

# Independent

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## PM for visa ease, improved banking channels to boost Pak-Uzbek trade

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday underscored that easy visa procedures, improved banking channels and reciprocal warehousing facilities would further boost trade between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Dr Jamshid Khodjaev Abdulkhakomovich along with a delegation, expressed the hope that the business community of both countries could easily achieve the bilateral trade target of US\$ 1 billion in a short time.

The Uzbek deputy prime minister, along with a seven-member delegation, is on an official visit to Pakistan. Prime Minister Kakar welcomed the Uzbek deputy prime minister and his delegation to Pakistan and recalled his recent meeting with President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, on the sidelines of the 16th ECO Summit held in Tashkent from November 8-9.

He expressed satisfaction at the pace of bilateral engagements between the two countries, especially in the areas of trade, defence and connectivity.

He also appreciated the holding of the First Trilateral Meeting of the Commerce Ministers of Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan in Islamabad.

The three sides also established a trilateral working group to discuss customs, logistics, trade promotion, tariffs, TIR procedures, etc.

Showing satisfaction at the outcome of the trilateral meeting, the prime minister hoped that the trilateral mechanism would boost trade relations between the three countries.

Prime Minister Kakar underlined the need to

continue momentum of people-to-people exchanges.

Deputy Prime Minister Khodjaev thanked the prime minister for the warm hospitality extended to him and his delegation.

He briefed the prime minister about fruitful meetings with the business community of Pakistan, including the banking and logistics sectors.

He expressed the hope that both sides would continue active engagement for the timely completion of the Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan Railway Project.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, H.E. Dr. Jamshid Khodjaev Abdulkhakomovich calls on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of honorary consuls of different friendly countries based in Peshawar call on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## President cites immense potential to attract investment from friendly countries

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday citing the immense potential and opportunities for investment, said Pakistan desired to strengthen cooperation with friendly countries in the fields of investment, culture and tourism.

in a meeting with the honorary consul generals of different countries in Peshawar, reiterated Pakistan's resolve to enhance trade and investment ties with the friendly countries.

He urged the consul generals to strengthen their linkages with Pakistan's chambers of commerce and industries.

The consul generals who met the president included those of Tunisia, Russia, Turkey, Bulgaria, Bosnia, Tajikistan, Japan, Czech Republic, South Korea and Brazil.

The delegation apprised the president of the role of the honorary consul generals for promoting international ties and mutual trade.

President Alvi also urged the consul generals to play their role to attract investment to Pakistan.

In the meeting, he also reiterated Pakistan's concerns on the prevailing situation in Gaza and stressed the need for immediate ceasefire.

## 3-member committee constituted to resolve cases of missing persons

ISLAMABAD (Online): Care taker federal cabinet has constituted 3-member committee on the matter of missing persons.

According to sources federal cabinet accorded approval to constitute a 3-member committee of ministers under interior minister Sarfraz Bugti to resolve the cases pertaining to missing persons.

Ministry of law and justice has issued notification of committee. Law and defence ministers will be members of this committee.

The committee can seek assistance from human rights organizations. Law ministry authorities have presented copy of notification on formulation of committee before Islamabad High Court.

## Director Development BHC meets with Planning Minister

ISLAMABAD (Online): A two-member delegation led by Jo Moir, Director Development at British High Commission Islamabad called on Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed on Tuesday. During the meeting, two sides exchanged views on the existing portfolio for Pakistan and expressed their resolve to further enhance in the future.

The Planning Minister appreciated the support of BHC for its decades-long assistance, which has been playing a vital role in the socioeconomic uplift of Pakistan. He also appreciated their continued support and commitment for the ongoing development projects particularly in the climate sector.

## Jamadi-ul-Awal moon not sighted

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee on Tuesday announced that the moon of Jamadi-ul-Awal 1445 AH had not been sighted in its meeting held at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony.

The 1st Jamadi-ul-Awal 1445 shall commence from Thursday, the 16th November, 2023, said a notification issued here by the ministry.

## Development of Balochistan always been dear to us Will take cooperative approach with everyone: Nawaz Sharif

More than 30 electables & other political leaders from Balochistan join PML-N

Independent Report

Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, Jan Buledi, Kabir Muhammad Shahi from National Party, Nawabzada Khalid Magsi, Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali, Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Sardar Saleh Bhotani and others from Balochistan Awami Party, Dr. Hamid Khan Achakzai, Abdul Qahar Wadhan and Syed Liaquat Agha from Pashtoonkhw Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) and JUI's Maulana Muhammad Sarwar, Mir Usman Badini and others.

During the course of meeting, the matters about the politics as well as general elections and alliance were discussed between the PML-N leaders and other parties leadership.

There was also discussion about the future course for the elections and politics in the country.

## Bilawal says PPP never enjoyed level playing field but still ready to play on all kinds of pitch

MITHI (INP): Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that his party after coming into power will connect Thar

roads in Sindh and Balochistan should stay in Punjab and focus on resolving the issues of people of province there.

He said that the PML-N should do politics on its own and should not ask any "institution" to do that on the party's behalf. Would those who couldn't win by-elections in Punjab give a surprise to the PPP," he questioned.

While addressing a press conference in Mithi on Tuesday, he said the PPP had never enjoyed a level playing field and a particular "pitch" was being prepared currently but his party was still ready to play on every kind of

pitch. Bilawal Bhutto said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Muhammad Nawaz Sharif instead of attempts to make in-

## Pakistan, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan discuss ways to improve regional connectivity

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Commerce Ministers of Pakistan and Afghanistan and Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan on Tuesday co-chaired the first trilateral meeting, aimed at strengthening economic ties, regional cooperation and connectivity.

The meeting focused on boosting trade relations among three nations, said a press statement issued by the Commerce Ministry adding, discussions centered around reducing trade barriers, simplifying cus-

oms procedures, and promoting smoother cross-border trade.

The ministers explored investment prospects in various sectors which would open up avenues for joint ventures, public-private partnerships, and increased foreign direct investment. Recognizing the importance of regional connectivity, they discussed ways to enhance transportation networks and promote infrastructure development to facilitate the movement of goods.

## IHC stays hearing of cipher case against Imran in jail

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has stayed the hearing of Cipher case against PTI chairman in jail.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb while giving remarks on intra court appeal of Imran Khan against jail trial in cipher case said the way indictment was framed in cipher case it cannot be described as open court proceedings.

The court remarked allowing some members of family to go to court in connection with hearing does not mean open court.

The Attorney General (AG) informed the court about proceedings of trial.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb remarked we want to know what was extraordinary

situation that this trial is being run this way.

You have to tell us what has happened in fact. The way the indictment was framed in cipher case it cannot be described as open court proceedings.

AG said federal cabinet gave approval to jail trial of cipher case. We will present notification of jail trial in the court.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb remarked we are giving stay order on proceedings till Thursday.

The court remarked Attorney General Sahib present in court the record whatever is tomorrow.



PML N supremo Nawaz Sharif addressing party workers in Quetta. Former PM Shehbaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz are also present on the occasion.

## SHC suspends PEMRA's ban on airing Imran speeches

KARACHI (Online): Sindh High Court (SHC) has suspended ban imposed by PEMRA on airing PTI chairman Imran Khan speeches.

Petition filed by PTI worker Tahmas Ali Khan against imposition of ban came up for hearing Tuesday.

The court expressed annoyance over non appearance of state counsel despite repeated calls.

later the state counsel regretted over late appearing in the court after court's time.

The petitioner took the plea in the court slapping ban on speeches of political leader runs contrary to freedom of expression. Chairman PEMRA issued notification by ignoring the forum.

According to petitioner approval was not even obtained from council of complaints before imposing ban.

The court suspended PEMRA notification on imposition of ban on broadcasting PTI chairman speeches.

## PM calls for bringing higher education in conformity with contemporary needs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday underlined the need of bringing the higher education in the country in conformity with the contemporary and economic needs.

He further stressed for introduction of scholarships in technical and scientific subjects in accordance with the global requirements.

The prime minister chaired a meeting regarding the Higher Education Commission (HEC). The meeting was attended by Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindh, HEC Chairman Dr Mukhtar Ahmed, secretary education and other senior officials, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister was briefed about the higher education, students' scholarships, universities, and other related issues.

He was apprised that a total of 259 higher education institutes in the coun-

try were recognized by the HEC whereas in the previous years, the number of universities of global standards had increased in Pakistan.

So far, more than 20,000 scholarships had been awarded for PhD since the inception of HEC, it was added.

The meeting was also informed about the formulated mechanism to control plagiarism in the educational sector. The caretaker prime minister was also given a briefing about the national and international scholarships.

The prime minister directed for submission of a complete report regarding the outcome of government-funded scholarships, besides asked for removal of hurdles faced by the Pakistani students, studying abroad, in getting the release of scholarships.

He observed that for promotion of human and technical resources, they would have to extend facility of stipends in the science and engineering subjects.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairing a meeting regarding the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan.

## ECP dismisses allegations of cabinet's asset disclosure refusal

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Tuesday firmly refuted reports from the media alleging a refusal to share asset details of the caretaker Prime Minister and cabinet members.

The ECP spokesperson confirmed that the assets of the federal cabinet,

including the Prime Minister, had been duly submitted to the commission by Section 230(3) of the Election Act 2017. According to regulations, once the Commission green lights the publication of statements under Section 230(3) and Election Rules 170(3) in the Official Gazette.

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**'Hell on earth'**

Do Palestinian lives matter? Clearly, in the eyes of the global elite — both in the East and the West — they do not, with the Palestinian body count rising as Israel continues its savage assault on Gaza. A UN official aptly described the forsaken Palestinian region as "hell on earth".

With the Israeli onslaught entering its sixth week, there are no signs that the plight of Gaza's people will ease anytime soon. In particular, the Israeli war on Gaza's hospitals is despicable, as the world over, medical facilities are considered off limits during hostilities.

When health centres are attacked, such as the 2020 terrorist strike on a maternity home in Kabul's Dast-i-Barchi area, there is universal revulsion. In slaughtering children, the elderly and infirm, Israel is employing the same tactics that some of the world's worst perpetrators of terrorist violence do.

Last month when the Al Ahli Hospital was hit, there was global condemnation of this repulsive act, even though Israel tried to deflect criticism by claiming that an errant Palestinian missile had hit the facility, despite compelling evidence that this was the handiwork of the Israeli Defence Forces. The war on Gazan hospitals continues, as reports indicate that the Al Shifa and Al Quds medical facilities have ceased operations.

At least six premature babies have apparently died due to power shortages at Al Shifa. In total, the UN asserts, half of Gaza's hospitals and a third of its primary health centres have become dysfunctional. The WHO chief has described the situation as "dire and perilous".

This grotesque bloodbath is being carried out in full view of the world. Where are the champions of human rights in Western capitals who never tire of hectoring others on doing the right thing?

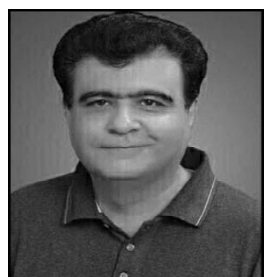
Where are the great supporters of the ummah who say that the world's Muslims are one body, and suffering in one part, means suffering for all? Where are the standard-bearers of Arab nationalism, who loudly proclaim that from the Atlantic shores of the Maghreb to the warm waters of the Gulf they are one nation?

The Gazan massacre is a shameful example of the indifference of the global elite, and the impunity of a well-armed bully — supported by the world's greatest economic and military powers — that slaughters the innocent without compunction in the name of vengeance.

Students of history have read about how Attila, Genghis Khan and Hitler committed unspeakable massacres. Israel's bloodthirsty leadership — the 'only democracy in the Middle East' in the eyes of its Western cheerleaders — should be added to this grim list for what it has done to the Palestinian people over the last six weeks.

History will never forget the screams of dying Palestinian children, and should never forgive those who perpetrated and aided this monstrous crime.

**Valuing migrants**



**Dr Niaz Murtaza**

I was in Afghanistan last week. I have worked in many rebel-held areas globally. But it felt eerie being in a state ruled by a group we aided and that shuns modernity. I felt guilty as my own callous state is evicting poor Afghans cruelly.

Long poor, the decades of war we too stoked, and now foreign economic and internal bans, have hurt Afghanistan more, with nature inflicting drought and quakes. Two-thirds of Afghans need aid, half of them urgently. Food, medicine and water are short. Women and many men face state abuse. Into this crisis, we are pushing innocent people, many of whom have lived in Pakistan for decades. Many were even born here. Images of misery and abuse abound.

Our logic is bad — legally, morally, economically and politically. We say we only evict those who are 'illegal'. This is simply state spin to criminalise and dehumanise them. Refugees globally cross borders without visas. But host states still issue refugee papers.

Afghans coming on foot didn't need visas. Illegality just means some refugees lack or are refused papers. The simple fix is to give them the needed papers. However, we strip them of all empathy, and pin terrorist acts on them.

Which ones, we aren't told. I don't recall Afghans being named right after a recent attack. Even if some were involved in such acts, is it justifiable

to collectively punish millions, similar to how Israel treats the Palestinians? We may push Afghans into the enemy's arms.

Some say the refugees are an economic burden. Global studies, however, show that even 'illegal' migrants boost economies as they have not just mouths to feed but also hands to work, skills to apply, and money to invest.

Since 1980, three million Afghans settled here. However, the increase in our own numbers far outpaced them. Millions of us went abroad. We rightly rue the harm from huge emigration yet see smaller inflows as harmful too. But migrants often fill the gap left behind by emigrants. The UN gives us millions in refugee aid, helping our suppliers and staff too.

Many Sindhis and Baloch fear that migrants — internal or foreign — may make them minorities at home, like the Palestinians and the native American population. Indigenous rights are critical but these two nationalities lag behind others in the army, bureaucracy and business.

Census data shows that the proportion of Sindh and Balochistan in our total population increased by five per cent and 2.5pc, respectively, from 1951 to 2023. Punjab's fell by 7pc. But Sindh's increase is mainly on account of inflows to Karachi, which went up from 3pc to 8pc nationally and 18pc to 36pc in Sindh. So, the provincial political hold matters.

Sindhis have seen the most change. Their ratio in the Sindh Assembly fell roughly from 90pc in 1947 to 80pc in 1970 and 68pc in 2002 but has been stable since. Controversial state-aided inflows and land awards brought down but did not end this supermajority, given the high rural fertility rates. Inflows allowed some economic gains too.

The big industrial

classes are dominated by some ethnicities due to their state hold, initially of Mohajir and then Punjab elites. Without the inflows into Sindh, most of its industry may have been in Punjab. But the gains ignored poor Sindhis due to the selfish policies of the national and local elites.

The Baloch won the majority of seats in the last and previous polls in their province. But Baloch militants sadly kill poor migrants though so many Baloch have lived safely in other regions for long.

Most of the very poor districts are the Baloch ones. However, it is the elites who are responsible for Baloch misery, not migrant workers. Victims must not fight each other to help the elites but jointly fight against them. Punjabis won about 75pc of the seats in Punjab and Pakhtuns 87pc in KP (up after the Fata union) in 2018. All majority groups have stable supermajorities and won't see the fate of the native population of the US, etc. Poor migrants don't change things like conquerors or state-aided inflows. KP has 52pc of 1.3m legal Afghans, Balochistan 24pc, Punjab 14pc and Sindh 5pc, according to a new UN survey. The numbers regarding 'illegal' ones are mere guesses.

Even if long-term Afghan and other migrants got citizenship, it will just cut the supermajorities by 2pc to 3pc (Pakhtuns will gain a bit). A high rural fertility rate may soon erase even this cut. Actually, some minority ethnic communities will lose a bit more than majority groups. Even this would not occur if they get only working rights and fake CNICs are nixed.

We must not send migrants to a future full of risks on account of our own unreal and distant fears. Migrant fears must not conservatively create ethnic silos. Instead, there should be win-win ideas for all victims. — Courtesy Dawn

**Out of breath**



**Masood Lohar**

Picture yourself residing in a lavish mansion, boasting a multiple-digit price tag, in the heart of the city's most exclusive neighbourhood. Despite the opulence, the very essence of life for you and your family is being gradually eroded; your lifespan is curtailed by several precious years, and the once pristine quality of life tainted by the persistent spectre of asthma, throat infections, and itchy eyes. Moreover, there is an ever-present apprehension, a gnawing fear that cardiovascular diseases, lung cancer, and respiratory issues may be just around the corner, casting a shadow over your otherwise luxurious abode. That is how the issue of air quality has hit Pakistan's cities. This paradoxical reality, the contradiction between affluence and the compromised quality of life is the top odd feature of life in Pakistan.

While Lahore and Delhi have been in a fierce competition, not just this week but throughout the past month, to claim the top two spots on the Air Quality Index for the world's worst air quality, Karachi hasn't been far behind. Ironically, the air quality woes extend beyond these cities, as Islamabad and Rawalpindi have also surpassed dangerous levels. Last week, Islamabad recorded an AQI of 154, and Rawalpindi reached 180 — both falling into the 'unhealthy' category (151-200).

The competitive streak persists among other cities as well, with Attock at 143, Jhelum and Chakwal at 159. Even the usually pristine hill

station of Murree saw its AQI rise to 104, surpassing the 'moderate' level.

In response to the escalating air pollution, the Punjab government recently declared a 'health emergency' and implemented a smart lockdown in seven districts: Lahore, Nankana Sahib, Sheikhupura, Kasur, Gujranwala, Hafizabad, and Narowal. These areas had reportedly witnessed the highest recorded AQI levels. The onset of winter exacerbates air pollution, leading to smog that disrupts traffic and work life. Typically, the smog season extends from the beginning of November to the end of February — a third of the year. This adversely affects the 48 million-strong population residing in bustling business and industrial hubs, resulting in economic losses, hindering education, and disrupting travel and transportation.

Rapid urbanisation in the region forecasts that almost half of Pakistan's population will reside in cities by 2025, heightening concerns over air pollution. Failing to address this issue immediately could expose over 120m people to harmful air quality, causing significant economic and social repercussions. The urgency to control air pollution is evident in the dire consequences it poses, emphasising the need for preventive measures to protect the well-being of the projected urban population.

Air quality deterioration results from various sources, including industrial emissions, vehicle exhaust, fossil fuel combustion, deforestation, agricultural practices, waste burning, and natural events. Population density in urban areas exacerbates emissions. In Lahore, external air pollution from Jalandhar in Indian Punjab contributes, while Karachi faces com-

plex sources, including vehicular emissions and unsafe construction practices. The absence of an efficient public transport system increases vehicle numbers and emissions. Fossil fuel burning produces harmful byproducts like nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide.

Despite being a coastal city with marine ecosystems, Karachi should ideally be free from air pollution due to its potential for 'blue carbon' — carbon sequestration through mangroves. The high carbon sequestration potential of the mangroves highlights their importance not only for the health of the coastal ecosystem but also in the global context of climate change mitigation. Protecting and restoring mangrove ecosystems can contribute significantly to efforts aimed at reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide levels.

Planting mangroves not only purifies the air but also generates carbon credits. An average mature mangrove tree can sequester 22-30 kilograms of carbon dioxide yearly. For example, 600,000 mangroves planted at the Clifton Urban Forest in August 2022 can fetch \$225,000 per year, starting from year 2024. It is time to bring creeks, sub-creeks, and beaches across Karachi under mangrove cover. Apart from the revenue aspect, these mangroves will purify the city's air and create resilience against cyclones and tsunamis in addition to producing food for fish, shrimp and aquatic birds like flamingos. Pakistan stands at a crucial juncture, requiring bold decisions and a paradigm shift from a real estate-based shallow economy to embrace innovative opportunities such as blue carbon and beach tourism. — Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**Pakistan, China can produce high-grade sugar in abundance: PCJCCI**

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Moazzam Ghurki said on Tuesday that Pakistan and China can produce high-grade sugar in abundance and export it across the world.

Sharing his views in a think-tank session held here at PCJCCI Secretariat, he remarked that sugarcane cooperation between China and Pakistan will bring sweet revolution, and will literally turn the friendship between the two nations 'sweeter than honey'.

Ghurki said, "Our responsibility is to connect people and experts from China and Pakistan, and provide them a platform. This is what we are doing

with zeal and zest. China and Pakistan should join hands to promote sugarcane production and processing to produce high-grade sugar. Believe me two iron friends can export sugar to the world if they enhance cooperation in this field."

He added that "Tissue Culture" can bring revolution in the production of sugarcane; Chinese Academy of Tropical Agriculture Science has been giving training to the scientists across the globe. It has introduced 100 training courses for 4,000 participants from more than 90 countries. More than 40 young scientists from Asia, Africa, and Latin America came to CATAS for medium and long term visits and

exchanges, he added. PCJCCI Senior Vice President Fang Yulong said that Pakistan is a traditional agricultural country, but there is still a lot more to do to modernize its agriculture sector to enable it to meet international

CATAS strongly rejected using conventional seeds. Conventional seeds are not suitable for planting. Breeding disease free seedlings are perfect for sugarcane production and he made clear that by applying integrated disease-free techniques, the pathogens of viruses and RSD can be removed, and problem of degradation and purification can be solved simultaneously.

**Workshop on organic honey farming ends**

LAHORE (APP): The 17th National Training Workshop on 'Organic Beekeeping Practices' organized by Punjab University Institute of Zoology concluded here on Tuesday.

Punjab University Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood, Director Institute of Zoology Prof Dr Nabila Roohi, Director ORIC Prof Dr Shakil Ahmed, In-charge Beekeeper Research Garden Dr Abdul Majid Khan, bee farm administrators, researchers, faculty members and students attended the closing ceremony.

In his address, Dr Khalid Mahmood said that the process of learning should always continue. He said that the workshop would help the participants work in the practical field. He said that PU would continue to play a key role in the welfare projects of society despite of its limited resources.

Dr Nabila thanked the VC for cooperation in organizing the workshop.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, convened a pivotal meeting today with the esteemed Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, H.E. Dr. Jamshid Khodjaev Abdulkhakovovich.

**Govt to address key issues of business community: Sualeh**

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Secretary Commerce Muhammad Sualeh Ahmed Farooqui said that the business community is the backbone of the economy and the government would take all possible measures to address their key issues.

He made the assurance while talking to a delegation of the United Business Group (UBG) led by its President Zubair Tufail and Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari called on him on Tuesday and discussed with him the matters to improve the country's trade and exports.

The delegation comprised President

Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari Vice President FPCCI Jamal ud Din, Presidential candidate of UBG for FPCCI Atif Akram Sheikh and others.

Addressing the delegation, Muhammad Sualeh Ahmed Farooqui said that the business community would be given representation in foreign delegations to explore new markets for promoting Pakistan's trade and exports. He said that trade and exports policies would be finalized in consultation with the business community to make them result-oriented.

Federal Secretary

Commerce stressed for transparent and fair elections of FPCCI to ensure true representation of the business community in the apex trade body of the country. He lauded the proposals of the delegation to curb smuggling and improve the country's exports and assured that their suggestions would be given due consideration for implementation.

Speaking on the occasion, President United Business Group Zubair Tufail said that the initiatives of the government to curb smuggling are bearing fruits and stressed that this move should be continued on a sustained basis.

**SBP allows ASA Microfinance Bank Limited to commence countrywide operations**

**Independent Report**

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Tuesday, allowed ASA Microfinance Bank (Pakistan) Limited to commence microfinance lending business across the country. ASA Microfinance Bank will be the 12th Microfinance Bank (MFB) to operate in the country by commencing nationwide microfinance lending business with effect from November 13, 2023, said a

statement issued here. ASA Microfinance Bank (Pakistan) Limited, licensed by SBP under the Microfinance Institutions Ordinance 2001, is a wholly owned subsidiary of ASA International Group plc, which is recognized as one of the world's largest international microfinance institutions. MFBs play an important role to serve a large number of micro-credit borrowers and depositors as they have approximately 3%

**Rupee sheds 33 paise against Dollar**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday witnessed a devaluation of 33-paise against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 287.87 against the previous day's closing at Rs 287.54. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 287.5 and Rs 290 respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 79 paise to close at Rs 308.20 against the last day's closing of Rs 307.41.

**Boost in broadband fiber connectivity vital for economic growth: Dr. Umar Saif**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif Tuesday said that a boost in broadband fiber connectivity is vital for economic growth.

The meeting chaired by the minister discussed in detail matters related to fiberization, and the Right of Way Policy.

Senior officers of MoITT, and representatives of telecom companies attended the meeting, said a news

release. Addressing the meeting, Dr. Umar Saif said that the provision of quality telecom services to the masses is the topmost priority.

He said that every 10% increase in mobile broadband adoption results in 0.5 - 0.8 per cent increase in GDP.

Therefore, to help grow the country's economy, "we must incentivise broadband fiber connectivity in the country."



ISLAMABAD: Old man cutting wood into pieces for selling purpose at his workplace.

**FCCI to play role in starting trans-shipping facility: Khurram**

FAISALABAD (APP): The Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) will take up the issue to start a trans-shipping facility to connect Pakistan with Africa through the shortest and direct route of Oman and Muscat in order to give a quantum jump to its bilateral trade, said Dr. Khurram Tariq President FCCI.

Addressing participants in the 29th Junior Diplomatic Course from the Foreign Service Academy (FSA) Islamabad, he mentioned the "Look Africa" policy of the government and said that Pakistan would have direct access to African countries through this trans-shipping facility. He gave a brief

introduction of Faisalabad and FCCI and said that trade organizations are of two types in Pakistan.

"One is a trade specific association", he said and added that on the other hand, chambers represent the whole trade and industry in a particular area. He said that due to its holistic nature, its voice was considered as more balanced and effective. He said that the platform of the chamber was playing its productive role in tax policy, budget formulation and other policy related matters with the ultimate objective to protect the legitimate interest of the trade and industry in general and its members in particular.



HYDERABAD: Farmers are spraying pesticides over crop at an agricultural field in Hyderabad.

**Three new industrial units inaugurated at DIK Economic Zone**

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce, Technical Education and Tribal Affairs, Dr Aamir Abdullah inaugurated three newly established units at D.I. Khan Economic Zone and performed the groundbreaking of two other units on Tuesday.

The inaugurated enterprises were units of food, beverage, chemical and LPG sectors.

Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC).

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) KP-EZDMC, Javed Iqbal Khattak and other senior management of the company were also present on the occasion.

The inauguration and groundbreaking of food and beverage sector industries would boost the generation of employment opportunities and meet the increasing demand of consumer products in the region.

## Diabetes and other diseases can be prevented adopting Islamic lifestyle: Governor

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended a ceremony organized by Pakistan Endocrine Society and Pakistan Society of Internal Medicine in connection with World Diabetes Day here at Governor House Lahore as chief guest today. On this occasion, Governor Punjab also led a diabetes awareness walk from Alhama Arts Council to Governor's House. Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Prof. Dr. Javed Akram also accompanied Governor Punjab.

While addressing the ceremony, Punjab

Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that diabetes and other diseases can be prevented adopting Islamic lifestyle. He said that it is possible to prevent this disease with timely diagnosis. Governor Punjab said that there is a need to create awareness among the people to prevent diabetes. He said that the number of diabetic patients in Pakistan are increasing to an alarming extent, adding that we have to change our lifestyle to get rid of this disease. Governor. He said that fasting is a shield for the prevention of diseases, adding that scientific research has also proved that the intermittent fasting

makes the body healthy, and prevents diseases like diabetes and blood pressure. Governor Punjab said that diabetes affects every organ of the body, especially vision, heart, liver and kidneys. Governor Punjab said that Islam is a complete code of life. He said that we should adopt a healthy lifestyle. Governor Punjab said that as chancellor, he would also direct the vice-chancellors of all universities across the province in writing to organize awareness seminars and workshops to create awareness among the students and prevent this disease.



**PESHAWAR:** Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Gulam Ali being crowned on his best services for Peshawar City and business community for the province.

## PU, NAB arrange painting competition focusing on anti-corruption campaign

LAHORE (APP): Punjab University (PU) Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood has said that providing awareness against corruption through art is a best source.

He was addressing at the 'Wall of Culture Painting Competition' organized by Punjab University, National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and Brighto Paints in connection with the anti-corruption campaign here

on Tuesday. NAB Director Imran Sohail, Additional Director Attia Azmat, Resident Officer-II Muhammad Kashif Nazir, Director Student Affairs Dr Muhammad Ali, faculty members, administrative officers and students were present.

In his address, Dr Khalid Mahmood said that NAB and PU are giving a positive message against corruption through anti-corruption activities.

## Husband among three arrested in wife's murder case

**MULTAN (APP):** Police have arrested three accused including a husband and his two accomplices on charge of killing his wife around 13 days back, police said on Tuesday.

Complainant Ijaz Khursheed told police his daughter Ansa Khan was married to Khawaja Faisal Mahmood in 2011. She had borrowed Rs 4 million and gave it to her husband who used money to buy a plot. However, when she demanded the money back, her husband tortured her and the couple used to quarrel over the issue.

## Mock terror exercise held

**FAISALABAD (APP):** The police department in collaboration with Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), Civil Defence, Elite Force, local administration and emergency departments arranged a mock exercise at the office of City Police Officer (CPO) to improve the efficiency and response of security personnel.



**LAHORE:** Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur-Rehman cutting the ribbon to inaugurate the awareness Walk ceremony on World Diabetes Day.

## ANF seizes 233 kg drugs in 12 operations

**Independent Report**  
**RAWALPINDI:** Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 12 operations across the country managed to recover over 233 kg of drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday.

He informed, that in four operations, over 4.6 kg of drugs were recovered from 26 no Chongi area in Islamabad. In an operation, 900 grams Ice drug was recovered from an accused, resident of Pishin.

In another operation, 800 grams Ice drug and 250 grams of heroin were recovered from the possession of an accused, resident of Khyber.

## Attacking on police party case Court extends physical remand of Sanam

**LAHORE (Online):** Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) has extended physical remand of PTI social media activist Sanam Javed in the case of attacking police party.

She was presented in the court on completion of 3-day physical remand. Duty judge Arshid Javed of ATC took up police plea in connection with physical remand of Sanam Javed.

The court approved physical remand of Sanam

## CTD apprehends inter-provincial gang of robbers

**KARACHI (APP):** The Sindh Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) announced a significant breakthrough on Tuesday, revealing the dismantling of an alleged inter-provincial gang of street criminals from Main University Road.

According to a CTD spokesperson, three individuals were apprehended during the initial interrogation, confessing to the systematic looting of citizens who withdrew cash from ATMs across various cities in Sindh and Punjab.

One kg of Ice drug was recovered from a passenger's bag arrested at Allama Iqbal International Airport. The accused, a resident of Sahiwal, was leaving for Saudi Arabia by flight number PK-859.

## Mock terror exercise held

**FAISALABAD (APP):** The police department in collaboration with Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), Civil Defence, Elite Force, local administration and emergency departments arranged a mock exercise at the office of City Police Officer (CPO) to improve the efficiency and response of security personnel.

A police spokesman said here on Tuesday that mock information regarding the entry of terrorists and a suicide attack at the CPO Office was spread after which teams of police, Civil Defence, CTD and other emergency departments rushed to the spot and encircled the surrounding areas.

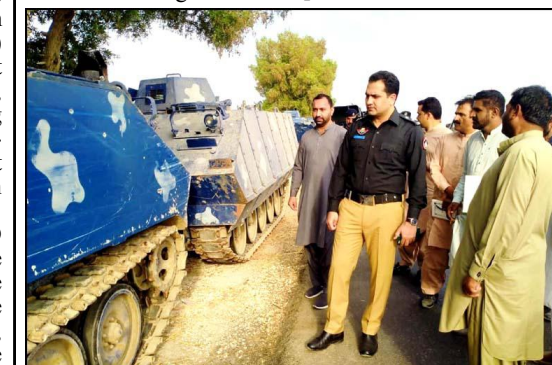
## Naqvi reviews WCLA projects, emphasizes timely completion

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, during a meeting at his office here on Tuesday, reviewed the progress on Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA) projects. During the session, the restoration of Kharak Singh's historic mansion took center stage, with plans to refurbish its rooms for tourism promotion, ensuring standard facilities for tourists' accommodation.

CM Mohsin Naqvi directed the initiation of necessary steps for relocating the Rim Market and accelerating work on

the Lahore Fort Cafe. The meeting also assessed progress on the restoration projects for the historical gates of Lahore and fort Kohna Qasim Bagh in Multan. Mohsin Naqvi emphasized the timely completion of these projects, emphasizing the restoration of the wall around the historical gates to its original condition for full protection.

Highlighting the historical significance of Lahore's gates and fort Kohna Qasim Bagh in Multan, the CM envisioned them becoming key attractions for tourists post-restoration.



**SHIKARPUR:** Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shikarpur, Dr. Muhammad Imran Khan visiting different police stations in Kacha area of Khanpur district Shikarpur.

## Farhat Shahzadi sends Rs 5 billions defamation notice to Attaullah Tarar

**LAHORE (Online):** Farhat Shahzadi, close friend of Bushra Bibi wife of chairman PTI has sent Rs 5 billion defamation notice to PML-N leader Attaullah Tarar.

The legal notice was sent through advocate Azhar Siddique wherein it was stated that Atta Ullah Tarar leveled fabricated allegations through media with reference to assets.

According to text of notice Atta Ullah Tarar has not provided any evidence with reference to assets. All the assets of Farhat Shahzadi are declared. Attaullah Tarar tried to

dent her reputation by leveling allegations. It was further said in the notice if Attaullah Tarar did not tender apology and pay the damage amount then the courts will be resorted to.

In a statement some days back Attaullah Tarar had said there was nexus of three women in PTI government who seated a dummy chief minister in Punjab. Farhat Shahzadi and Ahsan Jamil Gujjar made all planning and commission on contracts went to them too. On transfer/posting the share went to Bushra Bibi.

## International News

## Biden meets with Indonesia president ahead of Xi summit

**Monitoring Desk**  
**WASHINGTON:** Leaders from the United States and Indonesia held discussions on Monday that will set the stage for U.S. President Joe Biden's first in person meeting in a year with Chinese leader Xi Jinping later this week.

Biden greeted Indonesian President Joko Widodo at the White House as the two leaders prepare for a Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in San Francisco, where Washington hopes to reduce friction with Beijing. Biden is due to meet Xi on Wednesday.

The United States and Indonesia agreed to new cooperation in defense areas including cybersecurity, space, combined exercises and nuclear threats, the White House said. On climate, they agreed on efforts to sup-

port the electrical grid and improve air quality.

Reuters reported on Sunday that the two countries are working to advance a potential minerals partnership focused on the electric vehicle (EV) battery metal nickel, citing three people with direct knowledge of the conversations.

But the Biden administration is still concerned about environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards in Indonesia and is examining how such a deal might work.

Biden and Jokowi, as the Indonesian president is popularly known, agreed to form a work plan towards the establishment of a trade agreement on critical minerals, after which Indonesia will supply minerals for U.S. electric vehicle batteries, Indonesian Foreign Minister

Retno Marsudi said in a statement after the meeting.

Retno said both sides also agreed to immediately implement the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP), a \$20 billion funding pledged by the U.S. and other G7 countries last year to help Indonesia clean up its energy sector.

Indonesia also called for the renewal of the Generalized System of Preferences, Retno said, referring to a U.S. trade facility that Indonesian exports had benefited from before it expired at the end of 2020.

Jokowi pressed Biden on steps to end Israel's war with Hamas. "Indonesia appeals to the U.S. to do more to stop the atrocities in Gaza. Ceasefire is a must for the sake of humanity," Widodo said in the Oval Office at the start of talks with the U.S. president.



**Belgium's Defense Minister Ludivine Dedonder, right, speaks with Netherlands' Defense Minister Kaja Ollongren, second right, during a meeting of EU foreign and defense ministers at the European Council building in Brussels.**

## US moves to break political impasse in Bangladesh

**Monitoring Desk**  
**DHAKA:** The US ambassador to Bangladesh has sought meetings with leaders of the country's three major parties, the embassy said on Monday, as Washington seeks to break a political impasse ahead of elections.

Dhaka is set to hold a general election in January, but the main opposition,

the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), and its allies have said they will boycott the vote unless Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina quits power and lets a neutral government oversee the polls. Hasina has launched a major crackdown against the BNP since police broke up a giant opposition rally on October 28.

## Israeli strikes hit journalists in south Lebanon

**Monitoring Desk**  
**BEIRUT:** Journalists in southern Lebanon said they were targeted on Monday in Israeli strikes, which Al Jazeera network said lightly wounded its photographer. A local mayor and Lebanese state media corroborated the journalists' account of the cross-border incident, which came exactly a month after deadly strikes blamed on Israel hit a press group near Alma al-Shaab in southern Lebanon.

Around a dozen journalists from several media outlets were on a tour to inspect damage from Israeli bombardments and had been providing coverage from the border town of Yarun when the strikes hit. Al Jazeera said its photographer Issam Mawasi was "lightly wounded as a result of Israeli bombing". "Al Jazeera's broadcast vehicle was also damaged during the attack. The strike occurred as a group of journalists toured the area," a report on the Qatari broadcaster's website said. Al Jazeera's Lebanon bureau chief Mazen Ibrahim accused Israel of "directly targeting" the group.



**Britain's King Charles and Queen Camilla visit FareShare Didcot to launch the Coronation Food Project on his birthday, in Didcot, Britain.**

## UN observes minute's silence for 101 staffers killed in Gaza

**Monitoring Desk**  
**GENEVA:** United Nations workers observed a minute's silence and flags flew at half-mast at UN co-mounds across the globe on Monday to honour the more than 100 employees killed since hostilities began in Gaza last month, the largest death toll of workers in the organisation's 78-year history.

In Gaza City, witnesses reported intense overnight air strikes with Israeli tanks and armoured vehicles just metres from the Al Shifa hospital.

Health authorities said hospitals in northern Gaza were no longer functioning

amid fuel shortages and raging combat.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the organisation for supporting Palestinians, said on Friday that 101 of its employees died in Gaza Strip since Oct 7.

Staff at UN offices in Geneva bowed their heads as a candle was lit in memory of the deceased UNRWA employees.

"This is the highest number of aid workers killed in the history of our organisation in such a short time," said Tatiana Valov-aya, Director

General of the UN office in Geneva.

In Geneva, the second-largest UN headquarters after New York, the UN flag flew at half-mast and none of the other flags of the 193 member countries were hoisted along the main alley of the compound.

The blue and white UN flag was lowered at offices in Bangkok, Tokyo and Beijing. Events were also held in Kathmandu and Kabul, where the UN secretary general's special representative for Afghanistan led about 250 people in observing the minute's silence.

## US Commerce chief Raimondo to meet Chinese counterpart Wang during APEC

**Monitoring Desk**  
**SAN FRANCISCO:** The commerce chiefs of the United States and China will meet at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum this week, one of a series of cabinet-level engagements surrounding high-stakes talks between U.S. President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

A U.S. Commerce Department spokesperson confirmed that U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and Chinese Commerce Minister Wang

Wentao planned to meet but was not able to provide details and timing.

Raimondo is participating in ministerial meetings for APEC and the Biden administration's Indo-Pacific Economic Framework discussions. Biden and Xi are expected to meet in the San Francisco Bay area on Wednesday in an effort to calm a tense relationship between the world's two largest economies. Raimondo first mentioned the meeting with Wang, their third in person in less than six months.

## Putin approves new restrictions on media coverage ahead of presidential elections

**Monitoring Desk**  
**MOSCOW:** Russian President Vladimir Putin has approved changes to the law that governs presidential elections putting new restrictions on media coverage, local news agencies reported on Tuesday.

The changes come ahead of the election to be held in March in which Putin, who has ruled Russia for the last 24 years, is expected to seek a new six-year term.

## Russian UN envoys shoot back at Western criticism of its Ukraine war and crackdown on dissidents

**Monitoring Desk**  
**GENEVA:** Western countries on Monday repeatedly called on Russia to end domestic repression of dissident voices and end its war in Ukraine — and human rights violations related to it — as Russia came under a regular review at the U.N.'s top rights body.

A delegation from Moscow, led by State Secretary and Deputy Justice Minister Andrei Logonov, defended Russia's right to ensure law and order by restricting some forms of protest or voices that might threaten domestic security. He also said Russia's "special military operation" in Ukraine had "no relation to the subject matter" at issue in the review.

Monday's 3 1/2-hour hearing in Geneva was part

of an exercise known as the universal periodic review, or UPR, which all U.N. member states face about every four or five years in connection with the U.N.-backed Human Rights Council.

Russia came under widespread international condemnation after President Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion of Ukraine in February last year. Two separate teams of U.N.-backed investigators have been commissioned to look into both rights abuses carried out in Ukraine and domestically in Russia.

Western countries during Monday's session denounced the deportation of Ukrainian children, Russia's crackdown on civil society and the arrest of rights defenders.

## Floods kill at least 31 in Somalia. UN warns of a flood event likely to happen once in 100 years

**Monitoring Desk**  
**MOGADISHU:** Floods caused by torrential rainfall have killed at least 31 people in various parts of Somalia, authorities said Sunday.

Since October, floods have displaced nearly half a million people and disrupted the lives of over 1.2 million people, Minister of Information Daud Aweis told reporters in the capital Mogadishu. They have also caused extensive damage to civilian infrastructure notably in the Gedo region of southern Somalia, he said.

The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, or OCHA, which has given \$25 million to help mitigate the impact of flooding, warned in a statement Thursday of "a flood event of a magnitude statistically likely only once in 100 years, with significant anticipated humanitarian impacts."

"While all possible preparatory measures are being pursued, a flood of this magnitude can only be

mitigated and not prevented," OCHA said, recommending "early warning and early action" to save lives as "large-scale displacement, increased humanitarian needs and further destruction of property remain likely."

The lives of some 1.6 million people in Somalia could be disrupted by floods during the rainy season that lasts until December, with 1.5 million hectares of farmland potentially being destroyed, it said.

Mogadishu has been ravaged by downpours that, at times, swept away vulnerable people, including children and the elderly, and disrupted transportation.

Floods are also affecting neighboring Kenya, where the death toll stood at 15 on Monday, according to the Kenya Red Cross.

The port city of Mombasa and the north-eastern counties of Mandera and Wajir are the worst affected.

## President says: Social, economical mainstreaming of PWDs inevitable for development

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said that the social and economic mainstreaming of the persons with disabilities (PWDs) was inevitable for progress of the country.

The president, in a meeting with a delegation of Chal Foundation headed by Chairman Feroz Ahmed, said the needs of the PWDs could be overcome by providing assistive technology and artificial limbs.

He also called for steps to ensure indigenous production of quality and affordable assistive technology and artificial limbs for facilitation of the PWDs.

The president also emphasized practical and policy-level measures to make the PWDs productive citizens of the country.

He lauded the Chal Foundation's role for welfare, rehabilitation and facilitation of the differently-abled persons.

The members of the delegation apprised the president of the steps taken by the Foundation for betterment of the PWDs including the provision of artificial limbs and assistive technology.

Besides, the Foundation was also extending other facilities to the differently-abled persons including rehabilitation, therapy and treatment, it was told.

The delegation also apprised the president of different projects being undertaken by the Foundation as well as the needs of the PWDs.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi being briefed about the role of Chal Foundation in the facilitation of persons with disabilities, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (R) Arshad Hussain called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

## Kyrgyz-Pak IGC pivotal to establish stronger economic foundation: Energy Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division) Muhammad Ali has said that the Kyrgyz-Pakistan Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) is pivotal in establishing a stronger economic foundation and fostering enhanced mutual cooperation between the two countries.

He was speaking during the 4th Session of Kyrgyz-Pakistan Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) on Trade-Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation held in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic, on November 10, a Commerce Ministry news release said on Tuesday.

The Co-Chairs for the 4th Session of the IGC were Minister for Energy (Power Division) of Pakistan and Basalov Edil Zholdubayevich, the Deputy Chairman of the

Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Energy Minister led the Pakistani delegation, comprising senior officials from the ministries of Economic Affairs, Commerce and Energy (Power Division) at the IGC session. The minister, referring to the enduring historical and cultural bonds between Pakistan and the Kyrgyz Republic, expressed the readiness of the Pakistani side for an active dialogue and practical actions to further deepen bilateral cooperation. Underscoring collaboration in the energy sector, he reaffirmed its crucial role in mutual growth.

Stressing the importance of the CASA-1000 regional project, the minister emphasized the commitment from both sides for its expeditious completion to realize shared goals.

## Health Ministry launches campaign against sale of unregistered syringes

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Health has decided to launch a campaign against the sale of unregistered and banned conventional syringes.

The initiative was finalized on the direction of Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan who had taken notice of the sale of unregistered banned traditional syringes across the country.

In this regard, a market survey has been started on the instructions of the Minister for Health.

The minister said that the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP)

has issued instructions to its field offices and the provincial health departments in this regard.

He said that repeated use of conventional syringes could lead to the spread of infectious diseases like hepatitis, AIDS, etc.

Dr. Nadeem Jan said that strict action will be taken against criminals involved in the sale, distribution and stocking of banned products.

He said that the ministry has planned an integrated strategy to eliminate fake non-registered medicines across the country.



ISLAMABAD: Students holding placards during an awareness walk regarding Diabetes on the eve to mark World Diabetes Day organized by Pakistan National Heart Association at National Press Club Islamabad.

## CTO commended officials for maintaining smooth flow of traffic on roads

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad commended the dedication and hard work of officers and officials for maintaining smooth flow of traffic on capital roads.

Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the recognition of exemplary performance continues, while stringent measures are taken against officials showing negligence and subpar performance.

Recognizing excellence, commendations, certificates and cash rewards were awarded to 40 police officers and officials of Traffic Police for maintaining smooth flow of traffic on capital roads.

On the occasion, the

CTO said that "The ethos of rewarding excellence will persist, while those displaying incomplete or unsatisfactory performance will face stringent disciplinary actions". He further emphasized the Islamabad Capital Police initiatives to ensure safety and streamline traffic flow, stressing the critical need for adherence to laws to minimize accidents. "Together with our personnel, we are committed to coherence and will enforce stringent legal actions against violators," he added. The police awareness teams stationed at various checkpoints and roads continue to educate citizens on traffic laws and road safety.

Moreover, Islamabad Capital Police's radio FM 92.4 aims to enlighten citizens on both road safety.

## NHA to take action against overloading vehicles today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Highway Authority (NHA) has announced to take strict action against overloading of vehicles on national highways and motorways from November 15.

This initiative was taken in the wake of a number of accidents caused by overloaded vehicles in recent months, public relations officer said talking to APP on Tuesday.

The NHA has warned that vehicles carrying more than the prescribed limit would be heavily fined and the drivers even would be arrested besides seizing the vehicles.

The NHA said that the axle load control regime would be strictly implemented from tomorrow. This means that all vehicles will be weighed to ensure that they were not carrying more than the allowed weight, he added.

## Bushra Bibi filed bail plea in IHC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Bushra Bibi wife of chairman PTI Imran Khan has resorted to Islamabad High Court (IHC) to avoid possible arrest and filed pre-arrest bail plea in the court.

Bushra Bibi reached IHC along with PTI legal team. She got done biometric verification.

Later Bushra Bibi filed petition in the court seeking details of pending cases against her besides submitting bail before arrest plea.

It has been told that Additional Sessions Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra of District and Sessions Court Islamabad took up for hearing the bail plea of Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi for hearing.

On this occasion neither Imran Khan was present in the court nor was report regarding his appearance submitted.

However Khalid Yousuf Chaudhry counsel for Bushra Bibi appeared in the court.

## AIOU 17 students present synopses in BASR meeting

ISLAMABAD (APP): A total of 17 students from different departments of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) have presented synopses during the 66th meeting of Board of Advanced Studies and Research (BASR).

The scholars included 5 from the Department of History, 2 from Mass Communication, 3 from Agricultural Sciences, 2 from Education, 2 from Arabic, and 3 scholars from the Department of Business Management.

The 66th meeting of the Board of Advanced Studies and Research (BASR) was held at the university. Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, presided over the meeting. The Directorate of BASR continue to educate citizens on traffic laws and road safety.

The Director BASR, Prof. Dr. Syed Amir Shah, presented a detailed report on the implementation of the decisions made during the previous meeting.

## Minister, ambassador emphasize strengthening cultural relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Portugal Ambassador Manuel Frederico Pinheiro da Silva and Interim Federal Minister Jamal Shah on Tuesday discussed common interests, particularly improving cultural ties between the two countries.

Both parties mutually agreed to intensify bilateral relations and increase the frequency of cultural exchanges.

They delved into the specifics of collaborating in the cultural sphere, including organizing joint cultural events and promoting the cultural heritage of both Pakistan and Portugal.

The minister expressed that there was substantial potential for collaboration between the two nations.

Ambassador Manuel Frederico Pinheiro da Silva recognized the opportunity for collaboration in culture and sports. Additionally, he suggested setting up a Portuguese book corner at the National Library of Pakistan (NLP).

He also suggested creating a dedicated corner for Portuguese books at the National Library of Pakistan (NLP).

## Chairman PRCS says: PRCS benefits 2.7m flood affected people

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has benefited over 2.7 million flood affected people through the provision of tents, food, non-food items, shelter, cash assistance, and essential household items.

This was revealed by Chairman PRCS, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari in a meeting with the Ambassador of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Dilsad Senol.

He highlighted that the organization has benefited flood affected families through its active assistance in 55 districts.

The chairman provided a comprehensive overview of the society's programs and its initiatives regarding rescue, relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction following the recent floods in Pakistan.

He extended an invitation to Ambassador Dilsad Senol to visit the PRCS National Headquarters.

The ambassador praised the exceptional services of PRCS during natural disasters and emergencies, specifically acknowledging their recent humanitarian assistance to flood-affected families; assured cooperation with the Red Crescent to ensure uninterrupted service to humanity.



ISLAMABAD: A group of students and faculty members of National Law College, Rawalpindi visiting Senate Museum at Parliament House.

## Ali Durrani proposes 'National Unity Govt' transcending divisions

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former federal minister and senator, Muhammad Ali Durrani, has proposed an elected 'National Unity Government' to foster national cohesion that transcends divisive political lines.

"We are confronted with a pressing need for a renewed approach to governance," Durrani said while underlining the need to draw inspiration from examples in history.

He referenced example from United Kingdom (UK) during World War II, specifically pointing out the formation of national unity government in the UK, as well as instances in 1988 in Northern Ireland and 1994 in South Africa under the leadership of Nelson Mandela.

Durrani argued that these examples of unity governments proved to be successful in steering their respective countries out of the crises and bring an end to divisive politics.

The proposed plan suggested that the National Unity Government should be formed for five years after the general elections.

"The challenges we face today as a nation are formidable, and the requirement for political unity has never been more critical. Let us rise up to this challenge, forgo the personal interests for the collective, rise above partisanship, and embrace the vision for a stronger, more united nation," Durrani said.

"It is essential that we begin by insulating national interests, democracy, and the sanctity of our institutions from political discord and form a collaborative environment between the nation's government and institutions to achieve a shared objective, rather than perpetuating a culture of confrontation," he emphasized.



ISLAMABAD: People are walking on the Israeli flag set by traders on floor outside their shop at Aabpara Market, to show solidarity with oppressed Muslims of Palestine in Federal Capital.

## PM, heritage minister discuss promotion of art & culture

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interim Minister for National Heritage and Culture Syed Jamal Shah called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and discussed matters related to his ministry, the PM Office said.

Various steps to promote art and culture in the country also came under discussion.

## Hearing of LNG reference against Abbasi adjourns till December 19

ISLAMABAD (Online): The hearing of LNG reference against former Prime Minister (PM) Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has been postponed till December 19. LNG reference case against Shahid Khaqan Abbasi was heard by Judge Muhammad Bashir in the Accountability Court of Islamabad. Former Prime Minister (PM) appeared in the court. Barrister Zafarullah took his stance that Supreme Court has stopped final decision of the restored cases on which Judge Muhammad Bashir inquired that when this case should be kept?

Later, Judge Muhammad Bashir of Accountability Court adjourned further hearing of case till December 19 by issuing summons notices to absent accused.

## Islamic Republic of Iran embassy delegation visits CPO; meets ICCPO

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan Reza Amir-Moghaddam, visited the Central Police Office Islamabad along with a delegation and met with Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, a public relations officer said.

He said that, the Iranian embassy delegation discussed various security issues with ICCPO Dr. Akbar

The Iranian Ambassador along with his team visited Safe City Islamabad where they were briefed about various sections of Safe City, Command and Control centre, Emergency control centre, dispatch control centre and "Pukar-15" helpline.

ICCP Dr Akbar Nasir said that the safety of foreign dignitaries and delegations in the federal capital is one of the top priorities of Islamabad capital police and every possible measure will be taken in this regard. At the end ICCPO also presented a police shield to the Iranian Ambassador.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Italy to Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese along with his spouse are busy in cooking the Italian Cuisine during the "Week of the Italian Cuisine in the World" at local hotel in Federal Capital.

## CDA completes 90% work of installation of new led lights, repair of street lights

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has completed almost 90 percent work of installation of new led lights, repair and maintenance of old street lights along the streets, service roads and main avenues of the federal capital.

"The authority has already allocated funds in this regard last month which will not only help to ensure proper lighting arrangement on these roads and streets but also control the criminal activities in the capital," a CDA official told APP.

The official said the shortage of street lights in different sectors of the federal capital caused a recent increase in street crimes, prompting residents to raise the issue with the relevant authorities.

He said the CDA was also taking concrete steps to ensure the provision of urban facilities to the city dwellers and maintenance of infrastructure, including the installation of street lights, road carpeting and resolving water-related issues, neglected in the past.

"Special attention is being given to the completion of the remaining development works in the sectors I, G, H and D series, provision of civic facilities, and facilitating the home builders in these sectors in pursuance of the directives of Chairman CDA Capt @ Anwar ul Haq," he said.

Now, he said the work of installation of streetlights in the main roads and within the sectors would ensure proper lighting management in sectors, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10-11, I-10, I-14. Work in sectors I-16, D-12 and others is also in full swing, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Italy to Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese along with his spouse are busy in cooking the Italian Cuisine during the "Week of the Italian Cuisine in the World" at local hotel in Federal Capital.

## Refugee Scientists can apply for COMSTech Fellowships by Dec 15

ISLAMABAD (APP): COMSTech, the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technical Cooperation, has invited submissions of applications for the first cycle of the "COMSTech Science in Exile Fellowships Program for Displaced and Refugee Scholars and Scientists" till December 15, 2023.

The fellowships program aims to support displaced and refugee scientists to stay up-to-date in their field, maintain meaningful careers, and be in a position to help rebuild their countries, once conditions allow. Until then, these professionals can be valuable assets for the countries in which they arrive.

The COMSTech Science in Exile Fellowship Program would provide scholarships to displaced and refugee scholars and scientists who have not yet found a safe and long-term host country an opportunity to pursue their studies/research, at institutions/universities of the COMSTech Consortium of Excellence (CCE).

A total of 10 Research Fellowships and 10 Post-doctoral Research Fellowships are being offered for the year 2024 under the program which would be hosted by COMSTech Consortium of Excellence Member Universities/Research Institutions.

About the eligible nationality, the official of COMSTech informed that the displaced/refugee from Afghanistan, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen are eligible to apply for the program.

The maximum age limit for Research Fellowship is 35 years and for Post-Doc Research Fellowship is 45 years. The duration of the fellowship is six months.