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Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar has arrived in Abu Dhabi on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates.

Caretaker Minister Information maintains: Strict implementation continues on one-document regime at international borders

Jan Achakzai says no one to be allowed to enter Pakistan from Afghanistan without passport and visa; vows to repatriate every single illegal immigrant



Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has categorically stated that strict implementation is being made on the policy of one-document regime at the international border and as such no one would be allowed to cross border into Pakistan from Afghanistan without the passport and

measures taken in this regard. No hurdle would be tolerated in this regard whatsoever, Jan Achakzai asserted.

The Minister Information was addressing press conference at the Deputy Commissioner's office on Sunday afternoon.

Jan Achakzai maintained that Pakistan has started wholehearted action against the anti-state elements. He referred action against the two former employees of Pakistan army including Adil Raja and Haider Mehdi saying that it (Army) has proved by taking court martial action against them that the traitors would not be spared at all.

Jan Achakzai maintained that action against Adil Raja and Haider Mehdi is also expression of the resolve that the accountability of the traitors would be made no matter where ever they hide. The Minister said that Adil Raja and Haider Mehdi are traitors of the country, and they are exposed to the world as well. He said that it would be tried to bring back both of them back in the country through Interpol.

Jan Achakzai also mentioned that the patriotic people of Balochistan had started campaign against these traitors in the province first of all, and by the grace of Allah Almighty, their demand was met.

Calls for peace: Religious leaders advocate swift global action to end oppression in Gaza

LAHORE (APP): The leaders from various faiths on Sunday collectively implored the international community to promptly intervene in putting an end to Israel's aggressive actions and brutality in Gaza.

Addressing a press conference here at Lahore Press Club, the scholars and leaders from diverse religious backgrounds, including the Chairman of the Pakistan Ulama Council, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, and the Chairman of the All Pakistan Minorities Alliance, Dr. Paul Bhatti emphasized that the events unfolding in Gaza transcend religious

affiliations, asserting that these actions were not targeted against any specific faith but rather against humanity.

They extended their plea to the United Nations, Europe, America, Britain, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, urging them to swiftly address the persecution of the oppressed Palestinian population and transition the current temporary ceasefire into a lasting resolution.

The leaders further advocated for the creation of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state, designating Al-Quds as its capital. Urging the interna-

tional community to promptly intervene, they underscored the need for collective efforts to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Leading the presser, Ashrafi who is also the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Religious Harmony, emphasized that Islamic countries and the global community must actively address the ongoing Israeli aggression in Gaza. He called for concerted efforts to put an end to Israeli fascism, highlighting the worldwide demand for cessation of the conflict in Gaza to facilitate humanitarian relief operations.

PTV has come long way during past 59 years: Solangi

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Sunday that Pakistan Television, the national broadcaster of Pakistan had come a long way during past 59 years.

This he said while delivering his speech at PTV's 59th anniversary celebration ceremony here.

Congratulating the employees of PTV on the 59th anniversary of the founding of Pakistan Television, Murtaza Solangi said 59 years ago in Lahore, his teacher Aslam Azhar started broadcast of PTV transmission by pitching a tent in the lawn of an old building.

Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi himself had been a broadcaster and journalist, who had seen this journey himself, Murtaza Solangi remarked.

Appreciating the performance of the caretaker set up of Punjab, he said

due to the changes in Punjab, Mohsin Naqvi was now looking like a benefactor to everyone. He said that Punjab had witnessed so many changes during his tenure as he would become "Sher Shah Suri" of the province.

Meanwhile in a celebration hosted by Pakistan Television Corporation (PTV) for its 59th anniversary on Sunday, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi lauded the staff for their contributions.

He highlighted the beginning of a renaissance period for PTV, honoring the legacy of its first Managing Director Aslam Azhar. Solangi expressed gratitude to the dedicated PTV team, acknowledging their pivotal role in the television network's successful 59-year journey.

The event concluded with a ceremonial cake cutting, joined by Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi.



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi along with Caretaker CM Punjab Mohsin Raza Naqvi cutting the 59th Anniversary cake of PTV Lahore Center.

PM arrives in UAE on two-day bilateral visit

ABU DHABI (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday arrived here on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Minister for Justice of the UAE Abdullah Sultan bin Awad Al Nuaimi and Pakistani diplomatic staff received the prime minister on his arrival at the Abu Dhabi's Al-Bateen Airport, a Prime Minister Office Press Release said.

During his visit, the prime minister will meet President of the UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed.

The visit will also include signing of MoUs between Pakistan and the UAE in a range of areas including investment cooperation in the sectors of energy, port operations projects, waste water treatment, food security, logistics, mining, aviation, and banking and financial services.

FIR register case against Bajwa, Faiz Hameed excludes from cause list

ISLAMABAD (Online): The case of application for registration of case against former Army Chief General Retired Qamar Javed Bajwa and former General Retired Faiz Hameed has been removed from the cause list.

Islamabad High Court (IHC) removed from the cause list, the case scheduled for hearing on November 28 on the application of the registration case against General Retired Qamar Javed Bajwa and General Retired Faiz Hameed.

Pakistan is all set to plead its case in COP28

ISLAMABAD (APP): In the face of escalating climate challenges, Pakistan, a country contributing less than 1% to global greenhouse gas emissions, is confronting an outsized battle against climate adversities. As the world prepares for the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28), Pakistan's journey offers a compelling narrative of resilience and determination, according to a press release issued by the Ministry of Planning and Reforms here.

Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change is starkly evident. The World Bank notes that the country's exposure to extreme weather events has risen dramatically, with the recent floods in

Balochistan exemplifying this trend. These floods not only devastated communities but also highlighted the urgent need for climate-resilient strategies.

This disproportionate impact of global climate change on Pakistan has garnered attention at international forums like COP28, where the nation's efforts and challenges will be under global scrutiny.

Despite its minimal contribution to global emissions, Pakistan stands at the forefront of experiencing the harsh realities of a warming planet. At the heart of Pakistan's response is the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2023, a comprehensive framework aimed at fostering resilience and sustainability.

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EPC to issue 327 electoral symbols list for general elections 2024

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has prepared list of electoral symbols, encompassing over 300 options for political parties and independent candidates alike.

The list boasts a diverse array of symbols, ranging from eagle, lion, and crane to arrows, swords, and bats.

The list includes representations as varied as cars, jeeps, bulbs, ducks, birds, and flowers.

Even everyday items like soap dishes and thermoses have found their place among the plethora of symbols, creating a unique visual narrative for the electorate.

With a total of 327 electoral symbols, the ECP ensured an extensive selection process that allows political parties and independent candidates to align their

campaigns with symbols that resonate with their ethos and communicate effectively with the voters.

Sources within the ECP claimed the much-anticipated list of election symbols is set to be unveiled next week.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announcing the reserved verdict ordered Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) intra-party elections within 20 days.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) said PTI did not conduct transparent elections as per the Constitution.

The PTI should conduct the election within 20 days under the Constitution. The ECP said that intra-party election reports submit the report in seven days after the election.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed, Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George, Islamic scholar Abdul Khabeer Azad and others showing solidarity during National Message Pakistan Peace Conference, at a local hotel in Provincial Capital.

IMF reduces estimate of Pakistan's external debt requirement

ISLAMABAD (Online): International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reduced the estimate of loans required by Pakistan.

According to sources, the IMF has estimated Pakistan's external debt demand during the current fiscal year and the next fiscal year to be \$124 billion, which is \$8 billion less than the previous estimate.

The main reason for the decline in Pakistan's demand for external debt is a reduction in the current account deficit, lower external debt repayments and debt restructuring by China.

Zardari, Bilawal to address PPP's founding day public meeting in Quetta

Independent Report

QUETTA: The central leaders of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) including former President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari would address the jalsa to be held on occasion of its 56th founding day on November 30 in Quetta.

The preparations are in progress for the public meeting of the party.

This was stated by the leader of PPP, Nawab Sanaullah Zehri while speaking to the delegations

Caretaker CM grieved over death of Mir Ismail Lehri

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has expressed condolence and sorrow over the death of former Nazim Chiltan Town, Mir Muhammad Ismail Lehri.

In a condolence statement issued here on Sunday, the Chief Minister said that the late Ismail Lehri was a sincere and public friendly human being.

As a Nazim, Mir Ismail Lehri paid attention on the collective development of area and took measures for resolving the public issues, Mr. Domki maintained.

The Chief Minister said that we share the grief of his death with the bereaved family.

here on Sunday.

He said that former President Zardari would be participating in the public meeting on desire of the people of Balochistan.

He said that the participation and joint address of both the leaders would be clear response to those talking about differences and making bases less propaganda in this regard.

He claimed that over 40,000 workers would participate in the public meeting.

The central leaders would also begin their election campaign from Quetta,

Special polio immunization drive begins in 33 districts of Balochistan province

Independent Report

QUETTA: The special polio immunization campaign is scheduled to commence in 33 districts of Balochistan province from today (Monday).

According to the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for Polio Eradication, the polio campaign is being launched other three polio high risk districts including Quetta, Pishin and Killa Abdullah.

Needless to mention here is that the anti-polio campaign is already continued in the polio high risk

districts of the province.

The EOC sources said that it was the third day of campaign concluded in Quetta, Pishin and Killa Abdullah. The anti-polio campaign was started in these districts on November 24, 2023.

According to EOC, it has been targeted to vaccinate over 2.5 million children below five years of age during the campaign being run all over the province.

More than 1100 teams have been formed to vaccinate the children during the campaign.

Balochistan women summit 2023 to be held in Quetta on November 28

Independent Report

QUETTA: The first Balochistan Women Summit 2023 is scheduled to be held under the auspices of Provincial Information Department on November 28 in Quetta.

According to an official handout issued here on Sunday, the Women Summit would be held in collaboration with Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund

for strengthening of women of the province.

The Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar would be the chief guest at the event while the provincial ministers and advisers would also be participating in it. The prominent YouTubers, singers and personalities belonging to different sections of life would also be participating in the summit.



CHAMAN: Leaders of Awami National Party Ameer Haider Khan Hoti, Asghar Khan Achakzai, Khushal Khan Kakar, Engr. Zamrak Achakzia, Mabat Kaka and others addressing a public gathering held in memory of Shuhada-e-Watan.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Lessons in complicity

If there is one takeaway from Israel's war on Gaza — other than the fact that Israel is more than happy to commit a genocide and get away with it — it is that world powers, media (Western and some in the Global South), the entertainment industry, and even the human rights industry, are all more than capable of not just cynicism but sheer hypocrisy when it comes to their practise of rights-based discourse. As the 'truce' in Gaza began not two days back, some of the most heartbreaking scenes unfolded: Palestinian families reuniting with their children and loved ones released by Israel, some after years and years of detention for crimes as small as stone-throwing. Some children arrested years back have returned as full-blown adults, having spent years in Israeli prisons without recourse to a justice system or anything resembling justice at all. Some of the Hamas-held Israeli captives too got to see their families as a result of the temporary truce. More hostages on both sides are set for release. In total, 39 Palestinians and 13 Israelis were released, while Hamas also released ten Thai and one Filipino hostages.

As Gazans return home to a flattened city, whose every corner screams of the genocidal war waged on it, there are questions over what possible justification could ever be used for what Israel did to Gazans and those also in the West Bank. Nearly 15,000 Palestinians — including more than 6000 children — have been killed in Gaza since October 7 while more than 200 Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces and settlers in the West Bank. These numbers could have been far less had Israel agreed to Hamas' demand for a prisoner swap early on after October 7. But Israel seemed to have had one goal: flatten Gaza. Which it has, rendering its 2.3 million people starved, dehydrated, buried under rubble or running for cover from skies that rained down bombs relentlessly. With 137 aid trucks entering Gaza on Friday, aid agencies have already said much more will be needed for a starving population that also faces growing incidence of disease. Just one look at the Palestinian prisoners' details is enough to understand the brutality of Israeli occupation, many of the Palestinians having been arrested for offences such as carrying and manufacturing knives and daggers, illegally entering Israel without a permit, throwing stones or associating with hostile organizations. In the past 20 years, 13000 Palestinian children have been arrested or detained by Israel. No tears were shed by the international community, no opeds were written, no panels were arranged by incensed American or European politicians — not for these children. Israel had held 5200 Palestinians in total in its prisons, a number that increased by 3000 after October 7.

Beyond corridors: empowering Pakistan



By Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

Pakistan's ability to maximize the benefits of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) hinges on the formulation of a practical and inclusive industrial policy. The success of CPEC in fostering Pakistan's industrial development necessitates a strategic approach that actively involves stakeholders, particularly those from medium and small industries. Without a comprehensive policy framework addressing the needs of a diverse industrial landscape, the nation may fall short of fully capitalizing on CPEC's transformative potential.

As Pakistan navigates the transformative corridors of CPEC, the wisdom of inclusive industrial policies becomes paramount. The journey towards sustainable progress echoes the sentiment that a nation's strength lies in empowering every facet of its economy. With this in mind, a pertinent question arises: Can Pakistan truly harness the full potential of CPEC without a well-crafted industrial policy that actively involves stakeholders, especially those from medium and small industries.

A critical examination of the committees overseeing CPEC's industrial policies becomes imperative. How can the composition of these committees be scrutinized to ensure diverse representation, particularly including stakeholders from medium and small industries, fostering an inclusive approach to decision-making?

In the pursuit of trans-

formative change, there's an inherent risk of bias. How can CPEC strike a balance to ensure that industrialists, benefiting from the current system, do not resist reforms that might disrupt their positions, and how can diverse stakeholder interests be accommodated?

Considerations must extend beyond immediate gains. In the intricate web of CPEC, how might we ensure that the lens through which industrialists view their involvement doesn't solely focus on the gains of their enterprises? Instead, how can it broaden to encompass broader socio-economic considerations — such as ensuring fair resource distribution, prioritizing the welfare of workers, and championing environmental sustainability?

The historical imbalance in Pakistan's industrial landscape is a challenge that CPEC must confront. How can policies be crafted to rectify historical disparities where large industrialists have thrived, leaving smaller enterprises struggling, and how can the inclusion of diverse stakeholders be a driving force in achieving a more equitable distribution of benefits?

A comprehensive analysis of the committees responsible for overseeing the industrial policies within CPEC is of utmost importance. It is essential to scrutinize the intricacies of how these committees are structured and operate to guarantee a fair and effective decision-making process. In seeking an answer to this question, the wisdom of iconic industrialist Henry Ford reverberates: "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." The essence of this quote encapsulates the essence of our inquiry. It underscores the importance not just of assembling diverse perspectives but of ensuring their

continual inclusion and collaboration, fostering a synergy that propels us toward genuine success.

As we envision the committees overseeing CPEC's industrial policies, we must view them not merely as bureaucratic entities but as dynamic hubs where the collective aspirations of a nation converge. Inclusive decision-making, where the voices of both large and small industries are harmonized, paves the way for a transformative journey. The success of these committees lies not just in their composition but in their commitment to maintaining a vibrant, ever-evolving collaboration that mirrors the diversity and dynamism of Pakistan's industrial terrain.

The journey toward comprehensive and inclusive decision-making within CPEC is a journey toward unlocking the true potential of Pakistan's industries. To echo the sentiments of Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, "Inclusive development is possible only when we foster the capabilities and participation of all individuals." It is in this spirit of fostering capabilities and participation, especially from medium and small industries, that the committees overseeing CPEC's industrial policies can truly become architects of transformative change. As they navigate the intricacies of decision-making, let them be guided by the understanding that true success lies in a collaborative and inclusive journey toward a more prosperous and harmonious future.

This scrutiny is indispensable for fostering an inclusive approach to decision-making, ensuring that the diverse needs and interests of all sectors within the industrial landscape are considered and addressed. This review is essential for ensuring fair growth. It means recognizing and considering the

Geoeconomic pivot



By Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

For nearly two years, the subject of geoeconomics has been discussed in Pakistan's academic and official echelons. In an article published in this paper in December 2021, this writer had discussed the prospects of geoeconomics benefiting Pakistan by leveraging our economic geography to address geostrategic challenges — it being understood that geoeconomics is not a replacement for geopolitics and that both must work in tandem.

However, it is important to recognize that Pakistan's pivot to geoeconomics is different from the way the term evolved in the Cold War context. US strategists proposed to use geoeconomics to gain geopolitical advantage against adversaries. An elaborate menu of economic instruments was developed: promoting or blocking investments, market access, or infrastructure projects and imposing economic sanctions, tariff wars, and technology wars. This represented a skewed dimension of geoeconomics, while working against vulnerable ones. This is not the geoeconomic pivot to which Pakistan aspires. For Pakistan, the pivot to geoeconomics would mean benefiting from our unique economic geography.

Pakistan is at the confluence of three major theatres of global contestation. First is the Indo-Pacific region, which extends from Japan through the Pacific and Indian Oceans and ends up in India to our east. The region is at the heart of the ongoing US-

China competition. Pakistan, as a neighbour of both India and China, cannot shy away from the challenges emanating from this region.

Second is the Middle East, which extends from North Africa across the Arab heartland and ends in Iran to our southwest. Momentous winds of change are sweeping across this vast region. We can witness these in the Iran-Saudi rapprochement brokered by China, waning US influence in the region, and the Israel-Hamas conflict, which has disrupted the Arab-Israeli normalisation process. As a neighbour of Iran, and located in the vicinity of the Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia, which itself is undergoing a socioeconomic transformation of historic proportions, Pakistan cannot stay aloof from these developments.

Third is the Central Asian region, which is connected to both Russia and China, and straddles the energy and mineral-rich lands down to Afghanistan, Pakistan's northwestern neighbour. Russia sees this region as its backyard, while China and Turkey are both seeking to extend their influence. Here, too, the US seems to be losing ground. Any changes across Central Asia, particularly in Afghanistan, are bound to be of direct concern to Pakistan.

While this economic geography is throwing up geostrategic challenges as major power competition intensifies in all the three regions, there will also be opportunities which Pakistan can avail only if it plays its geoeconomic hand in tandem with pursuing its geopolitical goals, while understanding its limitations. These challenges and opportunities have been discussed at length in a recent book-

let, *Geoeconomic Pivot*, authored by Moeed Yusuf and Rabia Akhtar, which was discussed at a recent conference in Islamabad. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

UN FAO's 40 ambitious projects to revolutionize agriculture in Pakistan: Country Rep Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) has unveiled a dynamic portfolio of 40 diverse projects strategically dispersed across various regions of Pakistan.

These initiatives, with varying scopes, financial parameters, and target audiences, underscore the FAO's commitment to fortifying the agriculture and food security sectors in the country.

In an exclusive panel interview with the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), Country Representative Florence Rolle and Assistant FAOR (Programs) Dr. Aamer Irshad highlighted the proactive role of the FAO in numerous initiatives and programs aimed at strengthening Pakistan's agriculture and food security sectors. These initiatives span a spectrum, including enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainability, supporting livestock and fisheries

development, and implementing food security programs to alleviate hunger and malnutrition.

Rolle outlined FAO's 2023-2027 priorities with Pakistan: enhancing food availability, strengthening climate-responsive planning, and improving agricultural value chains. The focus includes nutrition policy, climate frameworks, support for enterprises, disease control, and women's empowerment in agriculture.

She explained that

project selection is based on a thorough consultative process, aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027. The FAO's Country Programming Framework (CPF) for 2023-2027 involves consultations with relevant ministries, departments, academia, UN agencies, and resource partners at both federal and provincial levels. The FAO's involvement extends beyond traditional agricultural support.



RIYADH: SAPM, Jawad Sohrab Malik visits Tamkeen HR in KSA.

SAPM visits Tamkeen HR office to discuss paramedical manpower job opportunities

ISLAMABAD (APP): SAPM on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Jawad Sohrab Malik visited Tamkeen Human Resources along with Deputy Head of Mission Moazzam Ali, Community Welfare Attaches, DG Bureau of Emigration, and Joint Secretary Emigration on Sunday. He was received by CEO Tamkeen Faris Al-Hanaki. He was briefed by the CEO about the working of the Company, said a

press release. CEO HR informed that there was a lot of demand for manpower, especially in the healthcare sector, particularly for paramedical staff.

Tamkeen was ready to fully cooperate and engage with OEC and other companies to increase the manpower import from Pakistan. He also informed that the hospitality sector was another potential sector in which there was great demand.

SAPM assured full cooperation for export of manpower from Pakistan.

He also informed that a new Saudi desk has been set up in the Ministry of OP&HRD Pakistan for solving all the issues of Saudi recruitment companies.

SAPM also requested cooperation in enhancing the level of skills of Pakistani workers and professionals to meet the market demands of KSA.

PR all set to procure 230 passenger coaches, 820 High Capacity Wagons

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways is set to procure 230 passenger coaches and 820 High Capacity Wagons under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) aiming help to improve the speed of the trains and ensure adherence to fixed timings.

"Out of the total, around 46 Completely-Built-Up (CBU) passenger coaches have been procured up till now while the remaining 184 would be manufactured in the country and the coaches would be able to travel at the speed of 160km/h," said an official in the

Ministry of Railways. "Pakistan Railways is putting maximum efforts to complete rehabilitation and reconstruction work on the railway track, improving the speed of the locomotives to carry passengers to their respective destinations on time," he added.

The infrastructure, including the track and signalling system from Karachi to Peshawar, Main Line-I (ML-I), and doubling of track from Lahore to Peshawar (462.20 Km) was also being revamped, he added.

Pak Olive National Gala concludes

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a concerted effort to raise awareness about the quality standards in the Virgin Olive Oil industry, a Virgin Olive Oil Competition recently took center stage, spotlighting excellence and fostering a culture of quality within the sector.

The competition served as a platform for producers to showcase their commitment to delivering superior virgin olive oil products. The conclusion of the competition marked a significant moment as awards were distributed to commend outstanding achievements, said a news release issued here on Sunday.



LAHORE: People enjoying the second day of exhibition at the Pak China Industry Exhibition at the Expo Center.

40% windfall tax on banks' profits faces uncertainty

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) notification imposing a 40% additional tax on banks' windfall profits has met with uncertainty as it requires approval from the National Assembly by February 19, 2024. The formation of the National Assembly is not expected until after the upcoming general elections, raising concerns about the timely implementation of the tax

measure. The FBR issued SRO 1588(1)/2023 on November 21, 2023, invoking its powers under Section 99D(2) of the Income Tax Ordinance to tax banks' windfall profits. The notification outlines the calculation method and formula for determining the 40% tax. However, Section 99D(3) of the Income Tax Ordinance mandates that the federal government obtain approval from the National Assembly for such a tax measure.

FBR releases updated Income tax rules 2023

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has released an updated version of the Income Tax Rules 2002, incorporating all amendments made up to November 24, 2023.

These amendments include those introduced in the current fiscal year's federal budget, as well as any changes made since June 30.

The primary goal of issuing these updated rules is to simplify the tax process for taxpayers.

Momin urges Govt to prioritize uninterrupted power supply for industrial, agri sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Pakistan Business Forum Lahore Momin Ali Malik Sunday urged the government to prioritize uninterrupted power and gas supply for the industrial sector and agriculture sector during the winter season. Talking to a delegation of industrialists, he said, "The industrial sector plays a pivotal role in the economic growth and uninterrupted gas and power

supply is essential for its smooth functioning," said a news release issued here.

"This will not only sustain production but also safeguard jobs and contribute to overall economic stability besides helping export targets," he said. "Timely availability of power is crucial for agricultural activities, especially during winter, to support processes such as crop drying and irrigation."

Energy secretary to brief senate committee

ISLAMABAD (Online): The matter of non-implementation of the recommendations of the Senate Energy Committee, Secretary Energy will give a briefing to the committee today (Monday).

The meeting of the committee will be held in the Parliament House under the chairmanship of Senator Saifullah Abru. In the meeting, Secretary Energy and MD NESPAK will explain the non-implementation.

Naqvi inaugurates Cavalry underpass completed in record time of two months

Reviews police data report, praises crime reduction trend

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated Lahore's Cavalry Ground Underpass on Sunday, which has been completed in a record time of two-and-a-half months, instead of six months.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, he congratulated the people of Lahore on completion of the underpass. He felicitates people of Lahore, especially the residents of Gulberg and Defence on the completion of the Cavalry underpass.

He said that people should confine themselves within their houses on holidays for reduction in smog. They should not come out of their houses unnecessarily. "If we take care of our environment, then positive changes will come into effect," he added. The level of smog has reduced due to lessening of traffic during previous three days, he added. "We had to close the main road due to construction work and that's why Cavalry underpass was a difficult project," he said and added that with the opening of Ghora Chowk flyover on Dec 7, the route would become signal-free from the Centre Point up to Defence Mor. About two lakh vehicles would pass through the road daily after opening of Cavalry underpass. People had to stop at three signals earlier, he added. "We are focusing more on the three important projects namely Lahore, Rawalpindi Ring Roads and the Bund Road project and striving for an early completion of these projects," he added.

DG LDA, his team and the contractor completed the Cavalry underpass by working day and night, he said.



LAHORE: A group photo of Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi along with Caretaker CM Punjab Mohsin Raza Naqvi and other members during 59th Anniversary of PTV Lahore Center.

Azam Khan slapped hefty fine for Palestine sticker on bat in National T20

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Pakistani batter Azam Khan has found himself at the centre of controversy during a National T20 Cup match against Lahore Blues, reports on social media claim.

The batter has been fined 50% of his match fees for affixing a sticker of the Palestine flag on his bat. The authorities have warned Azam Khan of potential suspension if he persists in using the flag sticker, reports say.

Earlier during the world cup 2023 match against Sri Lanka, wicket keeper batter Muhammad Rizwan chose to dedicate the win to the oppressed Palestinians in Gaza.

Rizwan took the opportunity to express his deep-rooted solidarity with the Palestinian cause via X. It was reported that Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had asked Rizwan to delete the post, but he did not comply with it.

Notable, Pakistan ex-skipper Babar Azam also posted in favour of Gaza right after the team's return to Pakistan, and after he had left captaincy.



SWABI: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali, Chairman Higher Education Commission Professor Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed and Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr. Nasir Jamal Khattak addressing the 3rd Convocation of University of Swabi.

CM visits MDCAT center at AWKUM

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice @ Syed Arshad Hussain Shah paid a short visit to Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan on Sunday to take stock of the arrangements put in place for holding Medical and Dental College Admissions Test (MDCAT) in the centre established in the premises of the University.

The concerned authorities on duty in the centre briefed the Chief Minister about the arrangements made for the MDCAT, and said that foolproof arrangements in all respects have been put in place for holding the test in a transparent manner.

The Chief Minister was informed that a total of 5443 candidates were registered in Mardan centre for appearing in the MDCAT adding that entry of all irrelevant persons into the premises of the centre is prohibited whereas all kinds of electronic gadgets including cell phones, wrist watches, etc. are banned in the premises. It was further told that a complete body search of all the candidates and supervising staff has been ensured while mobile service in the area has been suspended through the Pakistan Telecommunications Authority.

The Chief Minister was further informed that the required strength of supervising staff has also been ensured for conducting the test in the desired manner whereas Section 144 of CrPC has been invoked by the district administration to ban the use of all kinds of electronic gadgets in the vicinity of the centre.

Smog lockdown continues in Sargodha

SARGODHA (APP): A smart lockdown to contain smog was observed across the district on Sunday.

Action was also taken against industrial units, brick kilns, vehicle owners and farmers who caused air pollution and smog. Since April 1, Rs. 5.9 million fines and 61 cases have been registered.

These details were given by Deputy Commissioner Captain (Rtd) Shoaib Ali about the implementation of smart lockdown orders to control smog and steps taken by the district administration.

The DC said that after following the instructions of the Punjab government, educational institutions remained completely closed in all tehsils of the district from Friday to Sunday, while shops, shopping centers, hotels and restaurants were allowed to open after 3 o'clock.

China gears up to mitigate smog in Punjab

ISLAMABAD (INP): China and Pakistan are collaborating to tackle the hazardous smog and air pollution threatening the lives of over 100 million residents in Punjab province.

Three areas have been identified for China-Pakistan partnership to help Punjab address the dangerous atmospheric toxicity that has enveloped many districts over the last two months, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday.

One area of cooperation is conducting artificial rain in smog-affected localities.

A Punjab government official told Gwadar Pro that cloud seeding is the most effective method for inducing artificial rain, adding that arrangements with Chinese experts have been finalised.

"Chinese experts will soon visit Pakistan," he added. Artificial rain, or cloud seeding, is a weather modification technique involving the dispersion of chemicals into clouds from an aircraft to encourage precipitation.

It is used to induce rainfall in drought-stricken or pollution-laden areas.

The second area of collaboration involves using Chinese anti-smog technology by installing smog towers in Lahore and other parts of the province.

Progress was made following a successful meeting between Punjab CM Mohsin Naqvi and Chinese Consul General Lahore Zhao Shiren.

According to the Chinese Consul General, good air quality is essential for the people of Lahore.

The Chinese Consulate Lahore has provided comprehensive documents regarding smog-eating towers built in China to the Chief Minister Office Task Force Smog.

Hotels business centres sealed for violating smog lockdown

SIALKOT (APP): The local administration sealed six hotels, eight business centres and Sunday Bazar Imam Sahib for violating the smart lockdown to combat smog. Similarly, 11 business centers including a school were sealed in Daska and 12 people were detained. Over 108 business centers have been sealed since Friday and 52 people were arrested for violating government instructions and a fine of Rs.5,80,000 was imposed. Meanwhile, during the smog lockdown in Lahai Bazar under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner (AC) Sialkot Ghulam Sarwar, a trader resisted and took out a gun.

Cycling rally held in Lahore to raise awareness about smog

LAHORE (APP): A bicycle rally was held from Liberty to Valencia Town to raise awareness about dangers of smog and cycling promotion, here on Sunday.

The personnel of the Police Friendly Patrolling Unit (PFPU) also took part in the rally specially. The look of the city fades due to smog, an elderly citizen told APP while taking part in the rally. He said the blurring was not due to fog but smog, whose damages to human health were numerous.

Around 300 people took part in the bicycle rally. Women and children also participated in the rally from Liberty and reiterated their commitment to make the city smog-free.

The Police Unit, participating in the event, specially made arrangements to create awareness about causes of smog and the preventive measures.

The rally passed through Barkat Market, Jinnah Hospital, Johar Town and Shaukat Khanum before reaching Valencia Town. An official at Deputy Commissioner's office said millions of vehicles ply The Mall road everyday, adding to smoke pollution.

International News

Thousands march in Indonesia, Canada calling for permanent ceasefire in Gaza

News Desk

JAKARTA: Thousands of Indonesian protesters turned out for a peaceful march in solidarity with Palestine on Sunday, as they called for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

Indonesians from various cities marched through the streets of Karawang, West Java, mostly dressed in white and wearing traditional Palestinian scarves, as they waved Palestinian flags and chanted "Free Palestine."

The demonstration in Karawang was the latest in several huge protests staged across Indonesia since Israel began its deadly onslaught on Palestinian civilians in Gaza last month. Indonesians in Bali, North Sulawesi and Depok, West Java, also took to the streets over the weekend in similar marches.

Sunday's protest came on the third day of a four-day cease-fire that has allowed humanitarian aid into the besieged strip, after Israel agreed to stop the daily bombardment in exchange for the release of its hostages held by the Gaza-based militant group Hamas.

"We are calling for a permanent ceasefire ... We also demand the immediate delivery of critical humanitarian aid to Palestinians in need," protest coordinator Cecep Jasim told Media.

"These protests are important, especially for the international community, so that we can show what Israel is doing to Palestine is an act of terrorism that we must fight against," he said. "The situation in Gaza right now is a product of Israeli violence that has hurt people's hearts across the globe."

Since early October, Israel has killed at least 14,800 people in the besieged Palestinian enclave and wounded tens of thousands more. The Israeli military has dropped about 40,000 tons of bombs on Gaza, authorities in the strip said, and carried out attacks on crucial public facilities, including hospitals and schools.

Indonesia has long been a staunch supporter of Palestine, with its people and authorities seeing Palestinian statehood as mandated by their own constitution, which calls for the abolition of colonialism.

INP adds: Thousands of protesters carried placards, waved Palestinian flags and chanted slogans before Canada's Parliament in Ottawa, demanding a permanent ceasefire in the war between Israel and Hamas.

The diverse group included Palestinian, Arab, Muslim, Jewish, anti-war, labor and social justice organizations.

The rally followed an online petition presented to lawmakers on Friday with 286,719 signatures—said to be the most of any parliamentary e-petition—urging Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to press for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

LAHORE: A group photo of Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi along with Caretaker CM Punjab Mohsin Raza Naqvi and other members during 59th Anniversary of PTV Lahore Center.



A Palestinian checks the damage in a street in the aftermath of an Israeli raid in Jenin, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

제10차 한일중 외교장관회의 대한민국 부산, 2023.11.26.

The Tenth Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting
The Republic of Korea, Japan and the People's Republic of China
Busan, Korea, November 26, 2023



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa pose for a photo prior to the 10th trilateral foreign ministers' meeting in Busan, South Korea

China, Japan, South Korea agree to boost trilateral ties, seek summit

News Desk

SEOUL: The foreign ministers of China, Japan and South Korea agreed on Sunday to restart cooperation among the Asian neighbours and pave the way for a summit of their three leaders in the latest move to ease tensions in the vital region. Even as China and the United States mend frayed ties, including a summit this month between Presidents Xi Jinping and Joe Biden, Beijing is concerned that Washington and its key regional allies are strengthening their three-way partnership.

Beijing, Seoul and Tokyo had agreed on annual summits from 2008 to bolster diplomatic and economic exchanges, but two-way rows and the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted the plan, with the three leaders last meeting in 2019.

The three top diplomats met in the South Korean port of Busan for their first such meeting since 2019, after officials of the three countries agreed in September to arrange a trilateral summit at the "earliest convenient time".

The three ministers did not specify a timeframe for the trilateral summit.

61 trucks deliver aid in northern Gaza: UN

WASHINGTON (INP): The United Nations said 61 trucks carrying medical supplies, food and water had delivered their payloads in northern Gaza, as a pause in fighting allows aid to enter the besieged coastal territory.

Another 200 trucks had been dispatched to the Gaza Strip from Nitzana, Israel, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in a statement, with 187 of them having made it past the border by the early evening local time.

Eleven ambulances, three coaches and a flatbed were delivered to Al-Shifa hospital, which had seen heavy fighting in recent days, "to assist with evacuations," the statement said.

"The longer the pause lasts, the more aid humanitarian agencies will be able to send in and across Gaza," it added, thanking the Palestinian and Egyptian Red Crescent groups.

The day prior, when a temporary truce between Israel and Hamas began in order to facilitate the hostage and prisoner exchange, a total of 137 trucks had delivered aid in Gaza, according to the UN.

"We welcome the release of more hostages today and renew our call for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages," the OCHA said.

"And we hope the release of more Palestinian detainees brings relief to their families and loved ones."

Exchanges continued into early Sunday, local time, with Hamas expected to free a total of 50 hostages during the four-day truce in exchange for 150 Palestinian prisoners, under an agreement brokered by Qatar, Egypt and the United States.

Hamas fighters snatched around 240 people when they broke through Gaza's militarized border with Israel on October 7, killing about 1,200 Israelis and foreigners, according to Israeli authorities.

Following the deadliest attack in its history, Israel launched an air, artillery and naval bombardment alongside a ground offensive to destroy Hamas, killing nearly 15,000 people, mostly civilians and including thousands of children, according to the Hamas government in Gaza.

'Act immediately,' says UN chief on visit to frozen but rapidly melting Antarctica

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Ahead of the COP28 conference in Dubai, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres says that while the frozen but rapidly melting Antarctica has been called the sleeping giant, the continent is now being awoken by the adverse impacts of climate change.

The UN chief is on a three-day official visit to Antarctica, which regulates the planet's climate because its ice and cold waters drive major ocean currents. Chilean President Gabriel Boric joined him for an official visit to Chile's Eduardo Frei Air Force Base on King George Island. He was also scheduled to visit the Collins and Nelson glaciers by boat.

"Fossil fuel pollution is heating our planet, unleashing climate anarchy in Antarctica," said Guterres, adding that the Southern Ocean has taken the majority of the heat from global warming.

"That means ice is melting into the ocean at record rates. Melting ice means sea levels are rising at record rates," he explained.

"That directly endangers the lives and livelihoods of people in coastal communities across the globe. It means homes are no longer insurable. And it threatens the very existence of some small island states."

Antarctic sea ice is at an all-time low. New figures show that this September, it was 1.5 million square kilometers smaller than the average for the time of year—"an area roughly the size of Portugal, Spain, France, and Germany combined."

Guterres noted that the Greenland ice sheet is also melting fast, losing over 250 gigatons of ice every year.

Another Israeli-owned ship seized in Indian Ocean amidst rising tensions

WASHINGTON (INP): An Israeli-owned ship became the target of a suspected drone attack in the Indian Ocean the other day.

The information was disclosed by an anonymous US defense official. The vessel in question, CMA CGM Symi, fell victim to the attack in international waters, amidst heightened concerns for regional shipping routes during Israel's conflict with Gaza.

The assault on the CMA CGM Symi occurred shortly before the commencement of a four-day ceasefire on Friday, according to Lebanon's Al-Mayadeen news network.

The risk management company Ambrey suggested that the attack was likely aimed at the vessel due to its Israeli association through the Israeli-owned shipping management company, Eastern Pacific Shipping.



RIYADH: SAPM, Jawad Sohrab Malik meets Engr. Abdulrahman Almarwani, Deputy Governor, Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC) in Saudi Arabia.

SAPM Jawad says Strengthening Pak-Saudi skills development cooperation need of hour

ISLAMABAD (INP): Headed by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD), Jawad Sohrab Malik, a Pakistani delegation on Sunday visited the Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC) of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh. The delegation comprised Ambassador of Pakistan Ahmad Farooq, Director General of Bureau of Emigration & Overseas Employment (BEOE) Akram Khawaja, Joint Secretary Emigration Aurangzeb, and Community Welfare Attachés, said a press release.

The Saudi side was represented by Deputy Governor Eng. Abdulrahman Almarwani, Director General of International Cooperation Eng. Sultan Alsunaya, Supervisor at the Deputy Governor Office for Training and Quality Policies, Dr. Khaled Al-Othman, and International Cooperation Specialist at the Directorate of International Cooperation, Khaled Alshehri.

The Deputy Governor of the Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC) welcomed the Pakistani delegation. The meeting was held in a very cordial manner.

The Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC) team gave a detailed presentation on the working of TVTC.

Chairman, members CMIT visit Ormara and Pasni

QUETTA: The Chairman, Chief Minister Inspection Team, Dostain Jamaldini along with members of CMIT, Abdul Rauf Baloch and Muhammad Qasim Mengal visited Tehsil Ormara and Pasni on Sunday.

During the visit, the Chairman and members of CMIT inspected different schemes in Ormara city.

The schemes were included: Government Girls College Ormara, Government Girls and Boys High School's new model building, main football ground, security highway Balochistan coastal highway, besides different other schemes.

Meanwhile, they visited DIG camp office Ormara.

The Chairman CMIT directed the concerned high ups to maintain qua of work on the projects.

Similarly, he also inspected different parts of the hospital in Pasni being run with Oman's assistance.



DERA GHAZI KHAN: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haq addressing a public gathering.

ECP appoints 32 RMCs for effective 2024 election monitoring

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) appointed 32 Regional Election Commissioners (RECs) as Regional Monitoring Coordinators (RMCs) to ensure effective monitoring of the 2024 General Elections.

As stated by the ECP spokesperson, the appointed Regional Coordinators will play a crucial role in guaranteeing comprehensive monitoring at the division level. They are also responsible for guiding and supervising the monitoring teams within their respective districts during the upcoming General Elections.

The ECP will establish four-tier monitoring control rooms, with Provincial, Divisional, and District Monitoring Control Rooms operating under the supervision of the Central Monitoring Control Center in Islamabad.

Bilawal felicitates Sikh community on 554th birthday of Guru Nanak

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has extended felicitations to the Sikh community on the 554th birthday of Guru Nanak Devji, which is being celebrated across the globe tomorrow including at his birthplace Nankana Sahib, in Pakistan.

In his message on the eve of Guru Nanak Devji's birthday, the PPP Chairman said that his teachings are meant to spread love, peace and harmony everywhere on the globe. Bilawal welcomed the Sikh pilgrims, who came from all over the world to Pakistan to pay homage to their Guru at his birthplace. As a custodian of the holy place of the Sikh community, the Pakistani nation and administration will provide every facility.

Speakers underscore significance of CPEC for Pakistan's prosperity, global collaboration

PESHAWAR (APP): Speakers at a seminar on Sunday underscored significance of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for Pakistan's prosperity and global collaboration and stressed the importance of converting these challenges into opportunities.

Secretary Agriculture Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Javed Marwat has heralded the CPEC as a transformative game-changer for both Pakistan and the broader region.

He said that this significant project not only presented challenges but also offered unprecedented opportunities for the nation. The seminar was organized by the China Window, a Peshawar-based Chinese Cultural Center, in collaboration with the Institute of Management Sciences (IMSciences). A large number of male and female students participated in the seminar.

Javed Marwat emphasized that CPEC presented both challenges and opportunities for the region.

He said Pakistan needs to improve its industries and generate youth employment through CPEC.

Javed Marwat expressed optimism that the establishment of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) would attract investment not only from China but also from other countries from around the world, including the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

The Secretary of Agriculture underscored the potential for agricultural development.

He pointed out that 1.1 million acres of land in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was currently barren, emphasizing the need to leverage CPEC to cultivate this land. Javed Marwat suggested that adopting China's successful agricultural model could lead to significant progress in the sector.

Javed Marwat urged the audience to view global conditions as an opportunity to turn challenges into positive outcomes. He anticipated that the SIFC would attract investors from various countries worldwide, contributing to Pakistan's economic growth.

Professor Dr. Usman Ghani, Director of IMSciences, highlighted that CPEC encompasses not only industrial investment but also educational collaboration between Pakistan and China. He acknowledged the thousands of Pakistani students benefiting from scholarships to study in top Chinese universities.

He emphasized the positive impact of memorandums of understanding (MoU) signed between educational institutions in Pakistan, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and their Chinese counterparts. Dr. Usman Ghani said that the present era required producing such a batch of students who were skilled in technology and serve in the industry sector. Adil Salah Ud Din, Chief Commercial Officer of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Management Company (KPEZDMC), provided insights into the provincial government's initiatives to promote industrialization. He noted the establishment of factories in the Rashakai Economic Zone and the creation of special economic zones in northern and southern districts to attract domestic and international investors.



KAMOKKE: Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) leaders Jahangir Khan Tareen, Abdul Aleem Khan and others pose for a group photo during the party's workers convention in Kamoke.

IPP to ensure stability in country: Aleem Khan

LAHORE (APP): Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) President Abdul Aleem Khan on Sunday lauded the role played by the Pakistan Army in ensuring stability of the nation. Addressing a workers' convention in Kamoke, he asserted the current state of stability owes much to the unwavering commitment of the armed forces, stating, "If this country is stable, then it is because of the Pakistan Army." The IPP president, while taking a dig at previous regimes, criticised the previous governments for making grand promises but failing to deliver. The seasoned politician asserted that, under his leadership, the party would not entertain any dissent against the military.

Talking on the local issues, Khan turned his attention to the concerns of the citizens of Kamonke.

Acknowledging challenges including inadequate healthcare facilities, lack of clean water, and subpar infrastructure, he pledged that if the IPP assumed power, Kamonke would be transformed into a model city. Khan also promised the establishment of a cardiology hospital and an overall improvement in the town's amenities.

He pointed out that the 18-month PDM government, which he referenced, was remembered for achievements and failures alike, with electricity bills becoming a lingering reminder of its tenure.

The IPP president accused previous rulers of corruption, asserting that the people's trust in the system had been eroded.

Health official suspended on misconduct

QUETTA: A health official was suspended on charges of the misconduct in the Shaheed Benazir Hospital Quetta on Sunday.

According to the spokesman of Health Department, the services of male Nurse Sharjeel Ejaz have been placed under suspension due to the misconduct and indiscipline shown his part during duty hours.

Meanwhile, the Secretary Health Abdullah Khan warned that no misconduct and negligence would be tolerated on part of the health officials.

He said that the action would remain continued against those committed any negligence in the health department.

Saeed, Ruqia Hashmi express grief on demise of Ismail Lehri

QUETTA (APP) Founder and Senator of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) Saeed Ahmad Hashmi and former provincial minister Dr. Ruqia Saeed Hashmi expressed their grief on the death of former Nazim Chaltan Town Meera Ismail Lahri. In a joint statement issued here on Sunday, they said that the deceased's services to the people of the province and especially Quetta would always be remembered. They said that they were shocked to hear about the death of former Nazim Chaltan Town and political leader Mir Ismail Lehri. They said that Mir Ismail Lehri was seriously ill for a long time, but he did not lose heart and he passed away after fighting against the diseases.

They said that due to the death of Mir Ismail Lehri, we have lost a long-time colleague and a sincere politician saying that his political and public services would always be remembered in golden letters.

Govt sets up high-level tech committee to implement IMF tax net expansion condition

ISLAMABAD (INP): The government has set up a high-level eight-member technical committee to implement the IMF's condition of bringing 15 to 20 million new taxpayers into the tax net by June.

The committee will prepare recommendations and guidelines in one month regarding data integration and implementation of the FBR plan to expand the tax net. The members of the committee include Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) member Inland Revenue Operations Mir Badshah Khan Wazir, member Information Technology Dr. Nasir Khan, member Digital Initiatives FB. R Karamatullah Khan Chaudhry, NADRA Chief Projects Officer Gohar Ahmed Khan, NADRA Head of Department of NDW Syed Mushabir Hussain, FBR Chief Information Technology Zeenul Abidin Sahi and Chief Executive Officer of Pakistan Revenue Automation Limited (PRAL). Aamir Malik is included.

The technical committee will prepare measures and proposals for data integration under Broadening of Taxes, IT Infrastructure Transformation Plan of FBR. Similarly, it will prepare and submit recommendations and suggestions about the implementation of the FBR project to expand the tax net.

The committee will also review the IT infrastructure of the Federal Board of Revenue and recommend the transformation and upgradation plan for FBRKNET infrastructure.

The committee will also make recommendations regarding the restructuring of Pakistan Revenue Automation Limited (PRAL), a subsidiary of FBR, to transform it into a modern IT company. It will also develop data analytics and mathematical modeling using artificial intelligence to provide. The task force will also hold meetings with various relevant stakeholders to prepare recommendations and suggestions for the areas identified.



QUETTA: Provincial Ombudsman Balochistan Nazir Muhammad Baloch Advocate being briefed about problems facing by people of Nawan Killi during an open kutchery. Regional Director Federal Ombudsman Balochistan Ghulam Sarwar Barohi is also present



BEIJING: Ambassador Khalil Hashmi speaking at International Culture Day organized by Pakistan Embassy College.

Khalil Hashmi says: Pak, China committed to cooperation on sustainable development of rivers

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan and China are committed to cooperation for sustainable development and preservation of their rivers.

In this regard, the two countries signed a cooperation agreement focusing on the Indus and Yangtze rivers to explore the challenges and opportunities faced by river cultures, ecosystems and economies and engage in discussions on sustainable development of major rivers, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi said on Saturday.

"Both countries have learnt from the historic role that all these rivers and river system have played for the civilization, human settlements and cultures," he said while talking to APP on the sidelines of the Yangtze Culture Forum held in Nanjing, China.

The forum brought together guests from all over the world to discuss and promote the shared values of humanity and establish a global network for dialogue and collaboration among major river cities.

Ambassador Hashmi acknowledged theme of the forum that focused on Yangtze River and its connections with humanity, cities and civilizations.

"As the largest river in China, Yangtze has played a significant role in economic and cultural development of several big cities along it," he added. "There are a number of ports along the Yangtze River and China has significantly preserved and used this river for not only development of human life but also for food security and connectivity."

"Pakistan has also launched a big project called Living Indus Initiative that mainly deals with environmental protection and climate change," he informed.

The forum, jointly hosted by UNESCO and other partners, fostered exchange and mutual learning in river basin areas, eventually constructing a shared human destiny community.

Rivers play a vital role in nurturing cities and preserving their cultural heritage and shared memories. Nanjing, the only one of China's four great ancient capitals.

Zardari, Nawaz fear criticising Israel will jeopardise return to power: JI Chief

DERA GHAZI KHAN (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Sirajul Haq Sunday launched a scathing criticism against the rival Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), claiming that the top leadership of the parties including Asif Ali Zardari and Nawaz Sharif fear that speaking against Israel would jeopardise their chances of forming a government in future.

Speaking at a political gathering in Dera Gazi Khan, Punjab, the JI emir questioned as to why mainstream politicians including Nawaz, Shehbaz, Zardari, and Bilawal are silent over the issue of Palestine, Geo News reported.

"They believe that if they speak against Israel they won't be able to come into power [in future]," Haq said while referring to the Israel-Hamas conflict which has seen more than 15,000 Palestinians — including over 5,000 children — being martyred due to Israeli bombardment, offensive in the besieged Gaza Strip following Hamas's October 7 attack.

The JI emir also lambasted the former rulers belonging to PPP and PML-N along with Maulana Fazlur Rehman-led Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government for failing to deliver.

"What did they do? [other than] embezzling foreign loans," Haq said accusing the former ruling parties of destroying the country's agricultural sector. His remarks come as political parties in the country ramp up their electioneering ever since the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) — in light of the directions from the Supreme Court — held consultations with President Arif Alvi and announced the date of general elections which are scheduled to be held on February 8, 2024.

The former allies, PPP and PML-N, have also been intensifying their verbal showdown.



PASNI: Director General PDMA Jahanzeb Khan talking with mediemen.

Afghan transit trade gets relief as bank guarantee requirement waived

ISLAMABAD (INP): The caretaker federal government has decided to waive the newly imposed requirement of a bank guarantee equal to the value of duties and taxes imposed on imported goods. The government has also scrapped the condition of a cashable financial guarantee.

According to media reports, the decision was taken after considering the concerns raised by stakeholders regarding the implementation of the new rules, which were introduced through SRO 1402(I)/2023 issued on October 7, 2023. The rules had made it mandatory for importers to provide bank guarantees for goods imported under Afghan transit trade.

The government has now released a draft of amendments to the Customs Rules, which will waive the bank guarantee requirement for Afghan transit trade containers. Stakeholders have been asked to submit their feedback on the proposed amendments within two days, after which the amended rules will be notified through gazette notification.

The decision to waive the bank guarantee requirement is expected to boost Afghan transit trade, which has been facing challenges in recent months. The trade is crucial for Afghanistan's economy, as it provides a vital link to international markets.

In addition to waiving the bank guarantee requirement, the government has also taken other steps to facilitate Afghan transit trade. These include streamlining the customs clearance process and reducing the number of required documents.

The government's measures are expected to encourage Pakistani and Afghan businesses to engage in more Afghan transit trade, which will benefit both economies.