

Independent

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PM hopeful of SIFC bringing in over \$60b investment to Pakistan in five years

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday expressed the hope that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) would help bring in over \$60 billion investment to Pakistan in the next five years.

"It is indeed. It could be probably more than that," the prime minister said in an interview with Arab News when asked whether the reports that the SIFC would bring in up to \$60 billion in investments in Pakistan in the next five years were realistic.

He said the SIFC would serve as a "one-window operation" to address any concerns of foreign investors.

"Two or three areas have already been addressed, like repatriation of dollars, which is the demand of any FDI [foreign direct investment] entity, [that] it's insured, it's legally protected," the prime minister said.

"Secondly, the bureaucratic red-tapism

has also been addressed, the one-window opportunity on the platform of SIFC is primarily being designed for this purpose, that we need to cut off all these bureaucratic hurdles and rationalize the entire process of allowing and giving permission to any investment from outside within 15 days."

He said a dispute resolution mechanism had been agreed under the SIFC platform.

"It's quite encouraging and favourable, which is acceptable to all the outside parties... The dispute resolution mechanism has been addressed." To a question, he said the government hoped to conclude a deal by December for Saudi Arabia to buy stakes in Reko Diq, one of the world's biggest gold and copper mining projects.

"We are quite excited at the Saudi offer, and we would be very much encouraging their participation, not just in this project but otherwise also," Prime Minister Kakar said.



RAWALPINDI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Chief of the Army Staff General Asim Munir attending Namaz-e-Janaza of Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Hassan Haider who embraced shahadat in Tirah valley, at Chaklala Garrison



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi chairing a follow-up meeting on mental health issues in Pakistan, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Comprehensive strategy needed to address growing mental health issues: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday urged the need for a comprehensive strategy to address the growing challenge of mental health issues in the country.

He called for taking collective measures and adopting an integrated approach involving various stakeholders, including relevant ministries, the Prime Minister's Office, NGOs, psychiatric associations, and civil society to overcome the mental health burden in Pakistan.

The president expressed these views while chairing a follow-up meeting on mental health, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, President

Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Strategic Reforms Implementation Unit Prime Minister's Office Hussain Islam and representatives of various organizations working on mental health, including the Pakistan Psychological Association (PPA), Pakistan Psychiatric Society (PPS), the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), Tasken Health Initiative, Pakistani American Psychiatric Association of North America (PAPANA), and British Pakistani Psychiatrists Association (BAPPA) through video link.

PML-N, MQM announce election alliance

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Khawaja Saad Rafique said on Tuesday that broader political collaboration was indispensable to steer the country out of prevailing crises. He was talking to media along with Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM) leaders including Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddique, Farooq Starr and Syed Mustafa Kamal, who earlier met with PML-N Quaid Mian Nawaz Sharif and President Shehbaz Sharif here at Model Town (PML-N Secretariat).

Saad Rafique announced that the PML-N and MQM had forged an electoral alliance for the upcoming polls on February 8, adding that

both parties would jointly contest the upcoming general elections. Both parties have agreed to adopt a joint strategy to bring the people of Pakistan out of the current crisis and to put the country back on the path to development, he added.

He said it had been decided that the parties would hold consultations on political, economic and legal policies, adding that the doors would remain open to other political parties as well.

He said the two parties had also decided to set up a six-member committee to prepare a comprehensive charter to address the problems of Sindh province.

He announced that PML-N Quaid Mian Nawaz Sharif and President

Shehbaz Sharif after consultation with other party leadership had decided to appoint Bashir Memon as the party president in Sindh and Shah Muhammad Shah as central vice president.

MQM leader Farooq Sattar said that there was a dire need for a proper strategy to counter the challenges faced by the country. "Just contesting the elections isn't important, what happens after it is too important," he remarked.

Farooq Sattar stressed the need for discussions on solving challenges such as unemployment, inflation and poverty. "No political power is in a position to bring the nation out of prevailing challenges, hence there is a need for a larger alliance, he added.

Asif Zardari says PPP ready to face any alliance in elections 2024

By Tanveer Ahmed Soomro

GHOTKI: Former president and chairman Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPP), Asif Ali Zardari has said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief was removed from PM House as he 'failed' to serve the masses.

Addressing a ceremony in Ghotki on Tuesday, he said that he did not remove the PTI chief to regain power, but he was impeached as he failed to serve the people, who voted for him. Asif Ali Zardari said the PPP was ready to face any alliance in the general elections 2024 as it was a

beauty of democracy. Contest always yields good results, he added.

Commenting on the repatriation of the illegal Afghans living in Pakistan, he said that PPP wants Afghan brothers, sisters and children should return to their homeland. The former president said we have to think for the future of our next generation, adding that Islamabad cannot bear the financial crisis anymore.

Highlighting the performance of the past PPP government in Sindh, Asif Zardari said his party generated jobs for the youth in the province and carried out several development projects.

PM assures CEC of all-out support for transparent polls

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday reiterated that the interim government would extend all possible cooperation and ensure the provision of necessary resources to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for holding free, fair and transparent elections in the country.

The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with Chief Election Commissioner Sikander Sultan Raja who called on him at the PM House, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The chief election commissioner briefed the prime minister about the ECP preparations for the upcoming general elections in the country. He also invited the caretaker prime minister to visit ECP to review these measures.

Planning Minister reviews progress on CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD (Online): After the successful third Belt and Road (BRI) forum 2023 held in Beijing, the Caretaker Planning Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed on Tuesday reviewed a progress over the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects while directed the relevant stakeholders to expedite the projects. He Minister reviewed the projects during his visit at CPEC Secretariat where he was given a detailed briefing over the CPEC projects.



Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif, party president Shehbaz Sharif and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui during a meeting.

Solangi says: Govt to accept decision of Senate over Motion Pictures (Amendment) Bill 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday said that the government has great respect for the Senate and would accept the decision of this august house on the introduction of the Motion Pictures (Amendment) Bill, 2023. Responding to a point of order raised by Mian Raza Rabbani, the minister said he had always firmly stood with the constitution, law and democracy adding that there was no possibility of change in the said principles.

He said that every bill took sufficient time in the process of preparation and the past government did the necessary work on it. The law ministry and respective legal branch had advised him to present the said bill in the House, the minister said. Deferring the bill, Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani said that he would give his opinion in this regard besides taking the Attorney General's point of view.



GHOTKI: Former president and chairman Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPP), Asif Ali Zardari addressing a ceremony in Ghotki

Caretaker FM, Korean FM pledge to enhance bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Underlining the strong potential for future collaboration, Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani and Foreign Minister of Republic of Korea Park Jin, exchanged messages of felicitations through diplomatic channels. The Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release. The relationship between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea was marked by characteristic warmth and candour and features mutually beneficial cooperation in diverse fields.

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Two policemen martyred in terror attack on oil company in DIK

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Two policemen were martyred and three others got injured in a Terrorist attack on an Oil and Gas company in Darazinda last night.

The police told local media that unknown terrorists attacked the Oil and Gas Company in which the policemen deputes on the security of the company were targeted.

In the firing attack, two policemen named Rehmat

Elahi and Muhammad Arif were martyred while three other policemen including Alamsher, Fazal ur Rehman and Atta ur Rehman got injured.

The injured policemen were shifted to District Headquarters Hospital Dera Ismail Khan. After receiving the information about the incident, a heavy contingent of police rushed to the site and started a search operation in the area.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Fahadov cutting the cake along with others on the occasion of the Victory Day of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Mushaal reiterates Pakistan's support to legitimate rights of Kashmiri, Palestinian people

JEDDAH (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick Tuesday said that Pakistan remained committed to supporting the legitimate freedom struggle of the Kashmiris and call for immediate resolution of Kashmir dispute as per the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Simultaneously Pakistan also strongly condemned the Israeli crimes against humanity and against innocent Palestinians children, women and men, she said this while addressing an international conference on 'Women in Islam: Status and Empowerment' jointly organized by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Mushaal Mullick further demanded an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, an end to blockade, full access to the international humanitarian organisations, medicine, food and water supplies to the beleaguered people.



The SAPM is leading the Pakistan delegation at the conference and she is being accompanied by the Chairperson National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) Nilofar Bakhtiar and the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the OIC, Ambassador Fawad Sher. The three-day conference being held on November 6-8 is aimed at holding broad-based discussions on the role of women in an Islamic society.

It focuses on the rights and responsibilities of women in Islam. In addition to Islamic scholars and official delegations from the OIC Member States, a large number of female heads of State, Ministers, and representatives from various international and regional organizations are participating.

The SAPM in her address, called upon the leadership of OIC to take practical steps to save her incarcerated husband Yasin Malik's life and all the oppressed Kashmiris and Palestinians.

PM to attend 16th ECO Summit in Tashkent

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister will reaffirm Pakistan's commitment to ECO Vision 2025 and to promotion of regional cooperation in the areas of trade, transport, connectivity, energy, tourism and economic growth and productivity. Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press statement on Tuesday.

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Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

One-party state?

Bangladesh has witnessed remarkable economic success over the years, with a thriving garment industry and significant poverty reduction. But beneath this veneer of prosperity lies a troubling trend of political consolidation. The recent crackdown on opposition figures and leaders, including the arrest of nearly 8,000 individuals associated with the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, raises serious concerns about the state of democracy in the country. These arrests, which have come in the lead-up to a general election scheduled for January, reflect a disturbing pattern of political victimisation.

Four-time Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed appears to have embraced a more autocratic approach over time, steadily abandoning democratic principles during her combined total of 19 years in office. Her government has effectively taken control of key institutions, including the police, military, and judiciary, by appointing loyalists and suppressing dissent. The consequences for those who do not align with the government's agenda have been severe, with opposition leaders, artists, journalists, and activists all facing persecution. One of the most concerning aspects of this crackdown is the widespread use of politically motivated court cases. Thousands of opposition members are entangled in legal battles, with charges that lack substantial evidence. The situation has escalated to the point where Bangladesh is on the verge of becoming a one-party state.

Opposition leaders say that their movement seeks to restore multiparty democracy, but they face obstacles such as the incarceration of former premier Khaleda Zia and the exile of her son.

The international community has expressed concerns over these developments, with the US imposing sanctions on senior police figures for human rights violations. However, the government's grip on power remains strong, and its ability to suppress dissent appears unchecked. As Bangladesh approaches a pivotal election, the world is watching closely. The international community, democratic nations, and organisations must monitor the situation and apply diplomatic pressure. The people of Bangladesh deserve a free and fair election without fear of political victimisation.

Farming and health



Tabinda Ashraf Shahid

At the core of food security is not only the need to provide sufficient, safe and nutritious food to fill empty stomachs but also to avoid malnutrition and diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Sustainable agriculture practices can support this goal by encouraging the optimal use of resources and by preserving the ecosystem.

Unfortunately, many cultivation practices and extreme weather conditions have combined to disrupt food systems around the globe. This is the source of surging nutritional deficiencies and diet-related NCDs. Agriculture affects food security and malnutrition in a variety of ways; a quality crop with high yield is affordable, nutritious and available. It also provides more micronutrients hence there's less chance of developing deficiencies.

According to the World Food Programme, in 2023, about 345 million people around the globe face acute levels of food insecurity, with 783m experiencing extreme hunger due to wars, low economic growth, climate shocks and high fertiliser prices. Globally, every third person is malnourished — a figure predicted to reach one in two by 2025. Currently, 151m children are underweight and 38m children who are overweight have a greater chance of developing NCDs later in life, including cardiovascular disease, hypertension, diabetes, cancer, etc. Pakistan is the fifth most densely inhabited country carrying the burden of NCDs which continues to

rise and is accountable for 58 per cent of all deaths.

The SDGs 2030 and the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) have advocated food and health privileges by remodelling the food system to eradicate all forms of malnutrition, a prominent cause of diet-related NCDs. That can be achieved by adopting a sustainable agriculture system, better species of seeds, sensible fertilisation, and the more efficient use of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium fertilisers, as well as the use of organic fertilisers, to improve crop production and quality, while reducing soil PH and increasing the availability of iron and zinc in the soil and grain. Modern biotechnology (crop bio-fortification with iron and zinc which are vital for immunity) can also be used to increase the bioavailability of these nutrients in staple crops.

Plant growth and production depend on soil nutrients which produce 95pc of food, affecting nutrient composition and its availability to the body. To increase yield, chemical sprays, pesticides and antibiotics are used in large quantities. Unfortunately, these also kill useful pests and negatively impact soil health and nutrients. It is estimated that 200,000 deaths annually are associated with the faulty application of pesticides, mostly in developing countries due to poor awareness.

Besides ignoring the social and economic dimensions, environmental factors are not considered in conventional farming, affecting food sustainability and productivity. Recurrent planting of the same crops, extreme use of fossil fuels, chemical fertilisers, pesticides, and the excessive use of water and energy resources increase the cost and decrease the nutrients, and are hostile to the environment. Meanwhile,

the excessive use of fertilisers can pollute underground water, including drinking water resources.

For encouraging a sustainable approach in farming, regenerative agriculture has appeared as a significant alternative. Practices such as restoring soil health by growing cover crops (crops grown closely to give protective cover to the soil), rotational crops and composting will help restore fertility and enhance nutrient availability.

Climate change is another global health threat. Alterations in temperatures, changes in rainfall patterns and storm and drought conditions affect crop quality and quantity. Regenerative agriculture contributes to climate change adaptation and reduces GHG emissions and conserves water resources. It is also useful for biodiversity conservation.

Agricultural attainments need to be promoted in view of human health and safety. Unfortunately, policymaking is often conducted in silos so that there are implementation gaps between farming practices and the health sector. It is imperative to focus on the cultivation of nutrient-dense crops rather than the quantity of yield.

Public-private partnerships and incentives can promote agro-ecology research, while the agriculture and health administrations should work closely and realise that farming practices are directly associated with health and nutrition.

An adaptive management attitude is required to work on regenerative and sustainable agriculture practices to restore and nurture the health of the soil, and protect the environment and resources, while increasing crop nutrients to avoid deficiencies and disease. -- Courtesy Dawn

Taliban's shadow



Touqir Hussain

Pakistan and Afghanistan have always had a complex relationship that has been mishandled by both sides. Each has expected the other to make up for the failure of its own policies, has sought solutions that were worse than the problem, and has become friendly with the other's enemies. Pakistan needs a sound strategy to deal with a relationship that is critical to the two countries' security, economic future and political stability.

Pakistan and Afghanistan have a shared but contentious history, overlapping identities, a disputed border, divided ethnicity and bifurcated tribes. These ingredients provided each with an opportunity to interfere in the other's affairs, as well as incentives for ambitious policies. The two had also become dependent on external powers, subordinate to the latter's security and strategic interests and victims of their wars. All this negatively impacted their domestic dynamics.

It puzzles Pakistanis that the Afghans are not grateful for all that they did for them. True, Afghanistan was liberated from Soviet occupation, and later, according to a former prime minister, it broke "the chains of slavery" that had tied it to another superpower. But what did the Afghans get on being "liberated", a process in which Pakistan helped not once but twice? The Taliban.

The Taliban are no liberators except through a lens distorted by narrow nationalism, religious ex-

tremism, anti-Americanism and political opportunism. The reality is that under Taliban rule, the Afghans are undergoing prison-like restrictions. The treatment of women alone is a crime against humanity. Contrary to what some Pakistanis think, the Afghan Taliban's fight was not for the Afghans but for their own power and ideology that arose not from a conflict among the Afghans, but between Afghans and the Taliban.

It is true the Taliban had a following among the rural poor especially in Pakhtun areas — similar to how extremist religious elements appeal to many among Pakistan's low-income groups. But would our educated population aspiring to democracy and progress like them to come to power? So why would Afghanistan's educated favour the Taliban? Do they deserve or aspire to anything less?

For most Afghans, it was important that in the 20 years before the Taliban's return, education and healthcare facilities had expanded, women's rights, including work opportunities, had improved, and citizens had experienced political freedoms. Yes, the elite were corrupt and primarily responsible for Afghanistan's failure. But the Taliban were not the substitute. Nor can they be termed an entirely Afghan phenomenon. Only by acknowledging this and owning its share of the responsibility can Pakistan understand the true ramifications of the Taliban challenge.

The UN Security Council's Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team has named several groups that helped the Taliban's fight. Now again, they enjoy their protection in Afghanistan, as they did before 2001. The nexus among the Taliban and these "brothers in faith" that include the TTP and

other Pakistani militant groups lies at the heart of the terrorist threats Pakistan faces.

We cannot bank on the Taliban to act against them as this could cause their own disintegration. They are already fighting groups opposed to them including the National Resistance Front and transnational terrorist groups like the Islamic State-Khorasan. Any military action or economic pressure by us will cause further instability in Afghanistan.

The Taliban might be able to control Afghanistan but not dominate, much less stabilise, it. Given its fault lines, competitive geopolitics and regional politics, and its conflict-prone internal make-up, Afghanistan can't be stable without a dedicated effort by Afghans and the global community. That won't happen under the Taliban. Even China's economic role would remain small.

What are the options? Pakistan can't stabilise Afghanistan; only the Afghans can. But Pakistan must work with regional countries to avoid instability there. The Moscow Format Consultation is a good initiative. More important, though, are the steps Pakistan takes at home. It must launch an earnest campaign to curb the expanding influence of extremist groups. If Islamabad eventually weakens them, it would have undermined their ties with the Taliban and Afghanistan's potential to harm us. The Taliban's Afghanistan won't bring us economic or strategic benefits. A grand design thus is neither needed nor workable. Pakistan's only realistic aim, for now, should be a narrowly focused working relationship, that avoids extreme measures, helps but not strengthens the Taliban, and promotes human rights especially women's rights, ie, a short-term plan with a long-term view. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Pakistan ready to replicate its unique AMA success story with developing countries: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday, highlighting Pakistan's achievement through the Asaan Mobile Account (AMA) Scheme to enhance women's financial inclusion, said the country was ready to replicate its success story with the developing countries.

"Many developing countries are in touch with us directly through world organizations like the Islamic Development Bank, ADB, the AIIB, UNDP, etc. We stand ready to replicate this unique Pakistani success story with their support for the

underprivileged and for the deprived women anywhere in the world," he said addressing a virtual event on "Bridging the Financial Inclusion Gap in Pakistan".

The event was organised by the World Economic Forum's Edison Alliance and the Virtual Remittance Gateway.

The prime minister said that his prime objective as the head of the government was to give hope to the poor through the many-to-many platform.

He thanked the World Economic Forum's Edison Alliance and its head Claude Dyer for

recognising Pakistan's amazing success story of the Asaan Mobile Account (AMA) Scheme on the World Bank's Financial Inclusion and Women Empowerment Project.

He said under the National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS), the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) collaborated with various branchless banking providers, banks and telecom operators to introduce Third Party Provider Services in Pakistan to facilitate the unbanked and underbanked population.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali inaugurated the Exhibition at 29th edition of Annual technical conference and Oil Show.

Muhammad Ali says: Govt making all-out efforts to provide energy to people, industries through LNG

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Energy, Power and Petroleum, Muhammad Ali on Tuesday said that to ease the lives of people and businesses, the government was making all-out efforts to provide energy to the people and industries through imported LNG, especially during winters.

He was addressing the 29th edition of the Annual Technical Conference (ATC) jointly organized by the Society of

Petroleum Engineers (SPE) and the Pakistan Association of Petroleum Geoscientists (PAPG).

The conference was attended by Faheem Haider, Chairman ATC and Chairperson SPE Pakistan Section, Mr Mohamed Al Marzouqi SPE Middle East & North Africa (MENA) Regional Director and EVP Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), Respectable Chief Executives and Country

Heads of Oil & Gas companies, Geo-scientist, Petroleum Engineers. Speaking on the occasion, this gathering of Geoscientists and Engineers with vast experience will enable a new thought horizon that may lead to new ideas in the exploration of indigenous oil and gas in the country, he hoped. He lauded the Theme of the Conference "Exploring the Unexplored: High-Risk Plays and Economic Challenges".

FCCI ready for resolution of business conflicts, disputes: Dr Khurram

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) is ready to play its role in resolution of business conflicts and disputes which will not only facilitate the business community but also lessen burden on the police of unnecessary litigation, said Dr. Khurram Tariq President, FCCI.

He was addressing a meeting held with newly appointed SDPO Peoples' Colony ASP Madam Zainab Khalid at FCCI Complex to discuss the issues relating to business disputes and prevention of crime.

Dr. Khurram Tariq said that the trend of mediation is increasing throughout the world which is generally followed by arbitration.

He quoted the example of Türkiye and said that during the last 12 years the cases to the tune of \$600 billion were decided which phonemically decreased litigation by 85%.

He said that the law has been introduced in Punjab under which 150 mediation centers have been established while 12,000 advocates have been nominated as mediators.



QUETTA: Man repairs gas heater at main Quetta bazaar.

SCCI chief asks airlines to take steps to facilitate business community

PESHAWAR (APP): President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Fuad Ishaq asked the private airlines to take further steps to facilitate the business community at an optimal level.

The SCCI chief said the private airlines should introduce schemes and incentives and facilitation to the business community under corporate social responsibility so that will assist to further build up the image and public trust of airlines but also bring these good initiatives before the public.

Fuad Ishaq made these remarks during a meeting with senior sales officer of

Emirates Airline International Faraz Ahmad and Sales Executive Azam Jan here at the Chamber's House here Tuesday.

Vice President SCCI, Ijaz Khan Afridi, senior member Fazl Muqem and Secretary General SCCI Sajjad Aziz were present in the meeting.

Both sides on the occasion agreed to take joint initiatives for facilitating the business community and offer them special incentives.

Fuad Ishaq emphasized that there was dire need that SCCI and Emirates airline should initiate joint measures to provide facilities.

OGRA takes firm action against substandard LPG cylinder manufacturing

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a collaborative effort with the district administration, OGRA's enforcement department recently executed a targeted operation in Gujranwala, successfully uncovering and sealing four illegal LPG cylinder manufacturing facilities.

These unlawful facilities were discovered operating with substandard materials and practices, said the spokesperson. OGRA promptly sealed them, and

FIR's have been registered against their operators. This action underscores OGRA's unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of consumers.

Illegal gas cylinder manufacturing has gained prominence, driven by the high demand for this essential household item, especially in regions with a shortage of piped or natural gas.

OGRA is resolute in its mission to eradicate this menace.

Shipping Activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships namely, MSC Silvia, Maersk Boston and Hafnia Prestige, carrying Container and Gas oil, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal and Oil Terminal respectively on Monday.

A total of nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, MSC Silvia, Adam and AAI Evolution left the Port on today morning, while two more ships, Maersk Boston and Haj Mohammad are expected to sail on today afternoon.

Incessant efforts underway to strengthen industrial sector of KP

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali, said on Tuesday that the federal and provincial government were making incessant efforts to strengthen the industrial sector of KP and promote business and trade activities. He was talking to a delegation of the Industrialist Association of Peshawar at

Governor House. The delegation was led by Ayub Khan Zakori and included former President Sarhad Chamber, Riaz Arshad, Ahsan Malik, Junaid Altaf, Faisal Safi, and Wasiullah. The delegation informed the governor about the concerns of industrialists relating to the labor department, the export difficulties of pharmaceutical companies.

Rupee sheds Rs1.11 against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday witnessed Rs1.11 depreciation against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 286.39 against the previous day's closing at Rs 285.28.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 286 and Rs 288.5 respectively.



DUBAI: Pakistan investment road show in Dubai.

Punjab govt imposes 4-day environment, health emergency to combat smog in Lahore Div

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has announced to impose environmental and health emergencies for the next four days in Lahore Division, Gujranwala and Hafizabad to combat smog. Addressing a presser at his office on Tuesday, the CM said that Section 144 has been imposed in Lahore Division, Gujranwala and Hafizabad. There is a public holiday on November 9 and Friday has also been decided as a

shut factories. He maintained that Lahore badly needs environmental rest, prevention from smog is imperative as it is not a good phenomenon. The children and elderly people are facing asthma and eye diseases, he noted and added that decisions have been taken in the light of experts' recommendations during a meeting of the cabinet committee for environment/smog. The smog-related meeting has decided a public holiday on November 10.



LAHORE: A delegation of overseas Pakistanis from Britain under the leadership of London Borough of Hounslow Mayor Afzal Kayani meeting with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor's House.

Punjab Governor says: Overseas Pakistanis have key role in highlighting the positive image of Pakistan

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman has said that overseas Pakistanis have a key role in highlighting the positive image of Pakistan outside the country. He expressed these views in a meeting with a delegation of overseas Pakistanis from Britain under the leadership of London Borough of Hounslow Mayor Afzal Kayani here at the Governor's House Lahore today. Councillor Barrister Riaz Gill, former Mayor of London Borough of Hounslow, Samia Chaudhary, and others were present in the delegation. Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab said that overseas Pakistanis are a source of pride for the country. He said that foreign delegations keep meeting them, adding that they tell him that they had a negative impression of Pakistan before visiting due to the portal of negative image of Pakistan on media, but they had found it otherwise. Governor Punjab said that Pakistan is a safe country and the government is giving special investment facilities to foreign investors through the Special Investment Facilitation Council.

Pak Army rebuilds, functionalizes girls' school in Tank

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Army has rebuilt and functionalized the Government Girls' Primary School in the Kat Kot area of Tank district in South Waziristan, the district administration said on Tuesday. After the restoration of peace in the area, the Pakistan Army took steps on an emergency basis for rehabilitation and reconstruction of schools in the area. After the

rehabilitation of the school, the Pakistan Army provided all the necessary facilities to students for their studies so that girl students from this far-flung area could add their share in national progress through their abilities and education. Around 90 girl students were studying at Government Girls' Primary School Kat Kot under the supervision of graduate teachers.

FIA arrests female on human smuggling

LAHORE (APP): Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) during its ongoing anti-human trafficking operation arrested a female suspect involved in human smuggling, here on Tuesday. According to a spokesperson of the FIA, on instructions of the Director FIA Lahore, Sarfaraz Virk, a crackdown against human smugglers was ongoing where a female suspect was arrested from Ichra who was luring vulnerable women into job offers in Oman.

Caretaker LG minister lauds remarkable progress during visit to WSSP

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Caretaker Minister of Local Government Engineer Aamir Durrani embarked on a comprehensive inspection tour of the Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP), where he lauded the significant strides in sanitation, water supply and drainage operations here on Tuesday. The visit, aimed at evaluating the progress and compliance with directives, showcased the dedication and efforts of the WSSP staff in maintaining essential services for the region. Accompanied by Chief Executive Officer Dr. Hasan Nasir, General Manager Operation Engineer Tarab Shah, Zonal Manager Basit Khattak and other officials, the minister initiated the visit with a specific focus on assessing the impact of ongoing initiatives. A pivotal aspect of this inspection was the evaluation of the manhole covering process, with Minister Durrani expressing his satisfaction with the progress achieved thus far.

Four die as pick-up falls into gorge in Upper Dir

PESHAWAR (APP): At least four people were killed and as many injured when a mini pick-up truck fell into a deep gorge in the Galdai area of Upper Dir on Tuesday. Police said a mini pick-up truck, carrying passengers to the Thall area, fell into a deep gorge near Galdai. Four people were killed on the scene, police said, adding that four other people who sustained injuries in the mishap were shifted to a hospital in Patrak. Police said the dilapidated condition of the road caused the pick-up to fall in the gorge adding that Rescue 1122.



PESHAWAR: Minister Industries Dr. Syed Amir Abdullah and VC SBBWU Prof. Dr. Safia Ahmed cutting ribbon during the second day of First Dosti Women Literature Festival, 1st Edition at SBBWU.

PML-N to win Feb 8 polls, to steer Pakistan out of troubles: Sardar Awais

RAJANPUR (APP): General Secretary Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Punjab Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari said that PML-N would return triumphant in the Feb 8 general elections with commitment to steer the country out of troubled situation and put it back on a path to progress and prosperity, the way it had done so in past. Talking to APP here Tuesday, he said that PML-N Supremo Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's return to the country had been widely welcomed by the nation and rekindled the hopes of a better future for the country and its people. He said the country can no more afford the politics of anarchy and violence and does not need politicians who mislead people for their political agenda. He said that PML-N always strengthened the country's economy through a coordinated effort whenever it encountered difficult situation and added that it would again usher a new era of development.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan being briefed by Secretary Water and Management about the Department.

Four labourers killed in road accident

MULTAN (APP): At least four labourers belonging to the same family were killed in a road accident in Sanwan Town of Kot Addu, early morning on Tuesday. Rescuers said the accident occurred when a Rajanpur-bound passenger coach hit their donkey-cart. The accident resulted in the death of four persons on the spot with as many wounded hailing the same family critically. The deceased included Muhammad Sajid, 32, son of Ibrahim, Muhammad Sajawal, 14, son of Muhammad Sajid Hussain, Muhammad Ashfaq, 40, son of Hafiz Ghulam Rasool and Shahbaz, 35, son of Ghulam Rasool. Those who were injured including Yasir, 21, son of Bashir Ahmed, Aamir, 22, son of Murtaza, Aziz, 19, son of Riyaz Hussain and Muhammad Zeeshan, 17, son of Fida Hussain. All the bodies and injured were shifted to a nearby hospital.

ATC grants bail to PTI activist in May-9 case

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday granted post-arrest bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) activist Sanam Javed in a case of torching the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) office in Model Town. The court directed the accused to furnish surety bonds of Rs 200,000 to avail the relief of the bail.

International News

UN Security Council fails to agree on Israel-Hamas war as Gaza death toll passes 10,000

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The U.N. Security Council on Monday failed again to agree on a resolution on the monthlong Israel-Hamas war. Despite more than two hours of closed-door discussions Monday, differences remained. The U.S. is calling for "humanitarian pauses" while many other council members are demanding a "humanitarian cease-fire" to deliver desperately needed aid and prevent more civilian deaths in Gaza. "We talked about humanitarian pauses and we're interested in pursuing language on that score," U.S. deputy ambassador Robert Wood told reporters after the meeting. "But there are disagreements within the council about whether that's acceptable." U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres earlier Monday told reporters he wanted an immediate humanitarian cease-fire in Gaza and a halt to the "spiral of escalation" already taking place from the occupied West Bank, Lebanon and Syria to Iraq and Yemen. Guterres said international humanitarian law, which demands protection of civilians and infrastructure essential for their lives, is clearly being violated and stressed that "no party to an armed conflict is above" these laws. He called for the immediate unconditional release of the hostages Hamas took from Israel to Gaza in its Oct. 7 attack. China, which holds the Security Council presidency this month, and the United Arab Emirates, the Arab representative on the council, called Monday's meeting because of the "crisis of humanity" in Gaza, where more than 10,000 people have been killed in less than a month.



Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese meets Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People, in Beijing.

China, Australia agree 'to turn the page' as tensions ease

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: President Xi Jinping said on Monday stable ties between China and Australia served each other's interests and both should expand their cooperation, sending a clear signal that Beijing was ready to move on from recent tensions. China and Australia should promote the development of their strategic partnership as they build up mutual understanding and trust, Xi told Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, the first Australian leader to visit Beijing since 2016, at the Great Hall of the People in the heart of the Chinese capital. A strong relationship "will be beneficial into the future," Albanese told Xi in their second face-to-face talks in a year, a meeting that lasted more than an hour. For decades, China and Australia built a relationship on trade, with Beijing becoming Canberra's biggest commercial partner with purchases of Australian food and natural resources. But ties soured after Australia in 2017 accused China of meddling in its politics. The following year, Australia banned equipment from Chinese tech giant Huawei Technologies Co for its 5G network out of national security fears. An Australian call in 2020 for an international inquiry into the origin of the Covid pandemic, which emerged in the Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019.

Italy's migrant deal with Albania faces rights hurdles and red tape

Monitoring Desk
ROME: Italy's government is hailing as "historic" a plan to send seaborne migrants to Albania, but experts and opposition politicians warn that it could face significant bureaucratic and human rights obstacles. The move is part of an EU-wide drive to clamp down on irregular immigration. Other countries, including Germany, are toughening their policies, amid negotiations within the bloc to overhaul asylum rules and reduce arrivals. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni announced the initiative on Monday with her Albanian counterpart Edi Rama, saying her country would build two centres to host up to 36,000 migrants per year on Albanian soil.

Blizzards in China ground flights, force school closures

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Unseasonably cold weather and blizzards hit northeast China on Monday, forcing hundreds of flights to be rescheduled and closing schools as several cities issued heightened weather alerts and warned people to stay indoors. With snowfall of as much as 25 centimetres, over 90pc of expressway entrances in Jilin province had been closed as of 7pm.

Sudan's military conflict is getting closer to South Sudan and Abyei, UN envoy warns

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The "unprecedented" conflict between Sudan's army and rival paramilitary force now in its seventh month is getting closer to South Sudan and the disputed Abyei region, the UN special envoy for the Horn of Africa warned Monday. Hanna Serwaa Tetteh pointed to the paramilitary Rapid Support Force's recent seizures of the airport and oil field in Belia, about 55 kilometers (34 miles) southwest of the capital of Sudan's West Kordofan State. She told the UN Security Council that the conflict "is profoundly affecting bilateral relations between Sudan and South Sudan, with significant humanitarian, security, economic and political consequences that are a matter of deep concern among the South Sudanese political leadership." Sudan was plunged into chaos in mid-April when simmering tensions between the military and the RSF exploded into open warfare in the capital, Khartoum, and other areas across the East African nation. More than 9,000 people have been killed, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data project, which tracks Sudan's war. And the fighting has driven over 4.5 million people to flee their homes to other places inside Sudan and more than 1.2 million to seek refuge in neighboring countries, the UN says.

Russian strikes injure eight in Odesa, damage museum

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russian strikes overnight in the southern Ukrainian region of Odesa left eight people wounded and damaged a historic art museum, Ukrainian officials said on Monday, in the latest barrage of drones and missiles. Three more were injured in a Russian shelling attack on the southern city of Kherson on Monday, as Kyiv doubled down on its warnings that Russia was planning to pummel Ukraine's energy infrastructure ahead of the winter. Images released by officials from inside the Odesa Fine Arts Museum showed art ripped from the walls of the 19th-century building and windows blown out by the aerial bombardment. Ukraine's deputy foreign minister Emine Dzheppar said Kyiv was "deeply outraged" by the attack and urged the United Nations' Paris-based heritage agency Unesco to condemn the strike.

Blinken seeks G7 unity on Israel-Hamas war among items on crisis-heavy global agenda

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Fresh from a whirlwind tour of the Middle East, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken shifted his intense diplomacy on the Israel-Hamas war to Asia on Tuesday with an appeal for the Group of Seven leading industrial democracies to forge consensus on how to deal with the crisis. As he and his G7 counterparts began two days of talks in Japan, Blinken said it was critically important for the group to show unity as it has over Russia's war in Ukraine and other major issues and prevent existing differences on Gaza from deepening. "This is a very important moment as well for the G7 to come together in the face of this crisis and to speak, as we do, with one clear voice," Blinken told Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, shortly after talks with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. The devastating monthlong conflict in Gaza and efforts to ease the dire humanitarian impacts of Israel's response to the deadly Oct. 7 Hamas attack will be a major focus of the meeting. Yet with the Russia-Ukraine war, fears North Korea may be readying a new nuclear test, and concerns about China's increasing global assertiveness, it is far from the only crisis on the agenda. In Tokyo, Blinken and foreign ministers from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Japan and Italy will be seeking common ground in part to prevent the Gaza war from further destabilizing already shaky security in the broader Middle East and seeking to maintain existing consensus positions on other matters. Kamikawa said Japan "unequivocally condemns" the Hamas' attack on Israel, supports U.S. efforts to find a way forward and said that "solid unity between Japan and the U.S. is especially critical at this point."



A girl covers her ears during Israeli air strikes on the al-Maghazi refugee camp, Gaza Strip.

Turkish parliament removes brands from menu over alleged Israel support

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Turkey's parliament removed Coca Cola (KO.N) and Nestle (NESN.S) products from its restaurants on Tuesday over their alleged support for Israel amid the conflict in Gaza, according to a parliament statement and a source who named the two companies. The two companies did not immediately respond to a request for comment. "It was decided that the products of companies that support Israel will not be sold in restaurants."

Speakers say: BRI is hope for positive change, peace, prosperity

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a powerful force for hope and unity despite all the challenges and conflicts that disrupt peace and stability worldwide, said speakers.

The recent Webinar on the Third Belt and Road Forum, themed "Together for Common Development and Shared Prosperity," hosted by Friends of BRI Forum and the Centre for BRI and China Studies at the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPDS).

The event brought together prominent voices from diverse regions. Dr. Farhat Asif, President of IPDS, in opening remarks, underscored the global impact of BRI, with Pakistan serving as a key beneficiary through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The webinar was also attended by a large number of participants from different parts of the world. The webinar provided a platform for thought leaders to explore the potential of the BRI in shaping a more peaceful and prosperous future for all. Dr. Wang Li, Senior Professor at China's School of Law, highlighted the BRI's commitment to prosperity and the common good as intrinsic values.

Ulf Sandmark, Chairman of BRI Sweden, emphasized the BRI's role not only in economic development but also in promoting global unity by resolving conflicts, such as the situation in Gaza.

Ambassador Igor V. Khalevinskiy, Chairman of the Association of Russian Diplomats, Russia, commended the BRI for its remarkable global impact by facilitating development and prosperity.

Prof. Zhou Rong, Senior Fellow at the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies of Renmin University China, stressed the importance of collaborative projects like the BRI in a world marred by conflicts, where China is making significant progress and changing lives. Dr. Kurt Grötsch, Founding President of Catedra China and Ambassador of Minzu University Spain, highlighted the need to focus on the environmental and green impacts of the BRI as it continues to progress. Dr. Katarina Zakic, Head of the Regional Center for Belt and Road Studies, IPE, Serbia, discussed the positive effects of the BRI on Serbia-China political relations, trade, and Chinese investments in various sectors.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar exchanging views with Maulana Tahir Ashrafi, Special Representative of the Prime Minister for Religious Harmony and Pakistan Diaspora in Middle East and Islamic Countries during meeting held in Islamabad.

PM stresses urgent role by int'l community to stop Gaza genocide

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday stressed the need for the international community to play an urgent role in stopping Israel's aggression against Palestinians.

He expressed these views in a meeting with the Special Representative of the Prime Minister for Religious Harmony and Pakistan diaspora in Middle East and Islamic Countries, Maulana Tahir Ashrafi here at the PM House.

PM Kakar and Maulana Ashrafi strongly condemned Israel's ongoing genocide of the Palestinians in Gaza.

The meeting welcomed the upcoming meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to be held in Jeddah on the deteriorating situation of Palestine.

Maulana Ashrafi paid tributes to the interim government's steps to promote inter-faith harmony.

The prime minister on the occasion lauded Maulana Tahir Ashrafi for his efforts for the welfare of Pakistanis residing in the Middle East and other Islamic countries.

Dr. Amjad emphasizes proactive measures to monitor stipend payments

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib has called upon BISP employees to monitor BISP stipend's payments closely to ensure transparency.

While addressing a gathering of dedicated BISP staff at Jamia Masjid Asad Fareaed in Faisalabad on Tuesday, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib said that humanity lies in addressing the problems and sufferings of the needy and poor.

According to a news release, Chairperson BISP urged for close liaison between BISP and Point of Sale (POS) agents of partner banks to ensure that complaints of deductions are addressed properly and timely.

Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib said that serving needy women, widows, orphans, and children is like worship.

He said that the name of BISP signifies its commitment to provide additional support to needy families. A responsible state must collect taxes from the elite class and allocate these funds to empower the underprivileged and invest in essential developmental projects. He encouraged BISP employees to go above and beyond by utilizing their resources to provide essential facilities to these vulnerable individuals, such as clean water and shelter for those waiting in long queues.

Later, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib also visited BISP's local office in Faisalabad.

Talking to BISP staff, he said that maintaining a clean and congenial atmosphere in offices is an embodiment of faith, as cleanliness is considered half of faith in Islam.



ISLAMABAD: Leader of the house in the Senate, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar presenting souvenir to Charge d'Affairs, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Ms. Pang Chunxue, at Parliament House.

Delegation of foreign teachers and students visit Safe City Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): According to the details, on special directives of the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the SSP safe city welcomed the Delegation of foreign teachers and students, a public relations officer said.

He emphasized that the delegation was also apprised of the functionality and benefits of the Safe City cameras in the city. The modern cameras of Safe City are playing a crucial role in ensuring the safety of the city and preventing crimes and safeguarding the lives and property of citizens. 42% of crimes are resolved through the Safe City Command and Control Center.

Face recognition cameras have been installed at the entry and exit points of the city which are playing an important role in identifying suspicious elements, he maintained.

The delegation also met with CPO safe city/Traffic. Delegation acknowledged the modern technical system of the Islamabad Capital Police and its benefits. The delegation expressed special gratitude to ICCPO and his team for this successful visit.



egation visits the command and control center, the data hub unit, modern technology-equipped cameras, and the Police operations center hall. They were fully briefed about the procedures and benefits.

Furthermore, the delegation was informed that Safe City Islamabad is playing a significant role in various departments through modern techniques, including the Police Operations Center, Emergency Control Center, Data Hub Unit, Dispatch Control Center, E-Challan System, and the "Pucar-15" helpline.

DC Islamabad conducts crackdown against use of illicit polythene bags

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a crackdown on the illegal use of polythene bags, the Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon on Tuesday directed the Assistant Commissioner Industrial Area Awaid Irshad Bhatti to inspect various areas of the Sub-Division.

The Assistant Commissioner Industrial Area, along with his team, inspected the shops and stalls in G-9 sector and found one person using polythene bags.

The person was arrested and fined, while two kilograms of polythene bags were seized. Other violators were issued warnings in accordance with the law.

Over 500 countrywide 'primary health center's upgradation starts: Nadeem

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health, Dr. Nadeem Jan Tuesday disclosed that the government has planned to strengthen primary and secondary level health facilities and introducing a project to provide 'uniform health services packages for citizen' where over 500 countrywide primary health center (PHC) hospitals' upgradation has started.

In an interview with a private news channel, he said that the renovated emergency room, intensive care units and other state-of-art health facilities for patient in various hospitals will be inaugurated in January 2024.

The hospital is being upgraded to provide state-of-the-art, high quality care to the patients, especially the underprivileged, he added.

The main purpose of upgrading these community centers is to ensure that the public receives basic health care at their doorstep, he said, adding, community awareness drives for patients to avail quality services will also be part of this project.

He said we are trying our best to come up with a universal health insurance scheme after consultations with the provinces, adding, present government was improving the quality of public healthcare services with latest technologies.

He said this will restore public confidence on the public health facilities, adding, strengthening the Universal Health Coverage is our top agenda.

Replying a question, he said that with upgradation of primary health care system we will strengthened and overcome the burden of patients on the major hospitals.

To another question about outbreak of Congo Virus in Balochistan, the minister said that government is taking preventive measures on war-footings and transporting the serious patients to Karachi via Air Ambulances and patients with mild symptoms through road.

KIIR organises webinar on historical atrocity

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) on Tuesday organized an informative webinar on the historical atrocity known as the Jammu Massacre of 1947.

This significant event was held to observe Jammu Martyrs Day and aimed to shed light on the tragic events of the past and their implications on the present, said a press release.

Webinar Topic: Jammu Martyrs Day - Remembering the Massacre of Jammu Muslims: Indian Onslaught on Demography Then and Now was moderated by Chairman KIIR Altaf Hussain Wani.

Prominent speakers, including Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, former prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), called for the creation of a comprehensive database encompassing individuals from the state of Jammu and Kashmir, immigrants living in Pakistan, Kashmiris residing abroad, and people from Gilgit Baltistan.

CPI, CPB sign landmark three-year agreement

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Child Protection Institute - Islamabad (CPI) and the Child Protection Bureau-Punjab (CPB) are proud to announce the signing of a significant Letter of Agreement, solidifying their commitment to safeguarding and rehabilitating vulnerable children in Pakistan.

The signing ceremony was held on November 7, 2023.

This agreement is part of the efforts to ensure the well-being and future prospects of children who are at risk of exploitation, homelessness, drug addiction, and neglect.

Referral Mechanism: A critical component of this agreement is the establishment of a robust referral mechanism.

Both parties pledge to work hand-in-hand to identify, protect, and rehabilitate children who are involved in beggary, homelessness, drug addiction, and those who suffer from abuse and neglect.

Key highlights of the Letter of Agreement include: Coordinated Efforts: dedication of both organizations to collaborate effectively and comprehensively on the protection, rescue, and rehabilitation of these children.



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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage & Culture, Jamal Shah inaugurating "Star Moon Road," a spectacular group exhibition featuring diverse and imaginative works by Chinese contemporary artists at PNCA.

Rank Pinning ceremony of newly promoted SP's held

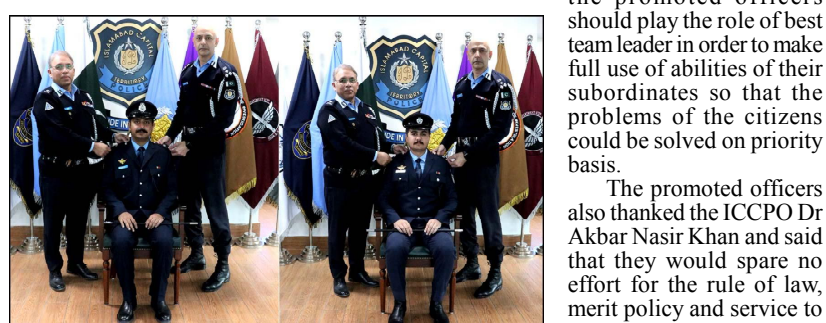
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan on Tuesday pinned the badges to Islamabad Capital Police two Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) after their promotion to the rank of Superintendent of Police (SP), a public relations officer said.

He said that, a ceremony was held at the Central Police Office in which ICCPO Dr Akbar Nasir Khan and Capital Police Officer Headquarters formally pinned the badges to the newly promoted Superintendent of Police (SP) Asad Ali and Superintendent of Police (SP) Abdul Aleem.

The ICCPO Dr Akbar Nasir Khan congratulated the officers on their promotion and wished them all the best for their future endeavors. He said that departmental promotion and increase should make equal implementation of law, observance of merit and best service delivery and protection to citizens their motto and goal.

He further said that the role of supervisory officers is of paramount importance in maintaining the writ of state, eradication of crime and ensuring timely measures for the service of the citizens adding that the promoted officers should play the role of best team leader in order to make full use of abilities of their subordinates so that the problems of the citizens could be solved on priority basis.

The promoted officers also thanked the ICCPO Dr Akbar Nasir Khan and said that they would spare no effort for the rule of law, merit policy and service to the citizens. They further said that they would work hard and with more diligence and commitment for the public.



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15 reports of various committees presented in Senate

ISLAMABAD (APP): As many as 15 reports of various committees including Delegated Legislation, Federal Education and Professional Training, on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Industries and Productions, Cabinet Secretariat and Rules of Procedure and Privileges were presented in the Senate on Tuesday.

The reports were presented by Mian Raza Rabbani, Irfan ul Haque Siddiqui, Mehr Taj Roghani, Khalida Ateeb, Saadia Abbasi and Muhammad Tahir Binjino in the House.

Chairman, Committee on Delegated Legislation Mian Raza Rabbani presented the fourth quarterly report of the Committee for the year 2022 and the first and second quarterly reports for the year 2023, as required under sub-rule (3) of Rule 172E of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012.

Chairman, Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training, Irfan ul Haque Siddiqui presented four reports of the Committee on the bill further to amend the International Islamic University Ordinance, 1985 [The International Islamic University (Amendment) Bill, 2023], the bill further to amend the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Act, 1975 [The Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (Amendment) Bill, 2023], the bill to provide for establishment of the University of Management and Technology Lahore [The University of Management and Technology Lahore Bill, 2023] and the bill to set up premier institute of advance studies [The Premier Institute of Advance Studies Bill, 2023].

Prof Dr Mehr Taj Roghani on behalf of Chairman, Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Muhammad Humayun Mohmand presented three reports of the Committee.



ISLAMABAD: Prize winners of sports day pose for group photo with chief guest Director Colleges Irfan Ullah Principal Prof Aliya Durani held on Tuesday.

Lok Mela in full swing

ISLAMABAD (PR): The on-going Lok Mela is on full swing here at Lok Virsa complex, Garden Avenue, Shakaparian under the aegis of the National Heritage & Culture Division.

Avoiding the opportunity created by Lok Virsa at Islamabad, a large number of the residents of twin cities of Rawalpindi/Islamabad hailing from different walks of life visit the festival on daily basis. The main features of the festival are artisans-at-work exhibition, folkloric performances, song and dance ensembles, traditional cuisine, arts & craft bazaar, etc.

Apart from other activities, a number of folk artists, rural performers, folk musicians and folk dance groups are also participating in the event and providing a healthy entertainment to the visitors.

The folk music constitutes an integral part of cultural life of the people of Pakistan. It includes folk songs and folk dances. Folk songs speak for the popular emotions and sentiments which emanate direct from the core of the heart of the people. These songs differ in tone, tenor and accent of language from region to region but their central themes invariably resemble with each other. This is due to unbreakable cultural ties of the people as a whole.

When we talk about folk singers, one must not forget the energetic performances by the Punjabi artist Fazal Jat. He entertains the audience with presentation of popular folk tales of Punjab in a unique style amid beating of drums which attracts the listeners.

Folk dancers, attired in beautiful regional costumes are seen giving their exotic performances at the venue. They include Khattak dance party from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gatta Ghora dance party from Punjab, Sindh Jhoomar dance party from Sindh.

On 7th November 2023, a Cultural Diversity Show was organized in the open air theatre of Lok Virsa featuring folk singers, musicians and dancers from all the provinces and regions of Pakistan. These performers included Ditta G (Cholistani dance), Fazal Jatt, Rizwan Haider on dhol, Ahsan Ali on Shehnai, Faryal Bibi and Sonia, folk singers, Child star dance group, Ejaz Hussain, Shehnaiz player from Gilgit Baltistan and lots more.



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