill-advised press conference, the caretaker prime minister has alleged

that terrorism operations inside Pakistan were conducted from within Afghan territory. He claimed that the incidence of terrorism had increased by 60 per cent since the induction of the Taliban government. More than 2,000 Pakistanis died on account of these attacks in the last two years alone. During the same period, 64 Afghan terrorists were killed by Pakistani security forces.

He also complained that specific information about these attacks had been shared with the Afghan government, but no credible steps were taken to control these terrorist activities. In fact, there had been a meaningful surge therein during the past few weeks owing to some statements of the Afghan leadership, thus forcing us to take some urgent remedial measures.

He stated that the weapons left behind by the US forces were available in the black market and their use had been confirmed in these terrorist activities, and he hoped that the Taliban government would initiate immediate action against the TTP terrorists based in Afghanistan. He said that this would be in the best interest of both countries.

The choice of taking a

public posture on the issue speaks of a virtual impasse reached between the two neighbouring countries which casts an ominous shadow upon the prospect of peace in the region, more notably inside Pakistan, as also the course that the bilateral relations will take in the future. Dealing with the Taliban was never an easy task, but we gravely underestimated the inflexibility of a radical mindset that guides the formulation of policies.

Additionally, we conveniently overlooked the operational partnership between the TTA and the TTP that was instrumental in forcing the US out of Afghanistan. Throughout this period when the war was waging, we lived with the assumption that the Taliban, once they assumed power in their country, would remain obliged on account of the variety of ways we supported them through their worst times when their very survival depended on it. We thought they would also be beholden for the help we extended for the success of the Doha negotiations process leading to the ultimate withdrawal of the US troops from Afghanistan.

Even more interestingly, we remained con-

sumed with the assumption that we would continue to exercise substantial 'control' over the Taliban for a variety of reasons, mostly emanating from their apparent weakness in dealing with the military might that we may wield. As is evidenced by the present times, we believe in the use of 'force' to subdue the will and freedom of the people. But this spectrum does not relate to the pride that a people exercise when it may come to defending interests that they consider to be legitimate. In essence, we have been a victim of this fallacious assumption, thus leading to the formulation of a flawed strategy. Not only did it not bring any substantive dividends, but it has often cost us dearly in terms of having to forfeit our strategic interests.

Our foreign policy has incessantly suffered from a basic strategic flaw: that of forgetting that we are part of the South Asian region, and it is here that we are to survive and prosper. This can happen only by pursuing a policy of mutual engagement with other countries at multiple levels. This engagement should become an ongoing process that is not tam-

pered with at any stage, much less during a crisis. The lines of communication should always remain open.

Such an approach also does not envision a policy of inflicting collective punishment upon the entire refugee population in the country for the alleged crimes of a few. This would be both disproportionate and unjustifiable. Those individuals who are found involved in committing terrorist attacks should be held to account without mercy, but the rest of these displaced people must not be forced to suffer for any wrongdoings which they did not commit.

Like in so many other crises that Pakistan faces today, it is time for the state and power wielders to initiate a policy of engagement, with its own people, key stakeholders, and other countries of the region, most notably its neighbour across the western border. Remaining hostage to policies dictated from across turbulent waters will immerse us deeper in trouble with avenues of escape blocked. -- Courtesy TheNews

Beyond riba



Muhammad Azfar Ahsan

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

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

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

The historical development of Islamic banking will help us see how the Arab concept of 'amanah' emphasised entrusting reli-

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

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

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

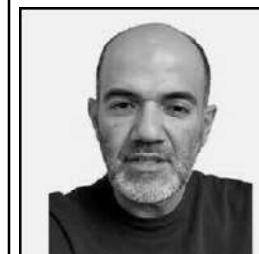
History shows several success stories of the system, and today, Islamic finance again proposes robust due diligence, stringent monitoring, and timely reporting mechanisms, mitigating money laundering and non-compliance. In this technological era, the market is coming up with the tools to work against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

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

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

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

Deprived & hateful



Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

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

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

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

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

The majority of people who have been protesting for days at the Chaman border, for example, are daily wagers. Meanwhile, rich and powerful interest groups, re-

gardless of their ethnic-national background, will continue with business as usual, especially those with close ties to the militarised state apparatus.

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

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

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

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

All this has happened as concerns about demographic change become increasingly urgent in both Sindh and Balochistan. In-

digenous communities globally have legitimate reasons to resist reduction to a demographic minority — for instance, the native population of North America.

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

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

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

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

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

Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry and Additional Chief Secretary Home Muhammad Abid Majeed were also present on the occasion.

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

"The immigrants returning back to their countries are being treated humanely and the humanitarian aspect of the matter is fully taken care of whereas elderly people, women and children are being accorded special treatment as per the traditions of the land," he

said adding that specific transit points had been set up for temporary stay of such immigrants having all the required facilities.

The chief minister maintained that an effective grievance redressal mechanism had also been put in place to address any kind of complaints or concerns of the immigrants on immediate basis adding that all out efforts were being made to ensure that every single immigrant going back home gets proper treatment and no one is mistreated. Special directives have been issued to all the relevant departments, district administrations and police to this effect, he added.



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

CM Punjab takes notice of markets' closure

Inspects Pindi Ring Road project, orders timely completion

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

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

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

matter," he added.

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

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

Conducting an aerial tour of the entire 38-km

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

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

Sindh Home Minister emphasizes collaboration for enhanced security measures

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

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

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

He instructed to expedite the deportation process and proposed

holding a follow-up meeting every Tuesday to monitor the progress of repatriating illegal immigrants.

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

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



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

Arshad emphasizes role of education in students' growth, success

ABBOTTABAD: The Caretaker Minister for Law, Human Rights, and Religious and Minority Affairs, Justice @ Syed Arshad Hussain Shah Friday has called on parents and teachers to actively encourage students in their educational pursuits for enhanced growth and success.

He expressed these views while addressing a parents' day ceremony at a private college in Abbottabad.

Principal of the school Brig. @ Qamar Zaman also addressed the ceremony, shedding light on the institute's activities, achievements, and future plans.

Caretaker Provincial Minister, underscored the collaborative efforts between the private sector and the provincial government to enhance the quality of education.

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

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

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

He acknowledged the hard work and dedication of teachers and students, stating that education goes beyond textbooks and exams. The achievements of students are intertwined with positive thinking, character building, and guidance in the right direction, all of which are provided by teachers and parents for a secure future.

5 ASPs promoted as SP, CM pins badges

LAHORE (APP): A ceremony was held at the Chief Minister's Office here on Friday in connection with promotion of five assistant superintendents of police (ASPs) as the superintendents of police (SP).

Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Dr. Usman Anwar announced promotion of the officers including Salman Zafar, Timur Khan, Bashira Nisar, Sidra Khan and Manza Karamat. Families of the promoted officers were especially invited to the ceremony.

The caretaker chief minister congratulated the promoted officers and pinned badges on them.

Mian Aslam Iqbal's brother quits PTI

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former minister Mian Aslam Iqbal's brother Mian Amjad Iqbal announced quitting the party, here on Friday. He said in a statement that he did not believe in the politics of resistance. He said the path that the PTI had taken thus far was strictly against development and construction of the country, adding that he believed in betterment of people and playing a constructive role in it. He said he would contest election as an independent candidate from PP-171 in place of his brother Mian Aslam Iqbal.

Travel Mart Mela concludes

LAHORE (APP): The biggest-ever tourism event, "Travel Mart Mela" has concluded in London and Special Assistant to PM on Tourism Syed Wasi Ahmad Fatimi appreciated efforts of Pakistani embassy in London for setting up Pakistan Pavilion at the show. According to a press release, issued here on Friday, tourism of Azad Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and other provinces of Pakistan.

Special cabinet meeting approves increase in stipends of TMOs

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Caretaker Minister for Establishment, Administration, and Inter-Provincial Relations Syed Masood Shah here Friday chaired a special cabinet meeting and discussed matters relating to healthcare and administration.

The meeting was also attended by Chief Secretary, administrative secretaries, and other senior officials.

The agenda included discussions on various issues related to healthcare, administration, and matters relating to outsourcing of

different hospitals in different districts in the province.

The meeting also considered recommendations to increase monthly stipends for Trainee Medical Officers (TMOs) in the hospitals. Talking to the media after the meeting, Dr. Riaz Anwar, Special Advisor on Health emphasized the role of trainee medical officers in the healthcare system. He highlighted the demand of the medical community for a stipend increase and said that the cabinet has approved a 10 percent increase in stipends.

Thal Jeep Rally: Courts to remain closed in 3 district on Nov 11

LAHORE (APP): The courts of three districts would remain closed on Saturday, Nov 11, in connection with Thal Jeep Rally conduct.

According to details, the Lahore High Court (LHC) chief justice approved the local judicial leave in three districts including Muzaffargarh, Kot Addu and Layyah on November 11. A notification was issued on Friday in this regard. The four-day 8th Thal Jeep Rally 2023 started on Thursday, Nov 9. More than 100 famous jeep racers from across the country are participating in the rally.



LAHORE: Shops are closed after the notification of smart lockdown by the local authority due of Smog in the city.

Minister hails govt's steps to combat smog

LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Transport Minister Ibrahim Hasan Murad has lauded the proactive measures taken by the Punjab government, coupled with timely rains, resulting in a substantial reduction in smog.

In a statement on Friday, he emphasized that sustained improvement hinges on the collaborative efforts of the public aligning with governmental initiatives.

The minister anticipates positive impact on smog in the coming days, due to the reduction

in traffic on roads in four days. He refers to a report stating that 70 percent of smog emanates from public transport, including rickshaws, motorcycle-rickshaws and motorbikes. In light of this, he earnestly appealed to the public, urging them to refrain from plying smoke-emitting vehicles, cautioning of stringent fines for non-compliance.

Expressing optimism regarding the Air Quality Index (AQI) maintaining a favorable level in the coming week, Murad underscored the imperative role of public cooperation.

We will unite with all except PTI and PPP, Bashir Memon

KARACHI (Online): PML-N President Sindh Bashir Memon said that he will unite with everyone except PTI and PPP in Sindh elections.

While giving an interview to Private TV Channel, he said that PPP is forming an alliance in Sindh. Bashir Memon has imposed allegation that houses worth billions were built in Sindh in 15 years.

PPP is against it because of being the head of JIT against Asif Ali Zardari.

President of Sindh further said that PPP has done Anti-PPP activities in Sindh in 15 years.

18,107 power theft, 9,360 drug-trafficking cases registered

LAHORE (APP): CCPO Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana said on Friday that 18,107 cases of electricity theft and 9,360 cases of drug selling had been registered so far this year. In a statement issued here, he said 3,338 cases of electricity theft were registered in Iqbal town division and 1,179 in Sadar. Also, 2,029 cases were registered in Cantt, 1791 in Model Town, 1,984 in City and 1,006 cases were registered in Civil Lines division.

were registered in Model Town division. He said that 3,618 cases were registered in City division and 1,320 cases in Civil Lines.

Kamyana said 1,371 cases of drug-trafficking were registered in Iqbal town division and 1,179 in Sadar. Also, 2,029 cases were registered in Cantt, 1791 in Model Town, 1,984 in City and 1,006 cases were registered in Civil Lines division.

Drug smuggler arrested with 5kg heroin

BUREWALA (APP): CIA police arrested an alleged drug smuggler and recovered five kg of heroin while he was attempting to transport it to Burewala from Peshawar, police said on Friday.

On the orders of DPO Vehari Esa Khan Sukhaura, Incharge CIA Burewala Malik Muhammad Zaman, accompanied by a police team led by SHOPS Gaggio Mandi Adnan Tipu.



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

Army establishes four medical units in North Waziristan

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Army in assistance with Mari Petroleum Company Limited (MPCL) has established four medical units in North Waziristan to facilitate the population of this far-flung area.

The mobile units, prepared under the CSR were equipped with lab tests systems, ECG, Ultrasound and blood pressure testing systems. A team of specialist doctors including lady doctors and para-medical staff have been deployed at these medical units to provide medical cover to the local people.

In charge medical

units said, initially, the medical units were established in Gardai and Shewa areas of North Waziristan that would later be extended to other areas. Reason behind establishing these medical units was to provide better medical facilities to the locals at their doorstep. So far 402 patients including 129 male, 77 female and 96 children have been provided medical cover through these medical units. Apart from treatment, the locals were also provided awareness regarding preemptive measures against diseases and free of charge medicines at these medical units.

ANF seizes over 207 kg drugs in six operation; arrests seven

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations across the country managed to recover over 207 kg drugs and arrested seven accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday.

He informed that in an operation near G.T.Road, Attock, ANF recovered 10 kg charras and 520 grams heroin from a rickshaw and arrested an accused, resident of Attock.

In another operation at a house in Narowal, 7.5 kg heroin was recovered.

The spokesman informed that in third operation in Mianwali, 3.5 kg charras concealed in a motorcycle was recovered while an accused resident of Waziristan was rounded up.

In fourth operation conducted in Sambrial, 2100 grams charras was recovered from the possession of an accused, a resident of Waziristan.



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

Malaysian delegation visits Punjab pavilion at Lok Mela

RAWALPINDI (APP): A Malaysian delegation led by Dr Ajjal Hussain Shah here on Friday visited the Punjab Pavilion at the Lok Mela. According to the Punjab Arts Council (PAC) spokesman, the Director of the Arts Council Waqar Ahmed welcomed the delegation. On this occasion, the Director PAC gave a detailed briefing to the delegation about the stalls and handicrafts in the

Punjab Pavilion. Waqar said that the folk fair was aimed to promote and preserve the province's arts, crafts, culture, folk music and storytelling skills. He suggested that in future, such fairs should be organized in other provinces of the country. Handicrafts have the status of regular industry in Punjab while presenting artisans from across the province.



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

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

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

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

He said that the PSX had recorded robust activity which would also have a salutary impact on other sectors. He categorically denied that the SBP had claimed any quota restrictions on

imports. "It is the issue of banks", he said.

He further said that the SBP was launching a web portal under the title of "Shunwai" to redress bank-related complaints instantly. He said that withholding the payments of importers without transferring it to departments concerned was a serious issue and the SBP would look into it. He was unhappy over delay in the import of IT-related equipment and appliances and said that the government was trying to encourage IT and hence the import of computers should be given priority. Responding to a question about small traders, he said that under the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, people up to the age of 45 years could

get Rs500,000 interest-free loans. He said that the bank was also trying to facilitate the exporters so that they could earn maximum dollars for the country. He further said that economic stability was directly linked with the SME sector and Rs60bn had been allocated for this sector at subsidized rates. He said that the banking system was digitalized in order to discourage maximum cash transactions. "Currency notes of Rs. 9 trillion are in circulation and to squeeze its volume, we are promoting mobile cheques and online payment systems," he added.

He said that the government was encouraging construction of warehouses to store commodities.



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

Smart Agriculture Forum in Beijing attracts Pakistani experts, entrepreneurs

BEIJING (APP): The Smart Agriculture Forum was held on the sidelines of World Agrifood Innovation Conference in Beijing which attracted over 200 agricultural experts from China and around the world.

During the forum, experts and entrepreneurs from the United States, Germany, Australia, Japan, Pakistan, and China delivered presentations, sharing the latest research advancements and practical applications in smart agriculture, CEM reported.

Precision agriculture and digital farming.

"In recent years, real-time technology has revolutionized the application of weedicides, pesticides, and fungicides. We have conducted several training workshops on variable rate technology (VRT) which enables precise allocation of agricultural inputs based on spatial variations in soil, topography, fertility levels, and other field characteristics, utilizing GPS/GIS map-based and sensor-based applications," stated Dr Muhammad Naveed Tahir.

He also shared his experience in establishing Smart Internet of Things (IoT) Farm.

The similar climatic conditions in China and Pakistan offer a significant opportunity for Pakistan to learn from China's expertise in precision agriculture and improve agricultural outputs.

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

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

Director General Trade Disputes Resolution Organization, Ministry of Commerce, Abdul Salam Shah on Friday told APP that the new law for the resolution of trade disputes was coming in the cabinet to define a time frame to resolve the different disputes of international trade through "The Trade Dispute Act 2022."

Under the new law, trade disputes would be decided in a time frame for providing 'Ease of Doing Business' to the Import and export business, he



QUETTA: A delegation of Zamindar Action Committee meeting with Chief Executive Officer QESCO Engineer Shafqat Ali at QESCO Headquarters.

Rupee sheds 14 Paisa against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Friday witnessed 14 paisa depreciation against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 287.03 against the previous day's closing at Rs 286.89.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 287 and Rs 289.5 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by 26 paisa to close at Rs 306.26 against the last day's closing of Rs 306.00, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen lost one paisa to close at Rs 1.89; whereas a decrease of 95 paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs350.52 as compared to the last closing of Rs351.47.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 03 and 05 paisa to close at Rs78.14 and Rs76.52 respectively.

Schedule of Allama Iqbal Express train changed

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Railways administration has decided to change the schedule of Allama Iqbal Express (9 Up) running between Karachi Cantt and Sialkot for the convenience of the public.

According to details, shared by the PR spokesperson on Friday, Allama Iqbal Express (9 Up) train would depart from Karachi Cantt at 3:30 p.m., instead of its previous departure time of 2:15 p.m., and it will reach Sialkot at 6 p.m. on the following day. Moreover, there is a change in the schedule of the Shaheen Passenger (226 Dn) operating between Sialkot and Wazirabad. The train will depart from Sialkot at 7 p.m., instead of its previous departure time of 6 p.m., and it will reach Wazirabad at 8:05 p.m. on the same day.



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

SECP standardizes IPO approval process

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

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

The circular has also set a 15-day window for the Pakistan Stock Exchange Limited (PSX) to complete the entire post-approval procedures for listing.

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



LAHORE: General Secretary of Anjuman-e-Tajran Naeem Mir addressing press conference along with others traders at Press club against the administration for closing their shops by force on the name of smart lock down because of smog conditions in Provincial Capital.

Fly Jinnah increases flight frequency on three key routes

KARACHI (APP): Fly Jinnah, Pakistan's low-cost carrier, has announced an increase in its flight frequency on three key routes within its network. Starting from November 15, 2023, the airline will offer daily flights between Karachi and Quetta, Quetta and Islamabad, in addition to thrice daily flights between Karachi and Lahore. According to the statement issued on Friday, this expansion demonstrates Fly Jinnah's unwavering commitment to its customers, focusing on offering its customers a seamless travel experience with more connectivity and convenience. By increasing the frequency of these routes, Fly Jinnah aims to cater to the growing demand for accessible and affordable air travel, statement stated.

The carrier currently operates a fleet of three

modern Airbus A320 aircraft, the most modern and best-selling single-aisle aircraft in the world. Extra comfort to passengers, with the most generous seat-pitch of any economy cabin have been added to it. The aircraft is also equipped with "SkyTime", a free in-flight streaming service that allows passengers to stream a wide selection of entertainment directly to their devices. On top of that, passengers can enjoy a wide variety of delicacies between snacks, sandwiches and meals from the on-board "SkyCafe" menu at affordable prices.

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

SCCI demands action against sale of smuggled Iranian oil

PESHAWAR (APP): President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Fuad Ishaq expressed grave concern over sale of smuggled Iranian petrol and diesel at dabbha station and demanded the authorities concerned to take immediate action against the dabbha stations and remove the concerns of genuine petrol pump owners.

Fuad Ishaq made this demand during a meeting with a high-level delegation of owners and dealers of petroleum pumps led by Sarhad Petroleum and Cartage Dealers Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (SP&CDA-KP) chairman Abdul Majid Khan and the patron-in-chief of the association and former president SCCI Engr Maqsood Anwar Pervez, held at SCCI House here Friday.

Ijaz Khan Afridi, Vice President and Sajjad Aziz, General Secretary of the SCCI were also present on

this occasion.

The delegation consisted of the SP&CDAKP General Secretary Gul Nawaz Khan, Khalid Khan, Mohammad Izhar Khan Afridi, Saifullah, Faisal Irfan and others. Senior office bearers of the Association apprised the meeting about reservations of pumps owners and dealers regarding open sale of the smuggled Iranian oil and diesel at dabbha stations, harassment by local administration through various means during checking the petrol measurement and enforcement of policies, delay in issuance of 'Form K', despite granting No-Objection Certificate (NoC) to petrol pumps.

Fuad Ishaq on the occasion, assured the Chamber will continue its efforts to resolve all the above-mentioned problems by taking up with the federal and provincial governments and related institutions and authorities.

Weekly inflation goes up by 0.73 percent

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

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

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 29.86 percent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban

centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

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

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

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 20 (39.22%) items increased, 8 (15.69%) items decreased and 23 (45.09%) items remained stable.

The items, which recorded a decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week (WoW) included gur (2.43%), vegetable ghee 1 kg (0.36%).

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

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

bilateral trade and economic cooperation between both countries and to stabilize global supply chains and strengthening partnership. Chief Guest Senator Zeeshan Khanzada



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

investments. The Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) Mr. Umar Masood Ur Rehman and Mr. Kim Byung, Chairman of KOIMA signed the agreement on behalf of their organizations. The signing MOU was witnessed by the Chief Guest Senator Zeeshan Khanzada, Aminullah Baig, Vice President of FPCCI and chairman of Capital Office, Korean Ambassador H.E. Park Ki Jun, and FPCCI's past Vice President Qaisar Khan Daudzai & Convenor Capital Office Syed Asad Mashadi. The Primary objective of this MoU is to expand and diversify the

expressed his gratitude on celebrations of 40th anniversary of Pak-Korea diplomatic relations and underscored the strong potential for future collaboration to intensify cooperation in all fields including political, economic, cultural and people-to-people contacts. The ceremony was also attended by the members of different Chambers of Commerce and Trade Associations of Gilgit Baltistan prominently Farukh Alvi, Khunood Zehra, Khosnoor Didar, Arif Malik, Abid Ali, Awaiz Satti. Mr. Khurshid Barlas, Nadeem Mansoor Syed and other also attended the session.



LAHORE: A delegation of Jhang Chamber of Commerce and Industry meeting with Caretaker Provincial Minister for Commerce and Industries SM Tanveer.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Five ships namely, Singapore, Cosco America, Mandarin River, Zekreet and Ullswater, scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice, LNG and LPG, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Elengy Terminal and Sui Southern Gas Terminal respectively on Thursday.

Meanwhile another edible oil carrier 'Maritime Nordic' also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port on same day.

A total of ten ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them four ships, Bellini, Singapore, Cosco America and SG Pegasus left the Port on today morning, while another bulk cargo carrier 'Pacific Pride' is expected to sail on today afternoon.

Gold rates up by Rs 1,300

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 1,300 and was sold at Rs 213,100 on Friday compared to its sale at Rs 211,800 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 1,114 to Rs 182,698 from Rs 181,584 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs 167,474 from Rs 166,452.

Meezan Bank collaborates with SAFCO SMCL for launch of Islamic SMCL

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant development for Islamic finance, Meezan Bank, Pakistan's leading Islamic bank has joined hands with SAFCO Microfinance Company Private Limited (SMCL) to establish its inaugural Islamic microfinance branch, operating under the brand name 'Yaqeen' in Hyderabad, Pakistan.

This milestone reflects the collaborative effort between the two entities, with Meezan Bank playing a pivotal role in extending Rs. 100 million financing, technical support for product development, capacity building, and training according to a news release. The inauguration of SMCL's first Islamic microfinance branch serves as a testament to Meezan Bank's substantial contribution to the

advancement of the Islamic finance sector. Through 'Yaqeen', SMCL aims to extend Shariah-compliant microfinance services to underprivileged and low-income individuals, underlining its commitment to offering a diverse range of microfinance services in strict compliance with Shariah principles. At the inauguration event, Suleman G. Abro-Founder, President & CEO of SMCL, and Syed Sajjad Ali Shah, Managing Director & VP of SMCL, highlighted the company's vision for Islamic finance, emphasizing the pivotal role played by Meezan Bank's expertise and support in enabling this transformative journey. Ahmed Ali Siddiqui, Group Head Shariah Compliance at Meezan Bank expressed his profound satisfaction with the launch of SMCL's.



MULTAN: Vendors displaying seasonal fruit mosambi to attract the customers at fruit market.

Palestinian officials say Israeli air strikes hit Gaza hospitals

Monitoring Desk
GAZA: Israeli air strikes hit Gaza's biggest hospital, the Al Shifa, on Friday, killing one person and wounding others sheltering there, Palestinian officials said, one of several hospitals reported struck at dawn as Israel battles Hamas in the heart of the enclave. Officials said other strikes had damaged parts of the Indonesian Hospital and hit vehicles outside the Rantissi cancer hospital in the northern part of Gaza, where Israel says Hamas militants who attacked it last month are concentrated. Israeli tanks, which have been advancing through northern Gaza for almost two weeks, have taken up positions around the Rantissi, Al-Quds and Nasser Children's hospitals, raising concern for patients, doctors and evacuees there,

medical staff said. "Israel is now launching a war on Gaza City hospitals, on Rantissi, Nasser hospitals and on Al Shifa," Muhammad Abu Selmeyah, director of Gaza's main Shifa hospital, told Reuters. Israel did not immediately comment but says it does not target civilians and goes to great lengths to avoid hitting them. It says Hamas militants have hidden command centres and tunnels beneath Al Shifa and other hospitals, allegations which Hamas denies. "While the world sees neighbourhoods with schools, hospitals, scout groups, children's playgrounds and mosques, Hamas sees an opportunity to exploit," the Israeli military said. The month-old Israeli

military campaign to wipe out Hamas, following the militants' Oct. 7 raid on southern Israel, has left Gaza's hospitals struggling to cope, as medical supplies, clean water and fuel to power generators have been running out. Israel has faced growing calls for restraint as the Palestinian death toll increases, but says Hamas will just take advantage of any significant pause in its military campaign. Palestinian officials said 10,812 Gaza residents had been killed as of Thursday, about 40% of them children, in air and artillery strikes. Israel says 1,400 people were killed, mostly civilians, and about 240 taken hostage by Hamas in the Oct. 7 raid that triggered its assault. Israel says it has lost 39 soldiers in Gaza.



Palestinians flee northern parts of Gaza Strip and head towards south as Israeli forces penetrate deep inside the besieged enclave.

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

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The State Department cleared an estimated \$2.5 billion foreign military sale of M1A2 Abrams Main Battle Tanks to Romania, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency said Nov. 9. DSCA notified Congress, which must approve the sale, today. Romania wants to buy 54 of the General Dynamics Land Systems-manufactured M1A2 SEPv3 Abrams tanks, 54 M1A1 structures, four M88A2 Hercules Combat Recovery Vehicles, four M1110 Joint Assault Bridges, four M1150 Assault Breacher Vehicles and four Heavy Assault Scissor Bridges. The order would also include 54 M240C 7.62mm machine guns, 5,940 120mm M1147 High Ex-

plosive, Multipurpose, Tracer (HEMP-T) cartridges, 4,230 120mm M1002 Target Practice Multipurpose, Tracer (TPMP-T) cartridges and a variety of other support equipment. Romanian lawmakers approved the National Defence Ministry's request to buy 54 used M1A2 Abrams tanks from the United States in May 2023. At the time the cost was estimated to be worth 1 billion euros (\$1.1 billion). The Romanian government is accelerating work on a number of procurements, including plans to buy new armored vehicles, missiles systems, warships, 155mm howitzers and the F-35 Lightning II fighter jet in the aftermath of Russia's attack against Ukraine.

Biden to meet Xi on Wednesday in San Francisco Bay area, US officials say

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden will meet Chinese President Xi Jinping face-to-face for the first time in a year on Wednesday, according to senior US officials, high-stakes diplomacy aimed at curbing tensions between the world's two superpowers. The closely watched interaction, on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in the San Francisco Bay area, could last hours and involve teams of officials from Beijing and Washington. It is expected to cover global issues from the Israel-Hamas war to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, North Korea's ties with Russia, Taiwan.

Eight die in car crash as US police chase migrant smuggler

Monitoring Desk
HOUSTON: Eight people, several of them from Honduras, were killed on Wednesday in a two-car collision in the southern US state of Texas involving an alleged migrant smuggler attempting to evade arrest, officials said. Police said the driver of a white Honda was transporting five undocumented migrants and fleeing sheriffs on a road about 60 miles (100 kilometres) from the Mexican border when he passed a truck and collided with another car, killing the couple inside. Seven victims died at the scene, while an eighth died later in hospital, a spokesperson for the Texas Department of Public Safety said. Several of the migrants who were killed in the white Honda were from Honduras, according to police. US authorities have intercepted some six million migrants at its southern border since President Joe Biden assumed office in January 2021.



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

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

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Japanese and British foreign and defense ministers met Tuesday and agreed to further deepen military cooperation under a new security pact that allows their militaries to enter each other's territory for joint exercises. Japan and Britain have expanded their cooperation in recent years as concern has grown over China's increasing influence. Japan, whose only treaty ally is the United States, has signed Reciprocal Access Agreements with Australia and the U.K., making them semi-allies. The talks in Tokyo among Japanese Foreign

Minister Yoko Kamikawa and Defense Minister Minoru Kihara and British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly and Defense Secretary Grant Shapps are the first since the RAA took effect in mid-October. They met on the sidelines of a gathering of foreign ministers from the Group of Seven industrialized nations on Tuesday and Wednesday that is expected to focus on the Israel-Hamas war, the Russia-Ukraine war and tension in the Indo-Pacific region. Later Tuesday, Shapps told several selected journalists, including from The Associated Press, that the reason for their

meeting is to show in the Indo-Pacific "that despite what's going on in Europe, and despite what's going on in the Middle East, we are still here today, and that I think shows our enduring strength of our relationship with Japan." The four ministers agreed to expand their joint exercises, including the annual Japan-UK joint exercise, Vigilant Isles 23, starting later this month, according to a joint statement issued after their talks. They also agreed on using the RAA to realize an "even more ambitious program of more frequent and complex exercises" than before.

Russia's Putin meets military top brass to discuss Ukraine war

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday discussed the war in Ukraine with his military top brass including Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and General Staff V a l e r y Gerasimov, chief of the general staff. Pictures released by the Kremlin showed Putin at meeting with Shoigu, Gerasimov and General Sergei Rudskoy, head of the General Staff's Main Op-

erational Directorate, at the southern military grouping's headquarters in Rostov. "The supreme commander in chief was shown new models of military equipment," the Kremlin said. "The head of state heard reports on the progress of the special military operation." Putin last month visited the military headquarters in Rostov, where Wagner mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin began a failed mutiny in June.

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

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The U.S. military strikes in Syria are aimed at destroying weaponry and deterring Iranian-backed separatist groups from targeting American personnel in the region in the wake of the Israel-Hamas conflict, the White House said on Thursday. The United States carried out strikes on Wednesday against a weapon storage facility in eastern Syria that the Pentagon said was used by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and affiliated groups. President Joe Biden said the United States had to respond after U.S. troops were targeted and that the retaliatory strikes were working. Asked if the U.S. military would respond again, Biden told reporters it would if it had to. White House spokesman John Kirby separately told CNN that the U.S. strikes "had a practical impact on their ability to arm these groups, but also to send a strong signal of deterrence."

"These groups have a choice to make: If they want to continue to attack our troops in Iraq and Syria, then they're gonna have to face the consequences for that," Kirby added. U.S. and coalition troops have been attacked at least 40 times in Iraq and Syria by Iran-backed forces since the start of October, as tensions soar over Israel's bombardment of Gaza in retaliation for Hamas militants' Oct. 7 attack. Forty-five U.S. troops have suffered traumatic brain injuries or minor wounds. The United States has occasionally carried out retaliatory strikes against Iranian-backed forces in the region after they attack American forces, including one on Oct. 26. Iran has denied involvement. Tehran's ambassador to the United Nations, Amir Saïd Iravani, said on Thursday separatist groups were responding to the Israeli assault that has killed more than 10,800 Palestinians in Gaza.

North Korea shipping arms to Russia, alleges US

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday condemned North Korea for sending arms to help the Russian invasion of Ukraine, as he held meetings with top officials in key ally South Korea. The United States, South Korea and Japan have in recent weeks repeatedly criticised Pyongyang for helping Russia pursue its military campaign in Ukraine, with Seoul saying North Korea has sent a million artillery rounds. Blinken is in Seoul following a G7 foreign ministers' meeting in Japan. He met with South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol in Seoul on Thursday. They "strongly condemned the provision of military equipment and munitions by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to the Russian Federation for use in its war against Ukraine", the US State Department said in a readout of Blinken's meeting with Yoon. Earlier, Blinken met South Korean national security advisor Cho Tae-yong. He thanked Cho for South Korea's "commitment to providing assistance to Ukraine", according to a State Department readout. Historic allies Russia and North Korea are both under international sanctions — the former for its invasion of Ukraine.

Caretaker gov powers in New Zealand extended

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

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

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: Taiwan will stress the importance of peace in the region at next week's APEC summit, President Tsai Ing-wen said on Friday, one of the few international bodies both Taiwan and China are members of and where their officials meet. The 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum will meet in San Francisco for the 30th APEC summit, the first hosted by the United States since 2011. Chinese-claimed and democratically ruled Taiwan, which takes part in APEC as "Chinese Taipei" and does not send its president to summits, has faced increased military pressure from Beijing including two rounds of major war games over the past year and a half. Tsai told reporters at the presidential office that the first message she wanted her representative to APEC, chip giant TSMC, founder Morris Chang, to send at the sum-

mit was that Taiwan was dedicated to promoting regional peace and prosperity. "At a time when the world is facing various challenges, we must work together to reduce conflicts in the region and jointly create a peaceful and stable environment for regional economic development," she said. "Taiwan is a reliable, safe, and trustworthy partner in the international community," Tsai added. Chang, speaking after Tsai, said he believed no APEC member would oppose peace, prosperity and development. Neither the president nor Chang, representing Tsai for the sixth time at an APEC summit, took questions. APEC has traditionally been one of the few forums where China and Taiwan talk, even if just in passing for pleasantries. China has not formally confirmed President Xi Jinping's attendance at this year's summit.



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

Mossad, CIA chiefs hold prisoner talks in Qatar

Monitoring Desk
DOHA: The CIA and Mossad chiefs met with the Qatari prime minister in Doha on Thursday to discuss the parameters of a deal for prisoner releases and a pause in Israeli aggression in the Gaza Strip, a source briefed on the meeting. According to Reuters, the Palestinian group Islamic Jihad announced that they are ready to release two Israeli prisoners, a woman and a boy, for humanitarian and medical reasons, a spokesperson for the Al Quds Brigades said in a recorded message. He added that the initiative

would take place once appropriate measures are met. David Barnea, head of Israel's Mossad intelligence service, CIA Director William Burns and Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman al-Thani held the meeting after Qatari mediators met officials from the Hamas political office on Wednesday night and discussed potential parameters of a deal. The advantage of the trilateral meeting was to bring all three parties together at one table in real-time to speed up the process, the source said.

Myanmar junta fears break-up of country

Monitoring Desk
YANGON: Myanmar's junta-backed president said the country is at risk of breaking apart if the military cannot crush a joint offensive by ethnic armed groups along the border with China, state media reported on Thursday. Fighting has raged for almost two weeks across northern Shan state near the China border, posing what analysts say is the biggest military challenge to the junta since it seized power in 2021. "If the government does not effectively manage the incidents happening in the border region,

French court rejects appeal to extradite Ukrainian billionaire Zhevago

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: A French court rejected an appeal from the Ukrainian government and ruled that Ukrainian billionaire Kostyantyn Zhevago should not be extradited over accusations of embezzlement, a court spokesperson said on Friday. Zhevago, who controls London-listed iron pellet producer Ferrexpo (FXPOL), was arrested at a French ski resort in December 2022 at the request of Ukraine, which wants him for alleged embezzlements involving a now-collapsed bank. Zhevago has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing.

"(The court) concludes that the petitioning state (Ukraine) is not able to guarantee that Mr. Zhevago will be tried by a court that can ensure fundamental procedural guarantees and protection of the defence rights," said a court verdict obtained by Reuters. Ukraine issued an arrest warrant in 2019 for Zhevago, 49, who served in parliament from 1998 to 2019, with an international arrest warrant following in 2021. "My commitment to refuting the baseless allegations made against me in Ukraine remains unwavering," Zhevago said in a statement.

Brazil arrests two with suspected Hezbollah ties plotting attack

Monitoring Desk
RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil's Federal Police on Wednesday arrested two people in a group suspected of being financed by Hezbollah that was allegedly preparing domestic attacks and looking to recruit Brazilians, three sources with knowledge of the probe told Reuters. The Federal Police said in a statement they arrested two people, who they did not name, on terrorism charges in Sao Paulo. They also carried out search and seizure warrants in Sao Paulo, Brasilia and Minas Gerais states.

Portuguese fear March snap election won't solve political crisis

Monitoring Desk
LISBON: Portugal goes to the polls in March following the abrupt resignation of the prime minister amid a corruption probe, but voters and analysts fear prolonged political instability as the economic outlook worsens. Antonio Costa stepped down on Tuesday over an investigation into alleged illegalities in his government's handling of green energy projects, forcing President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa to call the snap election for March 10. Costa denies wrongdoing. Opinion polls are scarce but a survey by Aximage two weeks ago, before the political crisis, showed Costa's Socialist Party (PS) with 28.6% of voter support and the centre-right opposition Social Democrats (PSD) with 24.9%. Andre Azevedo Alves, political science professor at Lisbon's Catolica Uni-

versity and St Mary's University in London, said the corruption investigation was a "very strong blow" to any PS ambitions. Costa has been in power since 2015. Analysts agree the PSD is likely to come out on top, but doubt its ability to build enough support to form a stable government. Andre Ventura, the populist leader of the far-right Chega, the third-largest force in parliament, could become a kingmaker for the PSD if it fails to clinch a majority, but PSD chief Luis Montenegro has so far ruled out any such alliance. "Assuming the likelihood that the PSD will not have (enough) votes to form a government without Chega... we may go from one political crisis to another," Alves said. Ana Bernardino, 23, echoed these concerns while waiting for a bus in central Lisbon.



"Israel's security and right to exist are not negotiable for Germany," said Laise Amsberg, Germany's commissioner for human rights policy and humanitarian assistance and head of its delegation at UN UPR.

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

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

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

Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said Pakistan was deeply concerned about the heinous crimes being committed against the Palestinian people as Israeli forces continued with their "campaign of terror and brutality" in Gaza.

She said over a month, the people of Gaza had been subjected to the worst forms of collective punishment.

"Israeli forces are committing crimes against humanity with impunity as they indiscriminately massacre defenceless civilians and deliberately deprive them of food, water, shelter and medical care," she said.

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

She said as a tragedy of epic proportions unfolds in Gaza, the United Nations Security Council must act to fulfill its responsibility to uphold peace and call for an urgent and unconditional ceasefire, lifting of the siege, and commencement of rapid, unhindered humanitarian assistance.

The spokesperson said Pakistan welcomed the forthcoming Extraordinary Islamic Summit being held

on 11th November in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The OIC Summit has been convened in response to the unprecedented Israeli attacks on Gaza and its environs, which have posed a grave threat to the civilian population and precipitated a humanitarian crisis.

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

"Pakistan will continue to play its role to advance international consensus and galvanize efforts for an urgent end to Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people and urgent provision of relief assistance to the people of Gaza," she said.



ISTANBUL: Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haq participating in Palestine Solidarity March

Siraj calls for Hamas' participation in OIC summit

ISTANBUL/LAHORE (PR): Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Sirajul Haq has urged the inclusion of the Hamas leadership as representative of the people of Palestine in the upcoming OIC Summit, slated to take place in Riyadh on Sunday.

This call was made during a meeting of Islamic movement leaders in Istanbul. The JI chief who is visiting Turkey followed a three-day tour of Iran, also engaged in discussions on the Palestine issue with Turkey's Grand National Assembly Speaker Numan Kurtulmus. He participated in a Palestine Solidarity

rally in Istanbul, addressing the gathering outside historic Fatah Mosque. He emphasized the imperative of a diplomatic and economic boycott of Israel by Muslim nations, decriing the Israeli forces' involvement in the genocide of Palestinians despite international calls for a ceasefire.

He stressed the urgency of humanitarian aid for Gaza, proposing the construction of a mega hospital at Rafah Crossing to treat injured Palestinians. "Palestinians are defenseless against the full-scale brutality unleashed by Israeli forces on innocent civilians.

Work on construction of Syed Zahoor Shah Hashmi Road started in Gwadar city

Independent Report
QUETTA: The work on construction of Syed Zahoor Shah Hashmi Road has been started in the port city of Gwadar.

According to the official sources, the work on Makki Masjid to Mulla Fazil chowk portion of the Syed Zahoor Shah Hashmi road has been started on directives of the Director General Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) Dawood Khan Khilji.

The construction work would be completed

before the stipulated time given by the GDA.

It may be mentioned here that the construction work on the Makki masjid-Mulla Fazil chowk road has been delayed for last several years.

Meanwhile, all stakeholders and public circles have expressed satisfaction over commencement of start of work on the important highway of Gwadar city.

They also stressed the need on implementation on the project which was delayed for long.



ABBOTTABAD: An eye-catching view of a snow covered area during the heavy snowfall of winter season, which more decreases the temperature below in minus degree Celsius, at Nathiagal.

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

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

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

Shah, while referring to PML-N's electoral alliance with Muttahida Quami Movement Pakistan (MQM-P), said that the PPP was contesting alone in the elections. "The people of Punjab had shown their trust in PPP in the past," said Shah, adding if there are any punctures in the elections, then there will be a lot of damage. "There is no interference during the voting process around the world," he said while calling for the restoration of democracy through voting in Pakistan.

SIM disowning charge apply on having less than 6 months retention period

ISLAMABAD (APP): Cellular Mobile Operators in Pakistan, Azad Jammu Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan may levy a "SIM Disowning Charge" up to Rs. 200 on SIMs having a retention period of less than six months.

To check the status of registered SIMs, consumers can use the following methods: by visiting <https://enic.sims.pk/> or sending an SMS with CNIC number (without dashes) to 668 (charges apply).

Ahsan says: Gaza has become a graveyard for children

BEIJING (Online): PML-N Secretary General and former Federal Minister for planning and development Ahsan Iqbal said that Gaza has become graveyard for children.

We pay tribute to China for raising its voice in favour of victims of genocide. Pakistan has become a regional center of economic activities with CPEC.

While addressing a seminar on the outcomes Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Ahsan Iqbal said that "Belt and Road" project has become a lifeline for Pakistan.

MPs asked to submit asset statements by Dec end

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has once again asked all members of parliament and provincial assemblies to submit their statements of assets and liabilities including those of their spouses and dependents by December 31. According to ECP, all parliamentarians have to submit their yearly statements of assets and liabilities including similar details of their spouses and dependent children as on the preceding June 30 on Form B for the financial year 2022-2023.

DPR officers condole death of brother of Ejaz Khan

QUETTA: The President of Officers Welfare Association Directorate of Public Relations (DPR), Inayatullah Rehman, General Secretary, Jaffar Shah and its other office bearers have expressed condolence and grief over the death of brother of Bureau Chief of Geo TV, Ejaz Khan, Sajjad Anwar.

In a joint condolence statement issued here on Friday, the office bearers of DPR Officers Welfare Association prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into its eternal peace and give enough strength and patience to the bereaved family members to bear the tragic loss.



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

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

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

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

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

Kakar said, "With or without India, the Turkmen gas can be exploited for the

economic benefit of this region, and we are very much focused on achieving that target."

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

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

On relations with Turkey, the prime minister called for enhanced coordination and cooperation, calling the bilateral relations "fabulous."

Murtaza Solangi says: PIA is present on privatization list

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi has said that PIA is present on the privatization list.

Responding to a calling attention notice in the Senate Friday, he said the previous government had devised a privatization plan and the caretaker government is implementing it. He mentioned that the halted flight operation of the PIA has been revived after arranging the funds.

The Minister for Par-

liamentary Affairs emphasized that issues related to the PIA span over several successive governments. He suggested threadbare discussion on the national flag carrier in the presence of Ministers for Aviation and Privatization.

Taking the floor, Leader of House in the Senate Ishaq Dar expressed concerns over rise in terror incidents in the country, suggesting that the caretaker government should give an in-camera briefing to the House on the situation.



QUETTA: Regional Head Federal Ombudsman Ghulam Sarwar Baroqi addressing QESCO officers' meeting regarding payment of electricity bills

Pak calls for int'l cooperation for preservation of polar, glacial regions: Madad Sindhi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Earth outside polar region, said a press release received here yesterday.

He said Pakistan alone has over 7,000 glaciers in HKH ranges which covers an approximate area of 15,000 sq. km.

The minister highlighted that HKH region was particularly vulnerable to climate change while Third Pole was the world's most substantial reservoir and was critical for freshwater supply to around 2 billion people.

The minister added that ecosystems, biodiversity, food security

were all under threat; and our avalanche and glacial lake outbursts (GLOF) risk had increased manifolds. As an example of GLOF, the minister cited the incident of Shisper Glacier in 2022 which resulted in destructive flooding.

He said that urgent global action was needed now to mitigate climate change and protect glaciers.

He ensured that Pakistan was committed to play its role in addressing critical issues affecting polar regions and climate change's implications on these vital glaciers.

PPP to kick-start election campaign in Balochistan with rally

KARACHI, (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has decided to celebrate the party's 56th Foundation Day in Quetta as Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has directed the party leaders to make full preparations for the grand rally on November 30.

The decision was taken in a meeting chaired by the PPP chairman at Bilawal House. Faryal Talpur, the Central President of PPP Women's Wing

was also present in the meeting.

It was decided in the meeting that a grand rally will be held in Quetta on the occasion of the 56th foundation day of Pakistan People's Party on November 30.

On the occasion, Bilawal Bhutto said that Pakistan People's Party will participate fully in the general elections and will win more seats from Balochistan.

ECC approves extension of GOP guarantee ceiling worth Rs 100 bn in favour of PSO

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) approved a summary submitted by the Ministry of Energy for the extension of the GOP guarantee ceiling worth Rs100 billion in favour of PSO till December 2024, subject to the approval of terms and conditions of each financing facility by the Finance Division upon renewal.

Caretaker Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar presided over a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet, said a press release issued here on Friday.

The meeting considered the summaries submitted by various ministries, including Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Energy (Power Division), Ministry

of Energy (Petroleum Division), Ministry of Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety and Ministry of Defence.

The ECC also discussed the summary submitted by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs regarding the "Revision of Light-house Dues". The ECC, after a detailed discussion, decided to revise the Light-house dues from Rs. 7/NRT to Rs. 20/NRT, under Section 10(1) of the Lighthouse Act, 1927. A proposal for disbursement of Rs 20 billion credited to the Federal Government Account by the Finance Department Government of Punjab for further disbursement to Green Corporate Initiative (Pvt) for Green Pakistan Initiative was also discussed.

The ECC also approved the disbursement with the observation that

the provincial governments may directly engage with companies operating under the Green Pakistan Initiative for future disbursements.

The ECC also took up a summary submitted by the Ministry of Energy regarding "Uniform Quarterly Tariff Adjustments for K-Electric Consumers at par with XWDISCOs 2nd & 3rd Quarterly FY 2023".

After detailed discussion, it was decided by the ECC that the tariff rationalization by way of adjustments for K-Electric in line with the uniform QTA application guidelines already issued to NEPRA, shall be applicable on the consumption of July, August, and September 2023 to be recovered from consumers of K-Electric in December 2023, January 2024, and February 2024, respectively.

Contempt of EC, CEC cases against Imran fixed for hearing on November 13

ISLAMABAD (Online): Contempt of Election Commission (EC) and contempt of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) cases against Chairman PTI Imran Khan have been fixed for hearing on November 13.

The EC issued call up notices in connection with indictment proceedings related to Imran Khan.



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

Jamal for preservation of cultural heritage with coop. of provincial governments

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

He said this while talking to media, along with the Secretary Karachi Press Club (KPC), Shoaib Ahmed, prominent artist and anchor Huma Mir and others, during a visit to the Karachi Press Club here.

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

Speaking about his visit to KPC, he said that his relationship with the Karachi Press Club was old

and was feeling the KPC very close to his heart.

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

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

Earlier, the minister held a meeting with the Governing Body of the KPC. President KPC Saeed Sarbazi, Secretary KPC Shoaib Ahmed along with the members of the KPC Governing Body briefed the minister regarding the problems.



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

Steps afoot to control Congo virus in BMC: MS Dr Karman

QUETTA (APP): Medical Superintendent of Bolan Medical Complex Hospital Quetta Dr. Kamana Gichki on Friday said that 20 kits of mega platelets ephresis were provided to the Director Regional Blood Center Quetta Prof. Dr. Hanif Mengal on the instructions of the Balochistan Secretary Health in view of the implementation of Congo virus emergency in Balochistan Health Department.

Talking to journalists, on the occasion, he said that Apherisis separates the blood extracted from the body of the patient or donor into its various components with the help of kits, containing plasma, plate-

lets, white blood cells, and red blood cells.

Random donor units are capable of increasing the platelet count to 10,000, while mega units can raise the platelet count to 50,000 to 70,000, he explained.

Dr. Kamalan Gichki said platelet kits were provided to RBC on an emergency basis to treat patients infected with Congo virus.

He said that due to the spread of Congo virus in the province, instructions have been issued to all doctors, medical staff, patients, and their caregivers in Bolan Medical Hospital to take precautionary measures and steps had been taken to deal with any emergency in the hospital.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat presiding over a meeting regarding illegal stands, Circular parking plaza and Hazarganji coach terminal