

Independent

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KUWAIT: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Interior of Kuwait, Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Pakistan's Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir and Pakistani delegation in a group photo after the signing of MoUs of cooperation between Pakistan and Kuwait.

In major relief IHC acquits Nawaz Sharif in Avenfield property reference

Grateful to Allah Almighty over acquittal in Avenfield case: Nawaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday acquitted Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz Sharif (PML-N) Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in the Avenfield property reference setting aside his conviction by the accountability court.

The IHC bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb announced the verdict in the appeal of former prime minister against his conviction.

The PML-N Quaid appeared before the court along with his legal team.

During the course of proceedings, Nawaz Sharif's lawyer Amjad

Parvaiz pleaded that co-accused Maryam Nawaz and Captain @ Safdar had already been acquitted in the instant reference, and that decision had become final as it was never challenged by the prosecution.

The lawyer read out various sections of the NAB Ordinance and said that it had defined 'benamidar' as well.

He said the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had to first provide a comparison of income and assets value in order to establish the point that the assets' value was higher than the income or not.

Without such comparison, the case of assets beyond sources of income could not be proceeded, he added.

He further said that there were cases where the value of the assets was known but not the income. In such cases, the courts declared that the case could not be instituted since the income was not known.

Amjad Parvaiz said the property in question was purchased during 1993 to 1996. The appellant had no connection with the property and the prosecution also could not prove it, he added.

To a court's query, the lawyer said that firstly the prosecution had to prove the accused as a public office holder, and then his dependents as 'benamidars'.

He further said that NAB could not prove even one of the allegations levelled against his client. In the Panama verdict, the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) and NAB investigation reports did not point out Nawaz Sharif's connection with the property, he added.

He said that it had also to be indicated in the indictment that the one's assets did not match with the declared income. The value of properties was not even determined by NAB or JIT and in the court's verdict.

Pakistan, Kuwait reiterate desire to further deepen bilateral relations

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan and Kuwait have reiterated the desire to further deepen and broaden bilateral relations.

The desire was expressed by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah during their meeting in Kuwait Wednesday.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed the importance Pakistan attaches to its relationship with

Kuwait and reiterated the desire to further expand bilateral cooperation in diverse fields.

He underscored the resolve to forge deeper economic engagement between Pakistan and Kuwait including in trade, energy, IT, Labour, Mineral and investments. Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar expressed satisfaction at close cooperation between the two countries at multilateral fora. He appreciated the measures undertaken by Kuwait for recruit-

Resolving issues of local population of Chaman: Establishment of border markets & promotion of trade activities need of hour, says Governor

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stressed that the establishment of border markets and promotion of trade activities is need of the hour and it can help resolve the issues of local people of Chaman besides contributing in the rehabilitation of the country's economy.

The Governor was speaking to a representative delegation of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Chaman on Wednesday.

During the course of meeting, the issues being faced by the local traders were discussed.

In addition to this, there



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki addressing the participants of 12th National Security Workshop Balochistan

Geo-political importance of province not hidden from any one: All available resources being mobilized for restoration of peace in Balochistan, says caretaker CM

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that geo-political importance of the province is not hidden from the eyes of anyone.

He said that all available resources are being mobilized for restoration of peace and protection of life and property of the masses.

The caretaker government is giving priority to development of the province alongside paying attention to the healthcare, education and development of basic infrastructure.

These views were expressed by the caretaker Chief Minister while addressing the participants of 12th National Security Workshop Balochistan here on Wednesday.

The Secretary planning Lal Jan Jaffar briefed the participants of workshop about the overall budget of the province as well as government's priorities, development projects and future challenges and strategy.

Addressing the participants, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki said that the economic opportunities and means of employment can be created by making investment in the sector of natural resources.

Therefore, comprehensive measures are being taken for investment in the natural resources in the province, so as to attract the local and international investors to make investments and thus create opportunities of livelihood, he maintained.

COAS General Asim holds in-depth talks with Kuwaiti Crown Prince

KUWAIT City (INP): Chief of the Army Staff General Asim Munir on Wednesday called on Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and held a detailed meeting with him involving discussions on matters of mutual interest.

The Army Chief was accompanied by Minister for Law and Justice and Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Ahmad Irfan Aslam.

The meeting was also attended by Pakistan Ambassador to Kuwait Malik Mohammad Farooq.

Earlier, COAS Gen-



CHAMAN: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar being briefed by Deputy Commissioner Chaman Captain (Retd) Raja Athar Abbas regarding current situation

PPP set to hold powershow in Quetta today

Independent Report
QUETTA: All is set to stage the grand public meeting of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on occasion of its 56th founding day in Quetta today (Thursday).

The top leaders of PPP including its chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and former President Asif Ali Zardari, Nayyar Bokhari, Faisal Karim Kundi, Shazia Mari, Khurshid Shah, Sharjeel Memon have reached in Quetta.

Politically stable, economically strong Pakistan vital for protection of Indian minorities: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday said that a politically stable and economically strong Pakistan was vital for the protection of the rights of minorities in India, especially Kashmiris who had been struggling for their right to self-determination for over seven decades.

Addressing the Kashmir seminar, jointly organised by the Friends of Kashmir and the Kashmir Media Service, he said Pakistan had always extended its moral, political and diplomatic support for the just cause of Kashmiris and would continue to do so till freedom of the occupied territory.

He said India was a so-called democracy where minorities were being mistreated and victimised by the majoritarian Hindu hardliners.

He said after the unfortunate Jaranwala incident, the Government of Pakistan expressed solidarity with the victims, but the Government of India never supported the victims of the atrocities of Hindutva brigade.



QUETTA: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) senior leader Shazia Marri addressing a press conference held at Quetta Press Club

Iranian ambassador to Pakistan meets caretaker CM: Domki assures to take steps for resolving security & trade related matters being faced by public, traders at border

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the steps would be taken to resolve the security and trade related matters being faced by the general public and traders at the Pak-Iran border. The Chief Minister was speaking to the Iranian ambassador to Pakistan here on Wednesday.

During the course of meeting, the matters about mutual interests and other related ones were discussed. The Chief Minister

1,36,000 illegal immigrants repatriated so far: Safe & honourable expulsion of illegal immigrants being ensured after 31st October's deadline: Chief Secretary

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan has stated that the safe and honourable expulsion of illegal immigrants is being ensured only after the 31st October's deadline. He said that the provincial government and administration are sending the illegal immigrants to their countries in respectable manner, which is unprecedented. The Chief Secretary was presiding over a high level meeting about the ongoing process of repatriation of the illegal immigrants from the province, here on Wednesday.

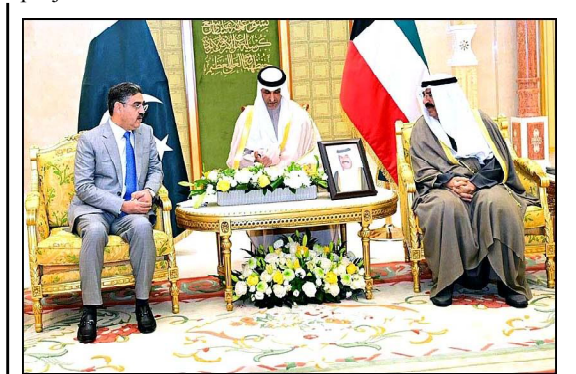
Addressing the meeting, Chief Secretary said that the transit camps have been established in different districts for temporary accommodation of the immigrants proceeding to their countries besides taking other necessary measures for their repatriation.

Asif Zardari, Bilawal reach Quetta

Independent Report
QUETTA: The central leaders of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) including its President, Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari reached Quetta on Wednesday.

They arrived from Karachi by special airplane. Also reached Quetta along with them were included senior leaders of the party Nayyar Bokhari, Salim Mandiwala, Sharjeel Memon and others.

They were warmly welcomed by the provincial leaders of the party including Changez Khan Jamali, Rozi Khan Kakar, Nawab Sanaullah Zehri, Abdal Qadir Baloch, Ali Madad Jatak, Sabir Baloch, Chaudary Yasin, Sardar Umar Gorgej and others.



KUWAIT: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets Crown Prince of Kuwait H.H. Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Illegal immigrants to be repatriated at any cost, says Achakzai

Independent Report
QUETTA (APP): The Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai reiterated the government's resolve and said that the illegal immigrants will be repatriated to their own country at any cost.

Addressing a press conference, on Wednesday, he said the government has set a target of deporting 10,000 immigrants every day. So far 135,000 illegal immigrants have returned to Afghanistan and this process is gradually progressing towards success.

He said that Afghans were involved in sixteen attacks in different bomb attacks and sabotage incidents during one year.

The government has decided that ten thousand illegal immigrants will be sent to Afghanistan every day; he said reiterating that who has an Afghani

Tazkira or any other document cannot escape from following the government policies regarding one document regime.

He stressed the state of Pakistan has decided to crack down on terrorism, whether from across the border or within the country.

In order to speed up the process of repatriating illegal immigrants, the DIGs of Zhoib, Loralai, Qila Saifullah, Pishin, Mastung and Quetta districts have been urged to take one thousand migrants into custody and make them cross the border every day.

He said that Pakistan is now going to become a friendly investment country by preventing the elimination of drugs.

He said that the country's economy has improved due to the efforts of the Army Chief.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

The story of Palestine

The yearning for liberation from oppression is part of the human condition. Whether the fight against colonial rule, oppressive regimes, or systemic injustice, resistance movements represent the resilience of humanity to shape its own destiny. And what better example of this yearning for freedom and justice than the decades-old resistance waged by the people of Palestine against the settler-occupier coloniser than is Israel. Today – the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People – is a UN-sanctioned reminder of the Palestinian struggle, a tale of unwavering bravery and resilience in the face of relentless brutality and tragedy. The day this year holds even new meaning after the genocide unleashed by Israel on Gaza in October. It is due to the sheer determination of the people of Gaza and the rest of Palestine that the world has finally seen Israel unmasked. While most mainstream media in the West even today is acting as apologists for Israel, social media has hundreds of thousands of videos showing the true face of the horrors unleashed by Israel against the children of Gaza, the women and men of Gaza, the doctors, nurses, teachers and journalists of Gaza. Despite the US and the entire world powers siding with Israel, for the first time in many years, Israel has lost its PR war – but only after bombing Gaza to rubble and killing thousands of Palestinian, including children who had not even turned one.

Central to the spirit of solidarity is the understanding that liberation is not a one-size-fits-all concept. From the fight for indigenous rights to the quest for racial equality and the battle against authoritarianism, each resistance movement contributes to the broader tapestry of human rights and dignity. It is also crucial to emphasize that solidarity is not synonymous with interventionism. Rather, it involves listening to the voices of those at the forefront of their struggles, amplifying their narratives. The people of Palestine need to be at the centre of every discourse regarding their destiny. This is important at a time when the world has collectively failed them, turning away as the most ruthless example of ethnic cleansing was enacted on Gaza by Israel.



By Dr Muhammad Zeshan

Pakistan's economy faces a pivotal juncture, marked by the imperative need to reassess its import tariff structure. Recent trade data underscores the urgency for policy reforms to stimulate economic growth, foster competitiveness, and integrate seamlessly into the global market.

According to the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Pakistan's import tariff structure reflects a patchwork quilt of rates across various sectors. Average effective tariff rates range from 1.2 per cent for agriculture to 40 per cent for manufacturing where automobile is the most protected industry with more than 45 per cent protection rate.

While protective tariffs aimed at shielding local industries have been in place, they inadvertently hinder international trade and exacerbate the cost of living for consumers. This conundrum demands a strategic overhaul.

Rationalizing tariffs on essential goods and raw materials, where local production is inadequate, can significantly reduce costs for consumers and invigorate industries reliant on imports. Additionally, aligning tariff rates with comparative advantage sectors can spark growth, creating a fertile ground for innovation, employment, and export potential.

Yet, tariff adjustments alone cannot carve a path to economic resurgence. Robust policy reforms must march hand-in-hand. Streamlining bureaucratic processes, enhancing trade facilitation mechanisms, and fortifying institutional frameworks are vital to at-

How to reform trade

tract investments, stimulate business growth, and amplify competitiveness.

Recent global shifts underscore the urgency for Pakistan to pivot towards greater trade integration. Engaging in strategic alliances through free trade agreements (FTAs) or preferential trade arrangements can open new vistas for the nation's exports, diversify market access, and attract foreign direct investment. However, such agreements must be approached with a clear understanding of their implications and calibrated to safeguard national interests.

Crucially, data-driven reforms should be complemented by a comprehensive approach. They will safeguard the vulnerable segments of society through a shift of welfare gains from producers to consumers to ensure equitable outcomes amidst structural changes.

A stable long-run plan will mitigate potential adverse impacts on specific industries and establishing a transition plan are crucial for social cohesion and economic stability.

Furthermore, bipartisanship is key. Building consensus across political divides and fostering collaboration with stakeholders including industry leaders, economists, and civil society ensures a more inclusive and effective policy formulation and implementation process.

In tandem with tariff and policy reforms, embracing technology emerges as a catalyst for progress. Implementing digital solutions across customs procedures, logistics, and supply chain management can significantly reduce transaction costs, eliminate inefficiencies, and bolster trade volumes, propelling Pakistan into a more competitive global arena. PIDE finds that digitalization and elimination of unnecessary documents cut the time cost by around 40-60 per cent.

Nonetheless, the path to reform is riddled with challenges. Addressing entrenched interests, bureaucratic inertia, and navigat-

ing resistance to change necessitate unwavering commitment and visionary leadership. However, the potential dividends of a revitalized economic landscape far outweigh these initial hurdles.

Now is the opportune moment for Pakistan to embrace transformative reforms that leverage its strengths, capitalize on global opportunities, and prioritize the welfare of its citizens. The road ahead demands bold and decisive actions towards a more prosperous and inclusive economic future.

However, embarking on these reforms demands a phased and coordinated approach. Here's a roadmap for the way forward:

Phase-out approach: This is a three-phase scenario. In the first phase, reduce import tariffs on the most protected intermediate industries until their tariff rates reach the average tariff rate (around 12 per cent at present), which will boost producer welfare.

In the second phase, achieve a uniform import tariff rate of 12 per cent by reducing tariffs on all other industries facing higher tariff rates, which will increase consumer welfare.

In the third phase, uniformly reduce tariffs on all industries until we achieve a tariff rate of 5.0 per cent. It is believed that the tariff revenues from this approach will be higher due to a higher size of the economy than the current revenues.

Comprehensive policy overhaul: Simultaneously, embark on a comprehensive policy overhaul. Streamline bureaucratic processes, enhance trade facilitation mechanisms, and fortify institutional frameworks to attract investments and amplify competitiveness.

Strategic trade partnerships: Evaluate existing and potential FTAs and preferential trade arrangements. Negotiate agreements that unlock new markets for Pakistani exports while safeguarding vital domestic industries. —Courtesy The News

Cities left behind



By Rafia Zakaria

Every year, thousands of tourists visit the ruins of the Italian city of Pompeii. This city, which sits at the foot of Mount Vesuvius, was destroyed by a volcanic eruption in 79 AD. The vegetation that covered the mountain had hidden some of the signs of the oncoming eruption but eventually the rivers of molten lava began to flow into the city.

Even then, many of the city's inhabitants did not leave. Most of those people would perish as the volcano erupted and the ash and fiery lava covered everything.

One reason that the ruins of Pompeii still attract so many people so many centuries later is because many of the people whose corpses were found in Pompeii were 'frozen' in the positions in which they died. There are crouching and cowering women and children, people trying to get away, people with their belongings.

This provides a picture of the crisis unlike that provided by any other city — it shows why this one city was destroyed and abandoned. People who visit the ruins can clearly envisage the last moments of the living city. After those moments, the city as it once was died, never to live in that form again.

In fact, many cities die. But in several cases, there are no definitive answers as to why they were abandoned or left behind. One such city is located in the American Midwest, just east of the contemporary city of St Louis in the state of Missouri.

Driving on Interstate 70, all that can be seen of

the city is a series of mounds. These mounds were created by the inhabitants of the ancient city of Cahokia which was established around 700 AD and had grown in prominence by around 1050 AD. While it would be impossible to tell now, at its height the city was said to have rivalled London or Paris.

Unlike Pompeii, it is not exactly known what happened to Cahokia. It is said that when the city was at its peak the mound-like structures that still remain, housed markets, temples and space for all sorts of rituals. It was home to nearly 20,000 people, making it one of the most populous of its time.

The culture was rich and there is evidence of beautifully sculpted vessels and statues made of clay. Farmers were responsible for maize cultivation. And yet 200 years after the city was at its peak, it declined and was eventually abandoned.

One of the many theories as to why Cahokia was abandoned was that the people who lived there cut down too many trees from the adjoining farmlands. It was theorised that, as a result of the deforestation, there was nothing to prevent the area from repeated flooding and consequent devastation.

However, recent research published in National Geographic revealed that the soil around the mounds was not disturbed all the way until the 1800s. This meant that there was no significant deforestation by the Native American population.

It turns out that the Western researchers who had been analysing the mounds had just imposed their own understanding of the human relationship with nature on the question of why Cahokia was abandoned.

It is far more likely that the city declined gradually because of conflicts among the elites and some natural phenomena, and so on.

It is only natural to reflect on these cities of long ago at a time when the whole world is witnessing the deliberate devastation in Gaza City and other parts of the Gaza Strip by Israeli bombing. No one knows whether Gaza City will live again.

The mass trauma of the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who have suddenly been displaced or have become homeless while the world looked on is simply unimaginable. However, our generation of witnesses will know why and how this particular city was razed to the ground.

These are stories of cities that were literally devastated. But, there does not have to be an actual destruction or even ruin of a city for it to be lost forever. In a live performance that famous ghazal artist Tina Sani gave in Kathmandu, she prefaced her performance of one of Faiz Ahmed Faiz's poem with a wistful remembrance of Karachi as it was in the 1960s.

The city has changed so much she noted, too many of the people who made it what it was have gone. The poem is Kuch Pehlay Inn Ankhon Aagay (before my eyes a little while ago)

Tina Sani's words and Faiz's poem remind one of the fact that cities can be lost when the people that make them leave, or even when one leaves oneself. It is often said that one does not step into the same river twice — this could also be said about cities. Once a city is left behind, the passage of time ensures that one does not step into that city again. Immigrants recount this phenomenon again and again when they return to the cities they once lived in after a long period of time. In their minds, the frozen city that they left behind, one they reference repeatedly in their mind's eye, is more alive than the actual version of that city as it actually exists. —Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Govt's top priority to provide quality telecom services to masses: Saif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr Umar Saif said on Wednesday that providing quality telecom services to the masses was the government's top priority. "The government is taking all possible steps to improve connectivity in the country," he said during a meeting with the Group Chief Executive Officer of VEON, along with CEO Jazz, Aamir Ibrahim.

Matters of mutual interest related to the telecom sector were also discussed during the meeting, said a news release. During discussions with the VEON delegation, Dr Umar Saif mentioned that the tech-neutral spectrum would be auctioned soon to enhance telecom services for the public. Vowing to launch 5G, he expressed that the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication would provide every possible cooperation to the telecom industry. Smart mobile phones would be provided in easy installments soon, he added. Dr Umar Saif informed the delegation

that Pakistan has a conducive investment atmosphere, urging Jazz to invest in e-agriculture, e-education, and e-health sectors.

He also commended the VEON Group for its efforts in the technology field and the provision of smartphones.

VEON, CEO Aamir Ibrahim stated that stable telecom systems are vital for the foundation of the digital ecosystem and the economic stability of the country.

The meeting was also attended by senior officers of the IT Ministry.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information Technology, Telecommunications Dr Umar Saif in a meeting with Group Chief Executive Officer of VEON Kaan Teziogly.

Senate body on Finance and Revenue convenes

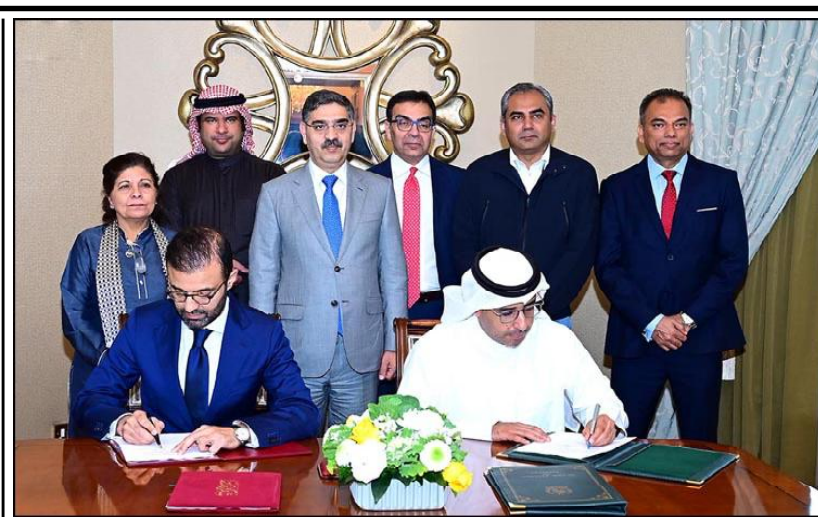
Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue was held here at Parliament House on Wednesday with Senator Saleem Mandviwalla in Chair. The Senate Committee unanimously passed the "Limited Liability Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2023" with an amendment, extending the grace period for filing statements of accounts from 30 to 90 days. Senator Shahadat Awan, the bill's mover, emphasized that Small and Medium Enterprises

(SMEs) are the future of the country and the primary objective of the bill is to boost these enterprises by providing them a reasonable grace period for filing statements of accounts after establishment. Furthermore, the Committee deliberated on the non-payment of salary to daily-wage teachers working in the Islamabad Territory. Mrs. Rabia Waheed, one of the affected individuals, apprised that AGPR has not been paying salaries to teachers and working staff despite having an allocated budget.

Rupee gains 14 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Wednesday gained 14 paise against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 285.38 against the previous day's closing at Rs 285.52.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 285.4 and Rs 288 respectively. The price of the Euro increased by Rs 1.10 to close at Rs 313.49 against the last day's closing of Rs 312.39, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).



KUWAIT: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar witnessing the signing of MoUs between private sectors of Pakistan and Kuwait.

Farmers told to begin sunflower sowing from Dec 1 in south Punjab

MULTAN (APP): Agriculture experts have advised farmers to begin sunflower sowing for spring season from Dec 1, 2023 and complete the process by Jan 31, 2024 in south Punjab to gain maximum yield from the vitamin rich food crop that carry 40-45 per cent oil content.

In a statement issued here Wednesday, agriculture spokesman said that Pakistan spend a whopping Rs 300 billion every year to import edible oil to meet the food needs at home adding that

government was encouraging farmers to opt for oil seed crops to lessen dependence on imported edible oil and save resources.

Spokesman said that sunflower contains vitamins A, B, E and K and experts want farmers to sow this nutrition rich oil seed crop from Dec 1 to Jan 31 in south Punjab districts including Dera Ghazi Khan, Bahawalpur, Rajanpur, Rahim Yar Khan, Multan, Vehari, Bahawalnagar, Muzaffargarh, Layyah, Lodhran, Bakhar and

Railways announces 5pc freight rate hike

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Railways has announced a five per cent increase in freight rates across all categories starting from Friday, December 1. The decision, as per an official notification released on Wednesday, exempts cargo express services 501-Up/502-Dn and 503-Up/504-Dn from the rate adjustment.

The revised freight rates table, detailing the calculated rates per ton for distances up to 5000 kilometers, will soon be disseminated to divisional superintendents. These officials are tasked with facilitating the distribution of the updated rates to all stations that cater to goods traffic bookings.

Railways upgrade 181 un-manned crossings in country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways has converted approximately 181 un-manned level crossings to manned level crossings across the country, out of 550 identified by the department over the entire railway network in over one year. "The relevant provincial government provided the finances to

up-gradation of un-manned level crossings in the country," official sources in the Ministry of Railways told APP. They said the department was taking several steps including the up-gradation of un-manned and vulnerable railway level crossings across the country in collaboration with respective provincial governments.

BISP committed to provide financial support to 10m families: Dr Amjad

PESHAWAR (INP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib here Wednesday said that BISP is committed to providing financial assistance to nearly one core deserving families.

While addressing a gathering of BISP employees at City University Mosque in Peshawar, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib underscored the moral responsibility to alleviate the financial difficulties of needy families, outlining a strategic approach to lift them out of poverty.

Highlighting BISP's possession of authentic data for deserving families, Dr. Amjad Saqib urged philanthropists to adopt the principles of 'Mawakat', fostering collaboration to support underprivileged families.

He proposed the establishment of an

endowment fund dedicated to the welfare of needy families.

In his address, Dr. Amjad Saqib advocated for linking children from impoverished families to technical skill areas, promoting holistic development. Dr. Amjad Saqib also emphasized the need for dialogue with Point of Sale (POS) agents for stipend payments to ensure transparency.

During his visit to BISP Tehsil Office in Peshawar, Dr. Amjad Saqib personally engaged with needy women, instructing staff to provide facilities using available resources.

Dr. Amjad Saqib urged employees to maintain cleanliness standards in offices, displaying kindness to needy women. Emphasizing collective responsibility, he stated, "It is our duty to make the Benazir Income Support Program an exemplary



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik presiding over 46th Board of Governors meeting of PARC at NARC.

Mardan Chamber signs MoU with KP Radio for business industry promotion

PESHAWAR (APP): The President of the Chamber of Commerce Mardan, Zahir Shah and the Station Manager of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Radio Mardan, Aftab Ahmad, signed the memorandum of understanding for business promotion. A special ceremony was held in which a large number of traders participated. Addressing the ceremony, President Zahir Shah said that the purpose of the memorandum of understanding is to resolve the issues of the business industry through the platform of the radio.

He emphasized the need for business leaders to embrace the demands of the new era beyond traditional methods. He also highlighted the role of social media in engaging youth in business. Aftab Ahmad, the Station Manager of Radio Mardan said that Radio Mardan serves as a bridge between the public and government and non-governmental organizations, contributing to its increasing popularity.

Inaugurate solarization project in PPC CM KP launches 'Khushal Pakhtunkhwa' campaign

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Justice (Retd) Arshad Hussain Shah here Wednesday launched the "Khushal Pakhtunkhwa" campaign and inaugurated the solarization project at Peshawar Press Club (PPC).

The project has been completed at a cost of Rs6.4 million.

Accompanied by Caretaker Information Minister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel, Chief Secretary KP, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, and other relevant authorities, the Chief Minister KP has formally inaugurated the mega project.

The CM was informed that installation of the 25KV solar system

would help save Rs2 million under the head of electricity to the press club and provide uninterrupted power supply to the journalist community helping them to fulfil their professional duties with ease. Upon arrival at the press club, the Chief Minister was warmly received by the President of PPC, Arshad Aziz Malik, elected members of his cabinet and journalists in large numbers. Later talking to reporters, the chief minister said a 'Khushal Pakhtunkhwa' campaign has been launched in the province under which problems of people would be addressed at their doorsteps.

Besides improving governance on principles of people's service delivery,

he said that a strict campaign against encroachment, price hike, profiteering, adulteration, crimes, traffic problems and drugs were launched in KP under the campaign.

Seeking the cooperation of journalists in the fight against narcotics, the chief minister said that training through agriculture and livestock departments would be provided to people and farmers enabling them to get maximum production from crops. The Khushal campaign's positive effects would soon become visible.

Tourism in KP would be promoted through awareness, linkages with tourist operators and hotel unions besides exploration of new destinations for tourism.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (R) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah and President of Press Club Arshad Aziz Malik inaugurating the solar system and renovation work of Press Club.

Gilani for revolutionary steps to address terrorism, poverty, inflation issues

MULTAN (APP): Former Prime Minister, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on Wednesday emphasized the importance of addressing the issues of terrorism, poverty, and inflation through revolutionary actions for the betterment of the people.

In a statement issued here in connection with Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) 56th Foundation Day, he stated that the PPP is a mission whose foundation was laid by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Its purpose was the establishment of democracy and the struggle for the rights of the people, he said adding that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Co-Chairman

Asif Ali Zardari were committed to the mission of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto.

They are advancing the Charter of Democracy (CoD), initiated by Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif, to strengthen democracy. The PPP has worked extensively on the (CoD), and the remaining tasks will be included in the new manifesto, the senator maintained.

This year foundation day ceremony was being organized in Quetta which aims to end a sense of deprivation in smaller provinces. Gilani praised the significant achievements of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto, followed by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

Iranian CG, KP minister holds deliberations on promotion of tourism

Independent Report

PESHAWAR: The Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ali Banafsheh Khah and KP Minister for Information, Culture and Tourism, Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel held extensive deliberations here on Wednesday.

The meeting underscored the profound historical, cultural, and

religious bonds between the people of Iran and the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The meeting emphasized the pivotal role of people-to-people connections, promoting cultural exchange, and unlocking the tourism potential inherent in the rich tapestry of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Iranian cities.

Punjab Governor says: Pak values its ties with Germany, wants to further expand in various fields

Independent Report
LAHORE: Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Pakistan Alfred Grannas called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman and discussed matters of mutual interest, promotion of cooperation in education, environment and trade during a meeting at the Governor's House, here on Wednesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Pakistan values its relations with Germany and wants to further expand relations in various fields, especially education, environment, technology, energy and trade. He said that devastating flash floods wrecked havoc in Pakistan

last year due to climate change. He said that the Pakistani government and people are grateful to the German government for helping the flood victims. He said that both countries need to continue coordinated efforts to tackle the challenges of climate change and finalize the climate partnership agreement soon.

The Governor Punjab said, "We are thankful to Germany for continuous support to Pakistan for GSP plus status." He further emphasized the need of students exchange programme between Pakistan and Germany. He said that the academic exchange program will strengthen people to people contact between the two countries.



LAHORE: Ambassador of Germany to Pakistan, Alfred Grannas, called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

Governor stresses youth to divert attention toward modern educational research

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali Wednesday said that we should prepare our children to meet challenges of the current century and divert their attention toward research and modern fields of education.

Addressing a dinner hosted by Dir Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Lower Dir, the Governor stressed youngsters to improve their capabilities and meet the requirements

of the current world. The dinner was also attended by the former caretaker minister, Fazal Elahi, Provincial Chairman, Federation of Pakistan Chamber, Qaisar Khan, President Malakand Chamber, Shoaib Khan, President Haripur chamber, Tayab Swati, presidents of Bajaur and Chitral Chambers besides members of FPCCI executive body.

He said that world nations have achieved success by following long-term policies while our people are more attracted towards short-term benefits despite that our country has been richly endowed by countless precious resources and reserves adding that sixty percent of our natural resources remained unused due to lack of policies and vision.

Governor said that we should work to change the mindset of the young generation and help them to enter new fields of technology and science.

Ashrafi urges UN tribunal to probe Israeli aggression in Gaza

LAHORE (APP): Special Representative to the Prime Minister and Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi has said that a United Nations (UN) tribunal should be established to investigate Israeli aggression and war crimes in Gaza, Palestine.

He was addressing a seminar, organised at Jamia Manzoor-ul-Islamia on Wednesday, to express solidarity with the Palestinian people. He said Israel was an occupier, aggressor, and oppressor. "We are working towards a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and the government is maintaining open and direct communication at the global level, in this regard," he said. Ashrafi said today, the entire world observed the Day of Solidarity with Palestine. He said the atrocities of Israel were evident not only to Islamic nations but also to the people of Western countries, who continue to raise their voice against Israeli aggression.



RAWALPINDI: SAPM for Human rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick, distributing souvenirs during the opening ceremony of the two day international conference on Transformative Nexus: higher education and women empowerment at Fatima Jinnah University.

International News

Disease, fueled by Israeli-imposed blockade, could be bigger killer than bombs in Gaza: WHO

UNITED NATIONS (APP): With the brief "humanitarian pause" between Israel and Palestinians so far failing to result in the delivery of sufficient aid in Gaza, UN officials on Tuesday warned that the spread of disease could soon begin killing more Palestinian people than the deadly Israeli bomb attacks.

They said that priorities include transporting fuel to the north of the war-torn enclave, so that it can be used to power hospitals, provide clean water and maintain other vital civilian infrastructure.

Such services have been massively impacted by weeks of Israeli bombardment since Oct 7.

Gazan health authorities have reported that more than 15,000 people, mostly women and children, have been killed in attacks to date.

In an update from southern Gaza, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) spokesperson James Elder said that a doctor from Al-Shifa hospital in the north had told him that the threats to children were "very much from the air and now very much on the ground", in the form of diarrhoea and respiratory infections.

"He was terrified as a medical professional in terms

of the disease outbreak that is lurking here and how that will devastate children whose immune systems and lack of food... is making them perilously weak," Elder added.

As negotiations continue for the release of more hostages in return for a prolongation of the pause in fighting, the UNICEF spoke of his dismay at seeing so many youngsters fighting for their lives, "with horrendous wounds of war, (lying) in carparks on makeshift mattresses, in gardens everywhere, doctors having to make horrendous decisions on who they prioritize".

Another boy whose leg had been blown off in the violence had spent "three or four days" trying to reach the south, delayed by checkpoints, Mr. Elder continued. "The smell (of decomposition) was clear... and that boy had shrapnel all over. Potentially, he was blind and had burns to 50 per cent of his body."

Echoing deep concerns over the scale of needs in Gaza, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) noted that an assessment carried out in the north at the start of the pause in fighting on 24 November had shown that "everybody everywhere has dire health needs".



KUWAIT: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meeting with Kuwaiti Cabinet Ministers during the welcoming ceremony at Bayan Palace

After 17 days trapped in tunnel, India workers say hope kept them alive

News Desk

NEW DELHI: After 17 days trapped inside a collapsed Himalayan road tunnel they were building, Indian workers described the horror of their ordeal, and the hopes and prayers that kept them strong.

"We were really scared, every moment felt that death was standing nearby," rescued worker Deepak Kumar told AFP on Wednesday.

"We were not sure whether our lives would be saved or not." The men were welcomed as heroes after being hauled through 57 metres (187 feet) of steel pipe on stretchers specially fitted with wheels late Tuesday, the culmination of a marathon engineering operation.

Draped in garlands of orange marigolds, they were greeted with wild cheers. "The world is again beautiful for us," rescued worker Sabah Ahmad told AFP, describing the heartache of hearing his wife's "worried and hopeless" voice while he was trapped.

"I know it was a difficult moment for those inside and more difficult for families outside," said Ahmad, who comes from Bihar, one of India's poorest states.



People walk past destroyed buildings, opposite the Grand Mosque of the southern Gaza Strip city of Khan Yunis

Nikki Haley's getting buzz, but faces tough math to beat Trump

News Desk

WASHINGTON: Nikki Haley is having a moment: The 2024 Republican presidential candidate is seeing a swell in media coverage, new interest from big-dollar donors and increasing chatter that she is poised to make a real run at Donald Trump.

But there is buzz, and there is reality. The reality is that Haley, 51, faces a massive uphill battle to take down the former president and gain the Republican presidential nomination - but the sooner the race can be whittled down to her and Trump, 77, the better her still-remote chances.

"I don't think you can look at the numbers right now and see much of a path for anyone other than Trump," said Kyle Kondik, an elections analyst at the University of Virginia Center for Politics.

Trump, according to aggregates of national opinion polls, holds about a 50-percentage-point lead over her, with Florida Governor Ron DeSantis also in the mix. Trump also has large leads in early Republican

nominating states such as Iowa and New Hampshire.

Still, Haley has been gaining ground in some polls on the back of strong performances in debates. The polls show her tied with DeSantis in Iowa and surpassing him in New Hampshire.

"There is a narrow path" to victory for Haley, said Republican pollster Whit Ayres.

That path involves top-tier finishes in both Iowa and New Hampshire and perhaps a victory in her home state of South Carolina, where she served as governor.

That would provide Haley with the things she would need most to have a chance against Trump: momentum, media coverage and money flowing in from anti-Trump donors.

From there, it would be a matter of trying to compete in the larger states later in the calendar such as California and Texas, which award large swaths of delegates. "Momentum matters a tremendous amount in these things," Ayres said.

'Powder keg': Georgians fear Russian army at separatist frontier

Ergneti, Georgia (AFP/APP): Sitting among fading rose bushes in her yard in northern Georgia, Lia Chlachidze said locals live under "a permanent threat" from Russian troops stationed nearby in the separatist Tskhinvali region.

The 70-year-old's village of Ergneti lies just metres from a Russian checkpoint at the border of the breakaway enclave, which Moscow has controlled since it invaded in 2008.

"The locals' number one challenge is the problem of security. Russian soldiers could come at any moment and arrest us," Chlachidze told AFP.

Her concerns—echoed in villages throughout the region—were validated this month when authorities announced that Russian troops had killed a 58-year-old civilian.

They said the man, Tamaz Ginturi, along with several other villagers, went to pray in a church that Russian soldiers had denied Georgians access to earlier

this year. Authorities in the capital Tbilisi say that hundreds of ethnic Georgians have been detained by Russian troops since the five-day war 15 years ago.

In a particularly egregious incident in 2018, one of the detainees, a 35-year-old vegetable seller Archil Tatanashvili, was tortured to death in a South Ossetian prison.

His mutilated body was only returned to his family after weeks of diplomatic negotiations by Western countries.

"We're afraid of the Russians. They're too close," said Levan Iluridze, 58, a resident of the village of Tirdzini.

Tskhinvali sits in the autonomous South Ossetia enclave—created by the Bolsheviks upon Georgia's annexation in 1921 due to the largely Ossetian population.

Russia invaded Georgia in August 2008 after Tbilisi launched a large-scale military offensive against South Ossetian militia who were shelling Georgian villages.

After routing Georgia's small army in just five days, Russia officially recognised the pro-Kremlin authorities in Tskhinvali and in another secessionist Georgian region, Abkhazia, and stationed military bases there.

Moscow still controls the breakaway regions, where Russian is widely spoken, even though the territories are recognised internationally as part of Georgia.

Since 2008, Russia's military has been building barbed wire fences between the enclave and the rest of Georgia, with the aim of transforming the line into a "state border."

The process has been dubbed "illegal borderisation" by international observers and has forced almost a quarter of the local population to move deeper into Georgia.

"As the line divides communities and families, the fence along it produces an array of difficulties for people living on both sides," the International Crisis Group said last year.

Pakistan-Iran railway service restored

CHAGAI (INP): Railway service between Pakistan and Iran has been restored following suspension after heavy rainfall in the area on Tuesday, railway officials on Wednesday.

The rail freight service between Quetta to Iran and Iran to Quetta has resumed. The good trains from Pakistan left for Iran, the railways authorities said.

The railway track was drowned under the rainwater, which suspended goods trains traffic Iran, Pakistan Railways officials said.

"A goods train carrying sulfur cargo from Iran was stopped midway," officials further said. "An Iran-bound train from Quetta was also stopped at Dalbandin".

The train service between two neighboring countries used to remain suspended mostly owing to poor railways infrastructure causing derailment a routine.

Earlier in July, a goods train, destined for Iran from Quetta, was derailed near Padag resulting in suspension of the train service.

Before it, a freight train coming from Zahedan was derailed in Dalbandin in Chagai district.

The sources cited the tracks' dilapidated condition as the cause of the accident.

Pak-Iran freight train service was restored after completion of repair and



QUETTA: Iranian Ambassador Raza Amiri meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki.

PPP determines to build progressive society: Zardari

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPP) Asif Ali Zardari Wednesday said that the party was determined to build a progressive, enlightened, egalitarian and just society for which Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto sacrificed their lives.

In a message on the occasion of the Foundation Day of the PPP, he said that the philosophy of the Party's founding Chairman, Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was the promise to every citizen of provision of "Roti, Kapra Aur Makaan", adding "We are still firm on that philosophy."

Asif Zardari vowed to create a Pakistan based on the ideology of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, one free of class exploita-

tion. He paid tributes to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for restoring of the democracy and said that the martyrs were the heroes of the democratic nation. The party workers were our invaluable asset, he added.

The former president vowed to make Pakistan a place with books in every child's hands, farmers getting fair fruits of labour and labourers attaining justice.

He said that today the Constitution was supreme and for the restoration of this constitution in original form, thousands of workers rendered incomparable sacrifices.

Asif Zardari said that it was a great achievement of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto that today there was freedom of speech in the country for which the party workers had struggled long and hard.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Information Imran Khan and DGPR Muhammad Noor Khetran expressing their views during meeting of National Forum of Information Commissioners organized in collaboration with CPDI.

Level playing field is this he and Nawaz Sharif are appearing in courts: Shehbaz

LAHORE (Online): Former Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has said level playing field is this he is appearing in the courts of Lahore and Nawaz Sharif is appearing in the courts of Islamabad.

"No one knew it that the then PTI would turn into devastation movement and it will stoke devastation in the entire country, he said this while talking to media men outside Accountability Court (AC) here Wednesday.

Facilitating those who are facilitators of May 9 incidents is anti state step, he added. Treason was committed against this country and heinous bid was made to conduct a coup in army. The entire Pakistan condemned it. This should be kept in mind the democracy does not tolerate treason.

He went on to say "first thing we always respected the judiciary. We think it our duty to appear in the court indiscriminately for the sake of justice. They all are respectable for us. The second thing is this whatever difficulties

and hardships have been suffered by Nawaz Sharif, Sharif family and PML-N leaders are part of the record. He underlined Nawaz Sharif went to jail, he was handcuffed and he saw his daughter arrested before him. He went to exile twice. He has returned to country now a days. He has surrendered himself before law. He claimed only Nawaz Sharif governments were toppled and not some one else. Nawaz Sharif was overthrown in 2017. Not only federation but Balochistan government which was working good was too overthrown. This was done only for the sake of enmity with Mian Nawaz Sharif so that the journey of development and uplift could be blocked.

Then you saw where is Pakistan today, he added. He remarked if Nawaz Sharif wanted he could form coalition government in KP along with other governments after 2013 election. He not only refused but said it is requirement of democracy which is the single largest party should be given opportunity.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan co-chairing through video link the national meeting of steering committee about the rehabilitation projects after the last year's devastating floods in Balochistan held in Islamabad.

Caretaker CM calls for implementation on projects of rehabilitation under World Bank project without delay

Caretaker Federal Minister Planning and Special Initiatives assures wholehearted cooperation for implementation on WB's rehabilitation project in flood hit areas of Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has called for implementation on the projects of rehabilitation in flood affected areas of the province without delay under the World Bank Programme.

He also stressed the need to ensure early release of the funds of Rs. 400 million approved by ECNEC for rehabilitation in different sectors in the flood affected districts.

The Chief Minister regretfully noted that the

grant of Rs. 10 billion announced by the then federal government for relief and rehabilitation of the flood affected people has not been received yet.

He supported the proposal of increase in the financial compensation of the houses completely or partially damaged in the flood hit areas. However, it should be ensured to pay the compensation to all affected.

The caretaker Chief Minister was co-chairing through video link the national meeting of steering

committee about the rehabilitation projects after the last year's devastating floods in Balochistan held in Islamabad on Wednesday.

The caretaker Federal Minister for Planning, Planning and Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed presided over the meeting of steering committee.

The Additional Chief Secretary Planning Abdul Saboor Kakar, Secretary Finance, Babar Khan, Principal Secretary to CM, Rashid Razaq, Special Secretary, Asfandiyar

Baloch also participated in the meeting from Quetta through video link.

Speaking on the occasion, the caretaker Chief Minister noted that almost all districts of Balochistan were affected due to the devastating floods last year.

He also mentioned that large number of houses, institutions of health and education as well as roads infrastructure and communication system were also destroyed due to the floods.

Moreover, almost 50 bridges were partially or

Tosha khana case: Hearing of chairman PTI bail plea adjourned

RAWALPINDI (Online): Accountability Court (AC) Islamabad has adjourned the hearing of bail plea of chairman PTI Imran Khan till December 6 in AI-Qadir trust case and Tosha Khana case. The interim bail of chairman PTI has been extended till December 06 in Toshakhana case. Chairman PTI and Bushra Begum were present in the court.

Sardar Latif Khosa, Intizar Panjtoha, counsels for Chairman PTI, NAB prosecutor Sardar Muzaffar along with his team appeared in the court.

Significant legislations in place to protect and empower Women: Mushaal

RAWALPINDI (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister for human rights and women empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick, has said that higher education is not just a pursuit of knowledge but a gateway to critical thinking and skills acquisition. It provides individuals, especially women, with the necessary resources to navigate an ever evolving world. She was addressing the opening ceremony of the two-day international conference at Fatima Jinnah Women University Rawalpindi. The two days international conference would bring together distinguished guests, scholars, and policymakers to explore the nexus between higher education and

women empowerment.

Mushaal Hussein Mullick threw light on the systematic obstacles women had faced in accessing higher education in the past. She said that though some milestone in this regard had been achieved, challenges such as gender bias, cultural norms and economic disparities are still hindering women's educational access. SAPM said that Zainab Alert Response and Recovery Act, 2020; Enforcement of Women's Property Rights Act 2020; The Anti Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act 2021; and The Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace (Amendment) Act, 2022 are significant legislation enacted by the Government.

MQM-P, PML-N discuss electoral alliance, seat adjustment

ISLAMABAD (INP): Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) on Wednesday held another round of talks on electoral alliance and seat adjustment ahead of the general elections 2024, citing sources.

The fresh round of talks was held at PML-N leader Ahsan Iqbal's residence.

The session was attended by MQM-P's central leaders Dr Farooq Sattar, Mustafa Kamal, Syed Aminul Haque, PML-N's Ahsan Iqbal, Zahid Hamid, Bashir Memon and Khawaja Saad Rafique.

Both sides mulled over different options for political alliance, seat adjustment and others.

Shahid Khaqan Abbasi records statement before Faizabad sit-in commission

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz disgruntled leader, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Wednesday recorded his statement before the Faizabad sit-in probe commission. The federal government formed the inquiry commission under the chairmanship of retired Inspector General (IG) Akhtar Ali Shah in the case after the Supreme Court rejected the fact-finding committee report.

After being summoned by the commission, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi recorded his initial statement in the Faizabad sit-in case.

Talking to newsmen, after appearing before the commission, Abbasi said he had recorded his initial statement before the commission and added he did not see the agreement made with the TLP protestors to end the sit-in.

Court confirms bail of Sheikh Rashid

ISLAMABAD (Online): District and Sessions Court Islamabad has confirmed the bail of former interior minister Sheikh Rashid in the case registered against him in Kohsar police station.

Sheikh Rashid said he would come to know on December 20 from Lahore High Court (LHC) how many cases have been registered against him.

The bail plea of Sheikh Rashid came up for hearing before additional district and sessions judge Tahir Abbas Sipra Wednesday.

Sheikh Rashid appeared in the court along with his lawyers.

The court confirmed the bail of Sheikh Rashid in the case registered against him in police station Kohsar.

Talking to media men outside the court, Sheikh Rashid said his bail has been confirmed by the court here.

President directs bank to refund Rs 344,600 to fraud victim

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi, upholding the orders of Banking Mohtasib, has directed Allied Bank Ltd (ABL) to pay Rs 344,600 to a customer as the amount fraudulently transferred from his account.

The bank had committed maladministration by opening the fund transfer facility without the consent of customer which caused him financial loss, the President House said Wednesday.

Deciding upon a representation filed by ABL against the decision of the Banking Mohtasib, the president held that the bank failed to discharge the

burden and statutory liability cast upon it under the law and that it had committed basic irregularity and non-compliance by activating Internet Banking/Electronic Funds Transfer (IB/EFT) channel without customer consent.

In his decision, he observed that although the complainant received a phone call from a number similar to the bank's helpline, after which, a sum of Rs 344,602 was transferred from his account, however, if the IB/EFT facility had not been opened by ABL, the customer could have been saved from the financial loss caused to him with no fault on his part.



KUWAIT: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Interior of Kuwait Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah witnessing the signing of MoUs regarding cooperation in various fields between the two countries.

Interim govt appoints over 200 people on deceased quota: Qadir Bakhsh

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Education Prof. Dr. Qadir Bakhsh Baloch on Tuesday said that the interim government has appointed over 200 educated people on deceased quota in the education department during the short period of two months.

Dr. Qadir Bakhsh Baloch said many people were disappointed that the appointment on the deceased quota was not being implemented.

He said the caretaker government has ensured the placement process on merit in a very short period of time.

He added that the appointment on deceased quota was a big challenge for the education department.

He expressed these views while addressing the ceremony of distribution of appointment orders to 96 people who were recruited on the quota of deceased employees in the education department.

Dr. Qadir Bakhsh Baloch said many people were disappointed that the appointment on the deceased quota was not being implemented.

He said the caretaker government has ensured the placement process on merit in a very short period of time.

He added that the appointment on deceased quota was a big challenge for the education department.



QUETTA: Muslim League (PML-N) Provincial General Secretary, Jamal Shah Kakar addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

Pakistan Navy special services group participates in bilateral Exercise AYYILDIZ in Turkiye

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Navy Special Service Group (SSGN) participated in the 13th bilateral Special Operations Forces (SOF) Exercise 'Ayyildiz 2023' with Turkish Su Altı Taarruz (SAT) in Istanbul, Turkiye on.

The exercise is regularly conducted in Pakistan and Turkiye alternately, a Pakistan Navy news release

said on Wednesday. The aim of the exercise was to strengthen military relationships, improve coordination and interoperability and exchange of professional expertise in the Special Operations Forces (SOF) domain. During exercise, several basic to advanced level exercises were conducted.

Caretaker CM approves payment of educational, other expenses of Palestinian studying in BMC

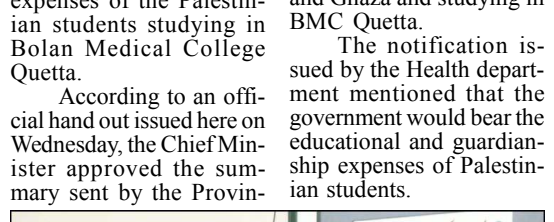
Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has approved the summary of payment for the educational and other expenses of the Palestinian students studying in Bolan Medical College Quetta.

According to an official hand out issued here on Wednesday, the Chief Minister approved the summary sent by the Provin-

cial Health Department to him.

It may be mentioned here that the Chief Minister had announced to bear all expenses of the 17 students belonging to Palestine and Ghaza and studying in BMC Quetta.

The notification issued by the Health department mentioned that the government would bear the educational and guardian expenses of Palestinian students.



QUETTA: Tehreek-e-Insaf District President, Abdul Rahim Kakar addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.



QUETTA: Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Education Dr. Qadir Bakhsh Baloch distributing appointment orders on deceased quota in education department.