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Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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US Ambassador visits CM secretariat, meets Caretaker CM:

American investment in Balochistan to help promote mutual relations between Pak & US, says Domki

Chief Minister appreciates US cooperation in different sectors in Balochistan; Donald Blome assures US assistance for promotion of tourism and preservation of ancient civilization of Balochistan province

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that Balochistan is a suitable region for investment and the American investment in the province would help promote mutual relations between Pakistan and USA.

He strongly believed that both the countries (Pakistan and USA) should increase volume of trade in future.

The Chief Minister

was speaking to the US Ambassador to Pakistan, Donald Armin Blome who called on him along with the US Consul General Conrad Tribble here at the Chief Minister Secretariat on Monday.

Earlier, the Chief Minister welcomed the US Ambassador and Consul General upon their arrival at the CM's secretariat.

During the course of meeting, the matters about Pak-US relations, cooperation in different sectors and opportunities of invest-

ment in Balochistan were discussed.

Later, speaking to the US ambassador and Consul General, the Chief Minister said that there are sustainable and longstanding diplomatic and defence relations between Pakistan and USA. He said that his country values these relations with USA, and appreciates USA's endeavours for establishing peace in the world.

Appreciating the US

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QUETTA: US Ambassador Donald A. Blome meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Policy decisions on major issues, mandate of an elected govt: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Monday said that it was the mandate of an elected government to make policy decisions on major national issues.

Responding to a motion suggesting that State Bank take steps to demonetize Rs 5000 currency note, as a reason of inflation and corruption, he said: "Can the government, with limited duration and powers, should make policy decisions? It would be appropriate if we wait for the next parliament to decide on the

issue."

He called for a comprehensive debate on the important issue in the presence of the caretaker Finance Minister.

The minister said Rs 5000 current notes were issued in May 2006, and currently, around 905 million currency notes of Rs 4525 billion were in circulation in the country. Solangi clarified that the State Bank of Pakistan issued or discontinued currency notes as per the State Bank Act.

He also said that during the tenure of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government, the SBP had been granted more autonomy.



NAUSHERA: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing to workers convention in City.

Teachers shortage leads to closure of 3,500 schools in Balochistan: Qadir

QUETTA (APP): Caretaker Balochistan Education Minister Abdul Qadir Bakhs Baloch has said that some 3,500 schools in the province had been closed due to shortage of teachers during the last two months.

"The Provincial Education Department has been facing acute shortage of teachers. Due to political and departmental constraints, the department has not been able to recruit the teachers since 2019. Moreover, over 300 teachers are retiring every month," he said while talking to APP.

The minister said,

"Without enrolling children in schools, it is impossible to increase the literacy rate in the province."

He said the caretaker government had decided to upgrade 150 primary schools to middle in the province, four each in every district.

To a question, Qadir Bakhs said due to the last year's flood, more than 5,500 schools in the province were destroyed, and only 50 of them had been repaired so far.

"The international organizations have assured their all-out support to repair the damaged schools," he added.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding implementation on decisions taken in Apex Committee presided by Prime Minister

Police cop shot dead by armed men in Quetta

Independent Report

QUETTA: A police constable was shot dead by unknown armed men near Nawan Killi bypass in Quetta suburb on Monday morning.

According to the police sources, the jawan of Police Eagle Squad, Ghulam Murtaz was on his way to duty when he was attacked by the armed men with fire arms. As a result, he died on the spot.

The police and rescue teams reached the spot and shifted the body of martyred police jawan to the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital.

Meanwhile, the police officers and other personnel reached the Sandeman Hospital.

Investigations have been started into the cold blooded murder of police cop.

Later, the funeral prayer of Ghulam Murtaz was offered at the Police Lines Quetta the same afternoon.

The Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh and other senior police officers attended the funeral prayer.

'Campaign against me an attack on judiciary': Justice Mazahar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Justice Mazahar Ali Naqvi Monday has challenged the proceedings of the complaint against the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC).

He pleaded that disclosed assets cannot be the basis of action against the judge and prayed there was never any notice of his assets from the tax authorities.

"The campaign against me is an attack on the judiciary," Justice Mazahar Naqvi said.

He said SJC sent notice of further proceedings without fixing the objections and SJC's October 27 press release is a violation of fundamental rights.



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar launches ZARRA mobile app on the eve of Universal Children's Day

PM sees killing of Palestinian children as 'holocaust'

Says govt committed to ensure children's inclusive development, safety, education & health

ISLAMABAD (INP): Interim Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar says a professional army never targets civilians and children, expressing deep concern over the tragic events evolving in Gaza, particularly the "holocaust" of Palestinian children.

During his address at the launch of "Zara Alert App" in Islamabad, PM Kakar reiterated the government's commitment to safeguarding children's rights. He urged all segments of society to actively contribute to the improvement of children's well-being, emphasising the government's continuous efforts towards their welfare.

Highlighting the importance of children as the

future's assets, Kakar stated that the implementation of the app would play a crucial role in safeguarding their rights.

He condemned the ongoing massacre of children in Gaza, stressing that the killing of innocent children by the Israeli army reflected a severe violation of international laws and human rights.

Expressing deep concern over the plight of Gaza's children, the interim prime minister urged an immediate halt to the holocaust. He stressed the need to view the situation in Gaza through the lens of human rights rather than religious colours, predicting that the ongoing crisis in Palestine could become a crucial factor in future con-

flicts.

APP adds: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday said the government was determined to ensure inclusive development, education, healthcare, participation, dignity and security for "all our children, as envisaged in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child".

He said the children were the most precious asset of any nation and the sole guarantee for its future prosperity.

Addressing an event in connection with the Universal Children Day, the prime minister said the government was fully devoted to the well-being and safety of

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QUETTA: A delegation led by chief of Balochistan Youth Alliance Bahadur Khan Lango meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Women are grace and honour of our society: Women couldn't be given equal status in different sectors even today, regrets Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that women are grace and honour of society, but it is a sorrowful fact that we couldn't have given equal status to them in different sectors even today despite they are half of our country's population.

Therefore, on one hand, they are being deprived of their due rights, while the society is not benefiting from the potential of its half of the population fully.

Under the given circumstances, there is a need to make comprehensive planning to utilise potential

of the youth and women.

The Governor was speaking to a delegation who called on him under leadership of head of Balochistan Youth Alliance, Mir Bahadur Khan Lango on Monday.

The Governor on the occasion said that there is a key role of welfare organizations in the backward societies and the spirit of service of the people associated with them are really appreciable.

He said that we are proud of all those political and social personalities who remain in forefront in service of the ailing humanity.

The Governor said that

Protest dharna ends after assurance: Sirki road firing incident to be probed, assures Minister Information

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has assured that the Sirki road firing incident claimed life of a person would be thoroughly investigated and the responsible would be taken to task.

The Minister Information was speaking to the participants of dharna observed at Zarghoon road on Monday.

The participants were observing dharna against killing of a person in an al-

leged police encounter on Sirki road.

As a result of protest, the traffic remained block on Zarghoon road and adjacent areas.

Jan Achakzai said that the Inspector General of police has given assurance to conduct transparent inquiry of the incident.

He assured that action would be taken on getting evidences against the police.

On assurance made by Jan Achakzai, the protesters were dispersed from the site of dharna.

Sarfraz Bugti says Govt wants to solve Chaman sit-in issue through negotiations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti on Monday said that the government wanted to solve the Chaman sit-in issue through negotiations.

Responding to concerns raised by senators regarding the sit-in staged by local residents and businessmen against the recently implemented border regulations, the minister said, "We held a detailed discussion with the representatives of the sit-in, and our preference is to resolve the issue through negotiations."

The minister said that it was not possible to allow around 40,000 people to the cross border daily without proper travel documents.

The government wanted to implement a unified document regime in line with previous prac-

tices, he added. Bugti said the Afghan nationals would only be permitted to enter Pakistan through legal documents.

The minister outlined plans to regularize borders with Afghanistan, similar to the Torkham and Wagah borders, emphasizing the government's commitment to treating all borders equally.

He said that it was not possible for the government to allow foreigners to travel and establish businesses anywhere in Pakistan without following proper procedures.

Earlier, senators had drawn attention to the sit-in issue at Chaman by local residents and businessmen, expressing concerns about its potential adverse impact on the livelihoods of nearly 40,000 people who rely on daily border crossings.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti chairing a meeting of ministerial committee on enforced disappearances.

U.S. Ambassador announces new Initiatives to Strengthen Counter Terrorism Cooperation

QUETTA (Online): U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Donald A. Blome unveiled four important initiatives on Monday to bolster the capabilities of Pakistani law enforcement in their efforts to safeguard local communities.

Anti-Terrorist Force Training Facility Expansion: A \$4 million assistance package will facilitate the expansion of Balochistan Police's Anti-Terrorist Force training facility, doubling its current capacity, and allowing simultaneous instruction for an additional 800 trainees.

Upgraded Police Stations: The United States allocated \$2 million to repair and upgrade 10 flood-damaged police stations. These facilities will include modern infrastructure, such as digital record management and support for alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, thereby supporting more responsive service to local communities. The facilities will also feature

dedicated gender desks that will provide a private space for vulnerable populations to report crimes and receive special care for problems or injuries resulting from those crimes.

Construction of New Police Stations: An additional \$2 million will be dedicated to constructing 10 new police stations to improve service to women, girls, and all Pakistanis.

Equipment Support: Recognizing the risks faced by law enforcement officers, the United States announced a \$250,000 equipment grant to better protect enforcement officers as they undertake their duties.

These projects are funded and will be implemented in collaboration with the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL). INL currently provides approximately \$20 million in assistance nationwide.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Information Imran Khan and Director General Public Relations Muhammad Noor Khethran meeting with Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai

Nawaz Sharif allowed to record statement in Toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Accountability Court (AC) while accepting the plea for recording Nawaz Sharif statement in Tosha Khana vehicles reference has adjourned the hearing of the case till November 30.

Judge Muhammad Bashir of AC took up the Toshakhana case against Nawaz Sharif, Asif Ali Zardari and others for hearing Monday.

The pleaders of Asif Ali Zardari, Khawaja Abdul Ghani Majeed, Anwar Majeed and Yousuf Raza Gillani appeared in the court.

The court marked the attendance of court.

Jan Achakzai pledges to fight scourge of terrorism

QUETTA (INP): Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Balochistan's caretaker Minister for Information Jan Achakzai warns that if militant activities from Afghanistan continue, Pakistan will take action against terrorist hideouts.

He expressed concerns that despite hosting Afghan refugees for 40 years, Afghanistan is providing shelter and advanced weaponry to militants.

Achakzai emphasised Pakistan's opposition to all forms of militancy and stated that if the situation doesn't improve, Pakistan will raid terrorist hideouts to address the issue.

He highlighted the link between the Tehreek-i-

Punjab Governor says: Prosperous and sustainable future depends on modern knowledge and research

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman today attended the closing ceremony of All Punjab Universities Innovation Expo 2023 organized by the Punjab Higher Education Commission and provincial universities as a special guest at the Expo Center Lahore. Around 450 research projects were exhibited on this occasion.

Chairman Punjab Higher Education Commission Dr Shahid Muneer, Chairman APSUP, Chaudhry Abdul Rahman, Vice Chancellors of Universities, Deans of various departments of

universities, local industry owners, officials, government policy makers, students and a large number of people belonging to different walks of life were present.

Addressing the ceremony, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that organizing such an exhibition is very important for our educational institutions to understand the modern industrial and contemporary needs and to develop the talent of their students and guide them accordingly.

He said that it is very gratifying that the students have come up with new

projects and ideas, adding that this platform will foster new opportunities for them. He said that the young population is the demographic dividend of the country, and we should capitalise on it. He further said that Pakistani youth are very talented.

Governor Punjab said that in 2013-18, the funding of research grants of universities was increased. The laptop scheme yielded good results.

This reduced the digital divide and created E-employment opportunities for the youth. He said that Pakistani youth have made a name for themselves in gaming apps in the world.



LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi inspecting progress of "Band Road Controlled Access Corridor" Projects

CS Punjab inaugurates e-Procurement System

Independent Report
LAHORE: 'The e-Procurement System' developed by the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) in collaboration with the Federal and Provincial Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Boards, was inaugurated by Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman at Arfa Software Technology Park (ASTP) on Monday.

The system has been introduced by the Punjab government in departments to streamline the public procurement process.

The ceremony presided over by Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman was attended by key officials and stakeholders, including S.MBR Nabeel Javid, Additional Chief Secretary Ahmed Raza Sarwar, Planning & Development Secretary Mazhar Sial, PPRA Punjab MD Waqar

Azim, PITB Chairman Faisal Yousaf and DG e-Governance Sajid Latif.

Addressing the ceremony, the chief secretary highlighted that the e-procurement system was a significant step toward good governance, ensuring transparency, efficiency, and time-saving in government procurements.

He commended the Punjab IT Board team for the successful launch, expressing hope for the system's success in achieving its goals.

PITB Chairman Faisal Yousaf stated that the system incorporated modern techniques to make government procurement secure and efficient. He outlined the computerization of various processes, including Procurement Planning, Online Advertisement, Online Bidding, e-Submission, e-Evaluation, and Contract Awarding.

Baqir, Iranian envoy discuss bilateral trade

Independent Report
KARACHI (INP): Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, Reza Amiri Moghaddam called on Sindh Caretaker Chief Minister Justice Maqbool Baqir in Karachi on Monday.

During the meeting, matters pertaining to bilateral trade and other issues of mutual interests came under discussion.

Ongoing ruthless violence by Israel against the innocent Palestinians in Gaza was condemned by both sides on the occasion.

Chief Minister Maqbool Baqir said that the border market between the two countries has been opened and the annual trade between the two countries has reached two point four billion dollars.

Both leaders agreed to enhance trade volume and discussed need to make a banking formula system and issues related to trade and cordial relations between two countries.



LAHORE: Artist giving final touches to the painting in Deewane Aam Painting Competition at Shahi Fort.

Anti-Polio task force decides to take action against officials sending fake data

Independent Report
LAHORE (APP): A meeting of the Provincial Task Force on Polio Eradication on Monday decided to take stern action against the staff sending fake data.

Minister Specialized Health Dr Javed Akram and Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman attended the meeting held at the Civil Secretariat while Minister for Primary Health Dr Jamal Nasir participated through video link.

Primary Health Minister Dr. Jamal Nasir said that five officials have been suspended in Rawalpindi for submitting fake data regarding polio and an inquiry is being conducted against these suspended polio team officials.

The Chief Secretary Punjab said that the special campaign to administer polio vaccine to 22 million children in 36 districts of the province would continue from November 27 to December 1.

He said that eradication of polio is a national agenda, adding that all deputy commissioners must work on priority basis for complete eradication of polio. He directed that action be taken against the staff in the areas where polio drops could not be administered to the children.

The Chief Secretary said that the child who misses the polio vaccine becomes a 'problem child' for the whole world. He said that all deputy commissioners should ensure reporting of correct data, warning that fake data is not acceptable in any case. He directed that special steps be taken to cover the 'missed children'.

The meeting decided to call a special meeting to review the cases of missed children in Lahore.

The officials of the Health Department briefed that five cases of polio have been reported in Pakistan.

Feroz Jamal takes oath as caretaker Minister

Independent Report
PESHAWAR (APP): Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel here Monday took oath as caretaker Provincial Minister, raising total strength of the ministers to 10.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali administered the oath at Governor House.

Caretaker Chief Minister Justice retired Arshad Hussain Shah was also present. The governor expressed best wishes and congratulated Feroz Jamal Kakakhel. The caretaker provincial ministers, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, politicians and members of civil society attended the ceremony.

Punjab Cabinet meeting to be held in Gujranwala today

Independent Report
LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has called a meeting of the Punjab Cabinet in Gujranwala on Tuesday (November 21, 2023), said a notification issued here. After Lahore, Multan, Rawalpindi and Faisalabad, Gujranwala is the 5th division where the Punjab Cabinet meeting will be held. Important development agenda will be discussed in the meeting. All Provincial Ministers, Advisors, Chief Secretary, Inspector General of Police and concerned officials will attend the meeting.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman addressing the closing ceremony of All Punjab Universities Innovation Expo 2023 organized by the Punjab Higher Education Commission and provincial universities.

Naqvi approves package for families of martyred employees of all depts

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, in principle, granted approval for a relief package equivalent to that provided to police martyrs to be extended to the families of officers or employees who sacrificed their lives while serving any government department.

The CM emphasized extending a comparable aid package to injured government employees. Directing the formation of a committee led by the Additional Chief Secretary, Mohsin Naqvi tasked it with reviewing cases and formulating final recommendations.

The 13th meeting of the Cabinet Standing Committee on Finance and Development, chaired by the chief minister, addressed the financial assistance case for the family of Excise Inspector Muhammad Rafi, martyred in the line of duty, and the injured Inspector Sanaulah Bhatti.

Prompted by the incident, the CM ordered an immediate review, approving an aid package equivalent to the police martyrs package for the

family of the late Inspector Muhammad Rafi and the injured Excise Inspector Sanaulah Bhatti. Notably, Inspector Rafi lost his life, and Inspector Bhatti sustained severe injuries and disabilities due to gunfire by drug dealers in Rahim Yar Khan.

Provincial Ministers SM Tanveer, Amir Mir, and Mansoor Qadir, along with Chief Secretary, Inspector General of Police, Senior Member Board of Revenue, Chairman Planning and Development Board, and secretaries of relevant departments attended the meeting.

Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, and members of the provincial government, and decided to take up those issues with the caretaker prime minister for redressal.

CM, Australian High Commissioner discuss bilateral cooperation

Independent Report
LAHORE: In a meeting held at the Chief Minister's Office, Australia's High Commissioner Mr. Neil Hawkins engaged in a productive meeting with Punjab's Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

The CM extended congratulations to the Australian High Commissioner and the people for Australia's 6th World Cup win. As a gesture, the High Commissioner presented a cricket ball signed by Australian captain Pat Cummins and Mark Taylor to the chief minister, said a handout issued here. During the conversation, the Australian High Commissioner commended Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi as a diligent and active leader, noting his continuous efforts, including visible work on parks and the upgradation of Lahore Zoo, Safari Park, and Gardens. Expressing pleasure over Naqvi's commitment, he pledged steps to provide kangaroos to Lahore Zoo and affirmed Australia's readiness to enhance cooperation with Punjab across various fields.

CM Naqvi emphasized the implementation of measures to combat smog, making masks mandatory for citizens and securing advanced technology through collaborations with friendly countries.



LAHORE: Caretaker Health Minister Punjab Dr. Javed Akram along with Chairman Punjab Higher Education Commission Shahid Munir and others are visiting the different stalls during exhibition of 'Scientific Inventions' by Punjab University at Expo Center, in Provincial Capital.

Sindh Prisons embrace telemedicine for inmate healthcare: Minister

Independent Report
KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Minister for Home and Prisons, Brig. (Retd.) Haris Nawaz, Monday highlighted the significant strides towards implementing telemedicine within correctional facilities to enhance inmate healthcare while reducing costs and minimizing risks associated with external hospital visits.

Chairing a meeting of the Sindh Prisons Policy Board at the IG Prison office here, Brig. Nawaz emphasized the pivotal need for this initiative.

Under the directive of the Sindh Prisons Policy Board (SPPB), a proposal was greenlit for the introduction of telemedicine systems across all prisons.

The initial phase is slated to begin with the Central Prison Sukkur,

serving as a pilot project. Plans are underway to set up telemedicine desks at various hospitals, including NICVD and SIUT.

The recommendations of the SPPB will be forwarded to the government for final approval and execution.

The minister underscored the importance of establishing District Oversight Committees and Welfare Committees to address several critical aspects, such as improving the lives of vulnerable prisoners, enhancing health and hygiene conditions, establishing dedicated spaces like Sweet Homes for children residing with their mothers in jails, setting up well-equipped libraries, and initiating vocational training programs.



KARACHI: Activists of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists holds protest rally in the favor of their demands from Governor House to CM House, in Provincial Capital.

KP CM emphasis need for development of merged districts

Independent Report
PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Justice (ret'd) Arshad Hussain Shah here Monday said that merged districts need special attention to its development and redressal of its deprivations.

He said that all-out efforts would be made to steer the province out of this financial crisis.

The CM said this while presiding over an important meeting regarding financial issues of the province held here at Chief Minister's House on Monday.

The meeting discussed in detail the financial issues of the province, especially of the merged districts related to the federal government, and decided to take up those issues with the caretaker prime minister for redressal.

Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry,

IGP Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur, Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development Syed Imtiaz Hussain Shah, Additional Chief Secretary Home Muhammad Abid Majeed, Senior Member Board of Revenue Ikramullah Khan, Secretary Finance Aamir Sultan Tareen and other relevant officials attended the meeting.

Caretaker provincial minister for Tribal Affairs Amer Abdullah also attended the meeting via video link. Briefing the meeting about the current financial situation of the province, it was informed that the administrative merger of the erstwhile FATA into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province had been completed, but financial integration is still incomplete due to which, the provincial government is facing financial problems.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali administered the oath from Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel as caretaker Provincial Minister at Governor House.

Smog in Punjab: LHC orders to keep all educational institutions closed till end of January

Independent Report
LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has ordered to keep all educational institutions closed on Saturday till end of January due to smog.

Court has directed to issue notification to close schools, colleges and universities.

Justice Shahid Karim has issued a written order on the petitions filed for elimination of smog.

It is said in written order that Punjab government is taking steps regarding working from

home on 2 days in the week. The word of gym closure is suspended in the notification.

In the written order of the court, it is said that the meteorological department should take departmental action against officers who do not take action against smog.

According to AQI, Lahore is ranked 3rd in the list of most polluted cities this morning while the pollution in the air has been recorded at 245 particulate meters.

Measures underway to provide quality health care facilities: Minister

Independent Report
KARACHI (APP): Sindh Caretaker Minister for Health, Social Welfare, Public Health Engineering and Rural Development, Dr Saad Khalid Niazi on Monday said that the government was taking all out measures for improving the condition of public sector hospitals and providing quality healthcare facilities to the people.

The minister during the visit to the National Institute of Cardiovascular Disease (NICVD) also urged the doctors and allied

health care staff to provide better medical services to the people by exhibiting more responsibility in pursuance of initiatives of the Sindh government, said a statement issued here.

He inspected various wards and medical facilities of the hospital and inquired about the issues being faced by the hospital.

Acting Chief Executive NICVD Dr. Tahir Sagheer presented a detailed briefing in which Dr. Saad Khalid Niazi assured the immediate solution to the problems.



MUZAFFERABAD: Speaker Legislative Assembly of Kashmir Chaudhry Latif Akbar presents shield to participants during ceremony by Social Welfare Department at school, to express solidarity with the oppressed Muslims of Palestine, in the Capital of J&K.

Taxila Chaupal holds special talk on Journey of Human Cultures

Independent Report
TAXILA (APP): The Gandhara Resource Center Pakistan-GRCP under its flagship program Taxila Chaupal in collaboration of Taxila Baithak organized a special talk titled "Journey of Human Cultures" here on Monday.

The event was hosted by Taxila Baithak Talib Ansari, who is not only an anchorperson but also a poet conducted the event, a news release said.

The keynote speaker for the event was Farrukh Sohail Goindi, a distinguished figure known for his roles as a columnist, author, political advocate,

avid traveller, media personality, and journalist. He engaged in an extensive and captivating discussion that delved deeply into the intricacies of human civilizations worldwide.

The discourse was so compelling and absorbing that it held the undivided attention of the audience throughout the entire event. The event saw a significant number of participants, including prominent figures such as Malik Fatah Khan (Advisor National Rural Support Program-NRSP), Waheed Ahmed (former IG KPK).

ML-I project consistently remains on top of govt's priorities: Shahid Tarar

Pakistan, China vow to successful implementation of ML-I project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Communications, Maritime Affairs and Railways Shahid Ashraf Tarar on Monday reiterated that the Main Line-I (ML-I) project has consistently been on top of the government's priorities.

In a meeting with Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, the minister reiterated the current political will to translate these priorities into tangible on-ground developments.

"We are determined to expedite the implementation of ML-I and with the political will in place, we are poised to

transform plans into action." The discussions focused on enhancing bilateral cooperation in the realms of transport and communication, with a particular emphasis on advancing the crucial ML-I project.

During the meeting, both parties engaged in constructive dialogue on various topics of mutual interest, affirming the longstanding friendship between Pakistan and China.

Expressing admiration for the Chinese expertise and participation in the ML-I project, the minister commended the collaborative efforts

between the two countries. Jiang Zaidong highlighted the project's foundation on mutual understanding and underscored its integral role in fostering cooperation and development.

"We are fully committed to working with the Pakistani side, and our joint efforts aim to accelerate the realization of the ML-I project," he added. The meeting concluded with both parties reaffirming their dedication to the successful implementation of the ML-I project, a symbol of the enduring friendship and strategic partnership between Pakistan and China.



LARKANA: Peasants use thrasher to get paddy grains with help of heavy machinery to earn their livelihood to support their families, at an agricultural field located on Shahmir Khan Dahani village in Larkana.

SCCI, Iranian diplomat agree to further strengthen Pak-Iran trade ties

PESHAWAR (APP): Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) President Fuad Ishaq and Consul General of Iran in Peshawar, Ali Banafsheh Khah have agreed to start a series of online meetings to bring Pakistan-Iran business community closer to each other and bringing duties/tariffs structure equal between Pakistan and Iran.

On the occasion, Fuad Ishaq emphasized the need to trade in local currency and sign free trade agreements with Iran, Afghanistan and China.

Consul General of Iran in Peshawar, Ali Banafsheh Khah held a meeting with President of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Fuad Ishaq here at the Chamber House, said a press release issued on Monday.

On this occasion, Commercial Attaché Peshawar Hossein Maliki, Senior

Vice President of the SCCI Sanaulah Khan, Vice President Ijaz Khan Afridi, Secretary General Sajjad Aziz and the translator of the Consulate of Iran were present on this occasion.

Fuad Ishaq while talking about the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the SCCI and the Mashhad Chamber, emphasized the need to implement the agreement.

The chamber president said that the online meetings should be started immediately between SCCI and Mashhad Chamber.

He also invited the business community of different chambers of Iran to come to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sarhad Chamber is ready to host them.

Fuad Ishaq said that the business community is keen to improve mutual trade between Pakistan and Iran.

Rupee gains 53 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Monday gained 53 paise against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 285.96 against the previous day's closing at Rs 286.49.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 286.2 and Rs 289 respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by Rs 2.12 to close at Rs 312.36 against the last day's closing of Rs 310.24, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen went up by 02 paise to close at Rs 1.92, whereas an increase of Rs 2.22 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 357.01 as compared to the last closing of Rs 354.79.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 15 paise each to close at Rs 77.85 and Rs 76.24 respectively.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where three ships namely, MSC Jemima, Blue Majesty and JiproNefts scheduled to load/offload Containers, Bitumen and Chemicals, berthed at Container Terminal, Multipurpose Terminal and Engro Terminal respectively on Sunday, 19th November.

Meanwhile two more ships, MSC Rida and Al-Dayyen carrying Containers and LNG also arrived at outer anchorage of the port on Monday morning. A total of seven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them, three ships, MSC Jemima, Mineral Olympia and Sea Bulk left the port.



KARACHI: Pakistan fishermen unload their catch, along the bank of sea to supply across the country as to acknowledge the efforts of fishermen, there is day "World Fisheries Day", which commemorate annually on 21 November.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Railways & Maritime Affairs Mr. Shahid Ashraf Tarar hosting a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Mr. Jiang Zaidong at the Ministry.

Pakistan exports textile products worth \$5.565 bln in 4 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan exported textile products worth \$5,565.079 million during the first four months of the current financial year (2023-24), the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

The exports of the product however witnessed a decline of 6.33 percent during July-October (2023-24) when compared to the exports of \$5,940.992 million during July-October (2022-23).

WAPDA launches project for 300 MW floating solar power generation

TARBELA (APP): The Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) Monday has embarked on a groundbreaking project aimed at producing 300 megawatts of cost-effective electricity through solar panels.

A delegation from approximately 21 foreign companies keenly interested in securing contracts for the project conducted on-site inspections at the Ghazi Barotha Dam and Barotha Jail locations.

The project, set to be completed within 27 months, secured a substantial financial boost from the World Bank (WB),

with a funding allocation of \$326 million. WAPDA has taken significant measures in advancing the initiative, focusing on the utilization of floating solar panels, also referred to as floating solar panels.

Detailed briefings on the project's specifics were presented by the General Manager and Project Director (PD) Tarbela Dam Zahoor Atiq, along with Waseem Raza, Chief Engineer of the Tarbela Expansion Project.

Upon the project's successful completion, an impressive three megawatts of affordable electricity are expected to be generated.

The textile commodities that witnessed positive growth in trade included raw cotton, the exports of which grew by 137.13 percent, from \$9.845 million last year to \$23.346 million this year.

Likewise, the exports of cotton yarn increased by 42.85 percent, from \$285.315 million last year to \$407.564 million this year, cotton carded or combed by 142.76 percent, from \$0.213 million to \$0.518 million, tents, canvas and tarpulin by 1.09 percent, from \$37.355 million to \$37.763 million and towels, the exports of which grew by 6.67 percent, from \$316.860 million to \$337.987 million.

No change in local gold price, international rate declines by \$2

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold witnessed no change in prices on Monday and was sold at Rs.215,100.

The price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold and 10 grams of 22-karat gold remained stagnant at Rs.184,414 and Rs.169,046 respectively, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten-gram Silver also witnessed no change and was sold at Rs.2,550 and 2,186.21 respectively.

However, the price of gold in the international market decreased by \$2 to \$1,999 from \$2,001, the Association reported.



HYDERABAD: Women busy in selecting and purchasing old warm clothes from vendor at Cloth Market.

ICCI delegation leaves for Thailand to explore business opportunities

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) led by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari its President has left for Thailand to explore the business opportunities in that country.

The delegation is representing various sectors including pharmaceuticals, textiles, construction, edible oil, marble, light engineering, hospitality, retail sector, importers and exporters.

The delegation will visit Thailand Chamber of Commerce & Industry to hold B2B meetings with Thai counterparts and

explore business collaborations with them.

In his statement before departure, Zafar Bakhtawari said that Pakistan and Thailand had great potential to enhance business relations and the purpose of the visit of ICCI delegation to Thailand is to explore all untapped areas of mutual cooperation between the two countries.

He said that Thailand's annual exports in 2022 were over US\$ 285 billion and imports were around US\$300 billion, but its bilateral trade with Pakistan in 2022-23 was less than US\$ 1 billion.

Infrastructural landscaping of CBD completed

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Central Business District' has also been materialised. Now as the project has been completed, the local and foreign investors can now initiate construction works on five mixed used commercial plots, auctioned in September 2021 at a price of Rs21.59 billion. He said that the Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA) on December 19, 2022 had registered the Central Business District (CBD) as a flagship project on the development landscape of Punjab.

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LCCI President appointed as board member of Punjab Council of Arts

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Kashif Anwar has been appointed as member Board of Governors of Punjab Council of Arts and an official notification has been issued in this regard.

Director General of Punjab Council of Arts, Information and Culture Department Punjab Dr. Syed Bilal Haider met Kashif Anwar at LCCI on Monday and congratulated him on his appointment.

Dr. Syed Bilal Haider said that the board of directors of Punjab Council of Arts was very important.

Chief Minister Punjab was the Chairman of the boards of governors. He stated that by taking some measures, Pakistan's arts and culture could be turned into a billion dollar industry, adding that there was a lack of linkages between academia, industry and the government due to which the potential of this sector could not be fully explored.

He said that this sector in France had become a billion dollar industry but supporting edifices was missing in Pakistan. Due to unemployment, 80 percent artists lived on the Punjab government's stipends, he added.

International trade data FPCCI supports transparency, security & monitoring: Irfan

Independent Report KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has said that it is very important to establish transparency, security and monitoring mechanisms in the global trade. It creates confidence among trading nations; and, ultimately enhances bilateral, regional and multilateral trade. He was addressing the high-profile session of the International Centre for Trade Transparency & Monitoring (ICTTM) as a key speaker.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh pointed out that Pakistan needs to adopt Advanced Data Analytics & Modeling for Foreign Trade Data (ADAMfd) - which is an ICTTM initiative - in particular these have the scope to revolutionize and influence both historical & real-time trade data to decode worldwide trading patterns. ADAMfd platform will ensure transparency, security, and efficiency in international trade operations, he added.

It is pertinent to note that Pakistan's apex body, FPCCI and ICTTM have crossed a significant milestone by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) - and, this partnership underscores a shared

commitment to enhance the transparency and compliance in international trade, Mr. Sheikh added.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh added that the international trade is heavily concerned with customs and trade procedures; and, the fundamental mechanisms for facilitating trade for transparency, predictability and consistency vis-à-vis procedures, formalities, rules & legal frameworks on exports and imports.

FPCCI Chief explained that improving worldwide coordination and cooperation in the international trade and related services would reduce the transaction costs - fostering the growth of global transactions. Nonetheless, the importance of reliable and authentic data are the key factors that influence cross-border trade.

Mr. Sheikh stressed that advanced technologies that have already automated global supply chains significantly.

The scope and potential for using the latest technologies to facilitate cross-border trade is far greater than the costs; and, have been explored by international organizations, governments.



QUETTA: A school-going age boy selling eggs to support his family at a roadside near Koyla Patkha.

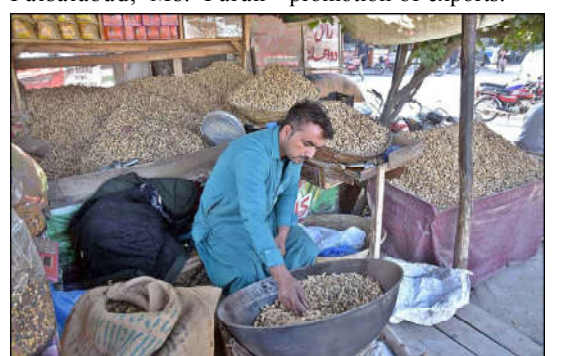
Zeba Hai assures APTMA of removing all irritants of EFS for promoting exports

LAHORE (APP): Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Member (Customs) Ms. Zeba Hai Zahar has assured the APTMA of removing all irritants in Export Facilitate Scheme (EFS) and other customs procedures, formalities to facilitate exporters by helping them focus on how to boost exports.

She visited APTMA Lahore office-bearers on Monday to hold an interactive session on exports and other Customs related issues. She was accompanied by Ms. Rabab Sikandar, Chief Collector Customs Lahore, Ms. Azmat Tahira, Collector Customs Lahore, Mr. Saeed Wattoo, Collector Adjudication, Ms Saima Inam, Collector Customs Sialkot, Asdaq Afzal, Sensor Collector Faisalabad, Ms. Farah

Farooq, Additional Collector Customs Lahore, Muhammad Akram, Director IOCO, Ms Ammara Durrani, Additional Director IOCO, Usman Tariq, Secretary Operations, Abbas Ali Babar, Secretary Customs FBR and Syed Kareem Adil, DGIOCO, Chairman APTMA (North) Mr Kamran Arshad, Vice chairman Ahmed Shafi, Senior executives M.I. Khurram, Anjum Zafar, Ismail Fareed, Muhammad Ali and Secretary General APTMA Raza Baqir were also present.

Highlighting the importance of exports in general and the textile industry in particular, she instructed all the officers concerned to leave no stone unturned in facilitating the textile industry for promotion of exports.



RAWALPINDI: A vendor displaying peanuts to attract the customers at Rawat.

Economy main target of terrorists to keep country destabilized: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that the economy is the main target of the terrorists because enemies want to keep Pakistan destabilized.

Interacting with business community on Monday, he said that whenever economic conditions in the country start to improve and the terrorism starts with such a time, terrorism has started which is disturbing and condemnable and against the interests of Pakistan. Due to the efforts of the caretaker government and the army, there has been a reduction in smuggling, hoarding,

make decisions about investing in any country in the light of IMF opinion and economic rating. When the IMF's opinion about Pakistan and the rating of international organizations starts to improve, terrorism starts to stop investment, which is worth considering.

The government, army, most of the political parties and other institutions were on the same page about the economy, which was having a better effect on the overall situation, he added.

However, the business leader said, at such a time, terrorism has started which is disturbing and condemnable and against the interests of Pakistan. Due to the efforts of the caretaker government and the army, there has been a reduction in smuggling, hoarding,

