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PM Kakar vows to ensure equitable distribution of resources in all provinces

Directs payment of hydel projects' outstanding arrears to KP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday directed for ensuring payment of all hydel projects related arrears to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

He said that equitable distribution of all resources among the provinces was the responsibility of the Federal Government.

The prime minister chaired a meeting to review reforms in the power sector and welfare of the bereaved families of Shuhada, who lost lives in the fight against terrorism, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The meeting was attended by Caretaker KP Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Arshad Hussain Shah, Caretaker Provincial Minister for Tribal Affairs Dr Aamir Abdullah, WAPDA Chairman Lt. Gen. (ret'd) Sajjad Ghani and other senior officials.

The prime minister was apprised of the progress on the payment of income to the provincial government from

the hydel projects.

The prime minister directed WAPDA to remove all the hurdles in this regard and ensure payments on priority basis.

He also desired early resolution of all the outstanding issues between the provincial government and the Central Power Purchasing Agency.

The Federal Government would ensure protection of the rights of the people of all provinces, including the KP, he added. During the meeting, the caretaker prime minister was apprised of the steps taken in the ongoing power theft operation in the province.

The prime minister appreciated the provincial government, personnel of power distribution companies, WAPDA and other departments taking part in the anti-theft drive.

The meeting was informed about the progress on the ongoing hydel projects and the construction of water reservoirs in the country, particularly in KP province.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting on power sector reforms in KP and welfare of families of martyrs of war on terror.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti chairs a meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on ECL.

IHC summons care taker PM, ministers in the case of non recovery of Baloch students

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has ordered care taker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar ul Haq Kakar, defence minister, interior minister, defence secretary and interior secretary to appear before it on next hearing in implementation of Baloch enforced disappearance commission recommendations case.

The court remarked during hearing of the case "according to recommendations of commission 55 missing Baloch students be presented otherwise care taker PM should appear before it."

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani remarked " today

SJC issues show cause notice to Justice Naqvi

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) issued a show cause notice to Supreme Court Justice Mazahir Naqvi after three consecutive days of continuous hearing and sought his reply within 14 days.

The meeting of the Supreme Judicial Council was presided over by Chief Justice Qazi Faiz Isa in which the complaints against Justice Mazahir Naqvi were reviewed.

According to the sources, a notice was issued to Justice Mazahir Naqvi in the light of the evidence that came out in the meeting.

Supreme Judicial Council has said in the show cause that Justice Mazahir Naqvi should respond to the show cause notice within 14 days.

Justice Mazahir Naqvi had objected to the details of the complaints against him being recorded in the show cause.

On the other hand, Justice Mazhar Naqvi, the judge of the Supreme Court, approached the Apex Court against him, got the services of renowned lawyers in the reference against him.

Pakistan and Kazakhstan to establish State media offices in each other's countries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday said that Pakistan valued its relations with Kazakhstan and was working on strengthening them in diverse fields.

During a meeting with Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin important issues including bilateral relations, strengthening cooperation in the media sector, promoting public relations and regional situation were discussed. Murtaza Solangi and the ambassador agreed to establish offices of state media organizations of both countries in Pakistan and Kazakhstan.

SC declares Imran bail plea in cipher case maintainable

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) while declaring bail plea of chairman PTI in cipher case maintainable has issued notice to federation, interior ministry and other respondents besides seeking reply from them.

The court chided the investigation officer of FIA for appearing without any notice. Justice Sardar Tariq Masood remarked who has called you. Go behind and sit therein.

Chairman PTI Bail plea in cipher case came up for hearing before a 3-member bench of SC presided over by Justice Sardar Tariq Masood Wednesday. Justice Yahya Afridi and Justice Ayesha Malik are part of the bench.

The counsel Suleman

PM to represent Pakistan in COP-28 high level segment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar will represent Pakistan during the high level segment of 28th Conference of Parties (COP-28) being held in the United Arab Emirates on December 01-02.

The prime minister chaired an inter-provincial review meeting with regard to the COP-28. The meeting was attended by the caretaker federal ministers for finance, foreign affairs, climate change and planning, and relevant officials, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

PM Kakar said that climate change was an issue of national endurance for the countries like Pakistan and observed that Pakistan was playing a positive role in the global climate debate through climate diplomacy. He said that despite its less than one percent imprints in the global climate change factors, Pakistan was amongst the countries hugely affected by the changes. One third of the country's population was badly affected by the climate induced floods, he added.

Committee recommends names of Imran, others be placed on ECL in Al-Qadir Trust case

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interim Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the federal cabinet sub-committee on Exit Control List (ECL) in the Ministry of Interior here on Wednesday.

The meeting was attended by Railways Shahid Ashraf Tarar and other officials of the Ministry of Interior and other institutions to review various cases related to ECL.

The sub-committee recommended the inclusion of 41 names in the ECL to be sent by various departments and agencies.

On the recommendation of NAB, 29 people, including Imran Khan, are recommended to be placed on ECL in the 190-million-pound scam. Thirteen different types of cases were also recommended to be removed from the ECL list.

On the instructions of the judiciary, the names of 7 persons were recommended to be removed from the ECL.

Out of the appeals submitted for revision, the names of 3 persons were recommended to be removed from the ECL.

Sindhi, Imam-e-Kaaba discuss Pak-Saudi educational collaboration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Dr. Salih bin Abdullah al Humaid Imam e Khatib at Masjid al Haram met with Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi the other day.

The minister welcomed the Imam e Kaabah with the highest of honors and said that the love and respect of people of Pakistan for Makkah and Madina, the love and respect for Saudi Arabia cannot be measured.

Madad said that we appreciated deeply the role played by Saudi Arabia in addressing the global issues of the Muslim Umma.

Madad said that he had put special focus on the teachings of Islam especially Seerat-e-Nabi (PBUH).

He said that only through true teachings of Seerat-e-Nabi, we can educate our nation and ensure that they follow the right track.

He said that due to his instructions, a special research centre would be formed through collaboration of Saudi and Pakistani Universities which would focus on the Seerat of Nabi (PBUH) especially on the issues of politics, social reform and law.



Saudi Arabia has no limits, said a press release issued here Wednesday.

He said the relationship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia is the strongest relationship that Pakistan has, adding, both countries share cultural, religious and historic ties.

He said that Saudi Arabia is like a second home for the people of Pakistan.

He said that due to

Dr. Nadeem Jan meets British Minister of State for Health

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health, Dr Nadeem Jan on Wednesday met British Minister of State for Health, Andrew Stephenson to discuss further bolstering cooperation in the health sector between the two countries. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, bilateral relations and increasing cooperation in various fields of health were discussed.

Dr. Nadeem Jan appreciated continued support from the British government in diverse areas of the health sector in Pakistan. The British Health Minister appreciated Pakistan's position in the nutrition sector. "We will continue the malnutrition program as per our vision.

Apart from supplying nutritional supplements, we will also set up plants in Pakistan."



LONDON: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Dr. Nadeem Jan met with the British Minister of State for Health, Andrew Stephenson.

People's rule will be established after winning Feb 8 election: Bilawal

CHITRAL (APP): Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari here Wednesday said that people's rule would be established after winning the February 8 General Election.

their tenures as prime minister and they should now sit at home and allow young leadership to address the country's problems.

He said the people of KP would reject all those confrontations and hate-based politics by two opposition parties that deceived the masses on the name of so-called change and respect for votes.

Bilawal said that people wanted employment and not agitation.

He said Sindh province had made progress due to the continuity of PPP regime policies and recorded development projects completed there.

He demanded full implementation of the 18th Constitutional amendment and NFC share to provinces.

Bilawal said the people of Chitral were close to his heart and their problems would be addressed after coming into power.

He said Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Shaheed and Benazir Bhutto Shaheed laid down their lives but never compromised on the rights of the people and democracy.

He said the February 8 election would bring success to PPP.



He said leaders of opposition parties have disappointed people and masses of KP were looking now to PPP for resolutions of their problems.

Addressing a big party convention here, he said that veteran leaders of opposition parties failed to address the masses' problems during

political parties who failed to deliver despite remaining in power for nearly 10 years in KP.

He said people also knew about a Punjab-based political party that plunged the country into a price hike affecting the lives of the common man.

He said the country suffered due to politics of

US has no favourite in Pak for political office: Miller

WASHINGTON (INP): United States (US) does not favour anyone for political office in Pakistan, said Matthew Miller, the spokesman for the US State Department said Tuesday.

"We do not take a position - a position on candidates for political office in Pakistan or any other country," he said while addressing a press briefing in Washington. Miller confirmed millions of dollars in aid for the security forces in Balochistan. He detailed recent reports of aid packages for security forces in Balochistan so they could "serve" their community.

"We're going to provide \$4 million in assistance to expand the anti-terrorist force training facility - \$2 million to repair or replace 10 flood-damaged police stations; 2 million to construct 10 new police stations that incorporate the same model to improve service to women, girls, and all Pakistanis.

Govt announces reduced Hajj expenses, enhanced facilities for pilgrims

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Dr. Aneeq Ahmed on Wednesday declared a significant reduction of 0.1 million rupees in government Hajj expenses while ensuring uncompromised facilities.

Notably, the pilgrims will receive a 30kg suitcase each and female pilgrims will receive scarfs (Abaya) featuring the national flag, a first-time provision.

During a news conference at the Haji Camp Karachi, Dr. Ahmed highlighted the introduction of a mobile application aimed at aiding pilgrims. This app will offer navigation assistance and keep pilgrims in constant contact with relevant officials. Initially available in English and Urdu, the app will later include various regional languages. Emphasizing improvements in the Hajj process, Dr. Ahmed revealed that Islamabad and Karachi



have been incorporated into Saudi Arabia's Road to Makkah project. This inclusion allows Karachi airport to complete the immigration process for Hujjaj, streamlining their journey.

Moreover, the government has introduced a 20-day short Hajj package, striving to make Hajj more financially accessible to citizens. Efforts are underway to ensure Pakistani Hujjaj are accommodated in tents at Old Mina, as the distance to New Mina poses challenges for pilgrims.

Pakistan signs LOI with KSA to boost employment opportunities for Pakistani workers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Jawad Sohrab Malik signed Letter of Intent (LOI) with Saudi Based Global Conglomerate Al-Bawani Holdings to Boost Employment Opportunities for Pakistani Workforce in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

Jawad Sohrab Malik undertook a visit to the renowned headquarters of the Al-Bawani holdings in Riyadh. Upon arrival, he received a warm welcome from Engr. Fakher Al-Shawaf, CEO and Chairman of Al Bawani Holdings. The SAPM was accompanied by key dignitaries, including HE Ambassador Ahmad Farooq, Community Welfare Attache, DG Emigration Akram Khawaja and Joint Secre-



tary Emigration Aurangzeb, said a press release received here on Wednesday.

Al-Bawani Holdings, a diversified Saudi conglomerate, holds a substantial position among the top five general contracting entities in the construction sector. With an impressive portfolio of completing and delivering around 250 projects in Saudi Arabia, the company is presently engaged

with world wide projects valued at billions of dollars. During the visit, SAPM Malik received a comprehensive briefing on Al Bawani's ongoing projects.

Expressing his confidence in the capabilities of Pakistani workers, Jawad Sohrab Malik conveyed to the company Chairman that Pakistani workforce was well-trained and possess the necessary skills.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Devolution debate

As elections approach, there is some talk of 'revisiting' the 18th Constitutional Amendment as well as the NFC award formula. It had been reported in this paper that the PML-N was considering alterations to the 18th Amendment, though the party later claimed no such moves were afoot. In a related development, the prime minister's adviser on finance, while speaking at an event on Monday, said that the current NFC award formula needed to be revisited as it had "held us back".

Both these issues — the 18th Amendment and the NFC award — are interlinked and concern centre-province relations. This is not the first time such observations have been made; during the PTI's rule the then prime minister Imran Khan had made similar comments. The fact is that powerful elements within the establishment and bureaucracy favour a strong centre and do not want the greater devolution the 18th Amendment envisages. However, any rollback of devolution would entail disastrous consequences, foremost of which would be a clash between the provinces and the centre. Neither the 18th Amendment nor the NFC award is scripture, and can, indeed, be altered. But it is not the job of the caretaker administration to suggest or implement changes that would affect the very structure of the federation.

The 18th Amendment, passed in 2010, was adopted by consensus after lengthy deliberations. It restored the federal structure of the 1973 Constitution that had been disfigured by successive dictators, and fulfilled a long-standing demand for provincial empowerment. Therefore, any changes to this law, as well as the NFC formula, can only be carried out by an elected parliament after thorough discussion, and with the agreement of all federating units.

The rationale presented by forces that advocate for increased centralisation is that devolution leaves the centre without adequate finances. This assertion is debatable, for the reason behind Pakistan's financial woes is not devolution, but our financial mismanagement and profligate ways. Nevertheless, there is some substance to the claim that the provinces have failed to deliver. This is certainly the case with post-devolution administrations in Sindh and Balochistan, where indicators such as health and education remain unimpressive. But the answer lies in more capacity-building for the provinces and greater fiscal transparency, and not in rolling back devolution. In fact, for the true fruits of devolution to reach the people, all provinces should politically and financially empower their respective elected local governments. It should be remembered that Pakistan was created by its federating units, and pro-centralisation tendencies, such as the One Unit scheme, have only hurt the federation.

When the next parliament is elected it can discuss ways to improve the 18th Amendment and the NFC award. Bulldozing 'solutions' without democratic input will only damage interprovincial relations.

Phantom choices



Mahir Ali

There is a degree of irony — or déjà vu — in recent reports that putative US presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr is losing some support because of his admiration for Israel even as it pursues a genocidal military campaign. Some 55 years ago, his father — who, unlike RFK Jr, had a convincing chance of winning the Democratic primaries and then the White House — was assassinated, purportedly by a Jordanian-Palestinian, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, enraged by the candidate's pledge, if elected, to send 50 Phantom jet fighters to Israel.

That was in 1968, on the first anniversary of the Six-Day War that dramatically shifted American attitudes towards Israel. Bobby Kennedy was then seen as a progressive candidate. He vowed to pull US troops out of Vietnam, and appeared to sincerely empathise with African Americans still struggling for civil rights as well as the broader victims of poverty engendered by the American way of life.

Whether he might have made a decent president is hard to say, but he would no doubt have been a better option than the Republican nominee, Richard Nixon, whom his elder brother John F. Kennedy had narrowly defeated eight years earlier. There were suggestions the 1960 poll might have been rigged on the margins — JFK even joked about it. But much of that was forgotten when he was assassinated in Dallas 60 years ago today. That tragedy haunted

RFK, who feared that in his role as attorney general in the Kennedy administration, he might have stirred up sufficient resentment in his pursuit of organised crime to provoke a deadly back-lash. There were many other factors, though.

As a candidate, JFK had placed himself on the anti-communist extreme, but as president he turned down the option of providing air cover to the CIA-sponsored invasion of Cuba by anti-Castro exiles, which had been green-lit by the previous Eisenhower administration. In his departing address to the nation, Dwight Eisenhower pointed out the risks posed by the burgeoning military-industrial complex, but the former supreme commander had done little to curtail it. It was his successor who stood up to the generals and the CIA.

JFK accepted responsibility for the 1961 Bay of Pigs disaster, when CIA-trained infiltrators were decisively thwarted by Cuban revolutionary forces. More crucially, he turned down the gung-ho military commanders who advocated an assault on Cuba the following year, when it turned out that the USSR had deployed nuclear-armed missiles on the Caribbean island close to Florida.

Back-channel contacts in which RFK played a key role ascertained that Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev was as reluctant as JFK to risk a nuclear conflagration. Moscow did not hesitate to pull out its warheads as soon as Washington vowed not to invade the island, as well as to withdraw its missiles from Turkey's Soviet border. Thanks in large part to Daniel Ellsberg, we know that Kennedy was well aware of the global toll a nuclear conflagration would entail, and he wasn't prepared to go there. Whether his assassination in Dallas was blowback for any of his policy decisions or predilections remains a mystery. A recent poll sug-

gests that 65 per cent of Americans don't buy the single-gunman theory about the events of Nov 22, 1963.

That's not surprising, given the plethora of contradictory evidence, including the fact that Lee Harvey Oswald never owned up to the deed, and was himself murdered less than 48 hours later by Jack Ruby, a strip-club owner with underworld and FBI connections. In the absence of definitive answers, the unanswered questions keep piling up.

RFK Jr is convinced the CIA had a role in his uncle's assassination. That has never conclusively been proved, even though the sordid nexus between the agency, the mafia and anti-Castro Cuban exiles is reasonably well documented. There are also unresolved discrepancies in the official narratives about the 1968 assassinations of Martin Luther King and RFK, and some members of both families suspect that the actual killers went free. It's worth noting that a couple of those accused of Malcolm X's assassination in 1965 were only recently exonerated.

One of the factors RFK Jr is capitalising on is the visceral distrust of the government that went mainstream not long after his uncle was murdered, and multiplied within a decade with the Pentagon Papers that laid bare the history of deceptions about Vietnam, not to mention Watergate, which followed shortly afterwards. More recently, there was the nonsense about weapons of mass destruction that served as an excuse to invade Iraq — and echoes of that deception resonate through Israel's nonsensical allegations about Gaza's Al Shifa hospital. Distrust of the established order contributed to Donald Trump's triumph in 2016, and may serve him well again next year. RFK Jr is probably helping to pave the way.

- Courtesy Dawn

Climate finance gap



Jamil Ahmad

The upcoming UN Climate Change Conference in Dubai will be tackling tough questions on how to curb rising temperatures, control carbon emission spikes, develop efficient technological solutions, learn from the first Global Stock-take, and agree on a new roadmap to realise the Paris Agreement aims. Climate finance will be one of the toughest questions.

Globally, efforts to address climate change face a lack of financial resources to support developing nations reach the Climate Convention goals. The efforts are constrained by the absence of sufficient means of implementation, ie, financial resources. Already under debt distress, many developing countries are forced to spend most of their lean budgets on debt servicing, leaving little for sectors such as health and education, and diverting investment from climate action and environmental protection. Constricted fiscal space in these countries relegates the issue of global warming to the back-burner. So, they face serious challenges in combating climate change and expect injections of climate finance from multilateral funding avenues and bilateral donors.

While there's no clear definition of what constitutes climate finance, it is accepted as a concept accommodating different types of financial contributions from a variety of sources and mechanisms. The Green Climate Fund, the Global Environmental Facility, the Adaptation Fund, and other regional and international

financial institutions are set to mobilise and disburse funds. Bilateral arrangements from donors, public and private, supplement these funds. The Loss and Damage Fund, once operationalised, will be the latest addition.

Some of these funding mechanisms are not well-endowed, while others are not replenished in a timely manner to meet the rising needs of climate finance in vulnerable countries. At a time when climate change threatens lives, the inadequacy and inaccessibility of climate finance hinders the Global South from taking urgent action while climate costs rise sharply.

A recent study published in the journal Nature Communications, found that the climate crisis resulted in average global costs of \$143 billion per year for the last 20 years. For the year 2022, which saw multiple climate-induced disasters across the world, the direct cost estimate was \$280bn due to storms, heatwaves, floods, droughts, and wildfires. Pakistan alone suffered a loss of \$40bn in the same year due to heavy floods. The indirect costs of the long-term impact associated with extreme weather events — not considered in the study — would significantly push up these figures.

Vulnerable countries in Africa and Asia, in dire need of climate finance, are left exposed to the disproportionate adverse impacts of global warming, with 2023 being the hottest year recorded. Last year, the United Nations Environment

Pro-gramme's estimates for adaptation costs were in the range of \$160bn to \$340bn per year by 2030 and \$315bn to \$565bn by 2050 for developing countries. But the financial needs of developing countries for adaptation have now soared to \$215bn to \$387bn by 2030, and projected to rise significantly by 2050, going by UNEP's 2023 Adaptation Gap Report, released earlier this month.

In the same period, PwC's 2023 State of Climate Tech report reveals that "climate tech investments from venture capital and private equity fell 40 per cent in 2023".

Meanwhile, the financial gap — the difference between allocations by developed countries versus the actual requirement for adaptation — has widened. UNEP's adaptation report put the gap between \$194bn and \$366bn per year. Clearly, the \$100bn pledged by developed countries, and the doubling of "collective provision of climate finance for adaptation" agreed to at the Glasgow Climate Pact in 2021, will be insufficient. To boost climate finance, UNEP's report identifies several innovative ways, including through "increasing and tailoring finance to small and medium enterprises", and "a reform of the global financial architecture, as proposed by the Bridgetown Initiative".

The Global Stocktake report emphasises the scaled-up mobilisation of climate finance for developing countries, while aligning the current financial flows with a pathway towards low-carbon emissions. The Paris Agreement also calls for a New Collective Quantified Goal for 2030 for climate finance. Controlling global warming will be well-nigh impossible without a robust framework that unlocks adequate, timely and accessible climate finance for effective climate action and protection of vulnerable communities by developing nations. Policymakers at COP28 must tackle the central question of climate finance to save the Paris Agreement from falling further behind, and to save lives. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Dr Saif says: Plan finalized to transform optical fiber cable network into global digital gateway

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr Umar Saif on Wednesday said that the government had finalized a plan to transform Pakistan's optical fiber cable network into a global digital gateway.

The implementation of the proposed project would benefit Pakistan by millions of dollars, he disclosed while speaking in a high-level meeting.

The meeting was attended by representatives of key organizations, including Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Special Communication

Organization, Pakistan Telecommunication Company Ltd (PTCL), TransWorld, and CyberNet. He said that all the necessary resources and facilities had been provided for the digital gateway initiative.

Dr Saif said that the existing optical fiber cable infrastructure, existing from Karachi to Gwadar, could be connected to global marine cables.

It would facilitate digital access to regions spanning the Middle East, Central Asia, China, and Europe at competitive rates, he added.

The minister said that the Special Investment Facilitation Council platform would

also be helpful in the project.

He informed about the ongoing discussions with global entities such as Google and Meta, indicating that soon Pakistanis would hear about positive developments regarding global network connectivity.

At present, Pakistan has nearly 180,000 kilometers of fiber optic cable and 6,000 mobile towers.

With ongoing projects aiming to increase the installation of optical fiber cables to 300,000 kilometers and 20,000 mobile towers, the expansion is poised to enhance connectivity, providing consumers with improved Internet services.

Railways minister orders achieving revenue target

LAHORE (APP): Railways Minister Shahid Ashraf Tarar has directed the administration to ensure achieving the revenue targets, set for development of the facility.

Presiding over a session at the Railways headquarters here on Wednesday, he praised the administrative efficiency for increase in revenue and number of freight trains. He emphasised expediting completion of processes of outsourcing of railway hospitals.

The minister also provided an update on the project to shift railway installations to solar energy. He instructed to accelerate the process of installing meters by power distribution companies in various railway residential units, including the Mayo Gardens. The minister expressed satisfaction over the ongoing

operation against encroachments and sought a report from all divisions after 15 days to assess the progress and ensure no re-encroachment.

The minister ordered the administration to link the performance of officers with the anti-encroachment activities. He applauded management efficiency in reducing accidents and issued orders to restart complete inspection of tracks in all divisions. Updates were also given on the construction of executive washrooms at railway stations.

In this meeting, Chairman Railway Muzaffar Ali Shah and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Railways Aamer Ali Baloch were present. The minister also conducted a visit to the Royal Palm Country Club, where he received a briefing on the club's operations and other professional matters.



ISLAMABAD: The Dutch Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Henny Fokel de Vries meeting with Minister of Commerce and Industries Dr. Gohar Ejaz.

Sufficient gas available to meet consumers needs in capital: SNGPL Spokesperson

ISLAMABAD (APP): Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has sufficient gas to meet the needs of consumers in the capital, said a spokesperson of the SNGPL on Wednesday.

A spokesperson Shahid Akram said that to address the issue of low gas pressure in the Islamabad region, the company is connecting multiple large-diameter pipelines to the

system. He said that regional complaint centres are operating 24/7 to swiftly resolve consumer complaints. He said, that due to the rapid response of these area complaint centres, individual and area complaints have substantially decreased in the region, and valued consumers are enjoying the facility at normal pressures.

He further said that a

"Situation Room" had been established at the regional office I-9 Islamabad for monitoring gas pressures and resolving complaints through dedicated teams.

The spokesperson said that an effective load management strategy has been devised and implemented throughout the region, including Islamabad, Attock, Wah, Taxila, Fateh Jang, Murree, and Kahuta.

**3-day AGM and conference of PSDE organized by PIDE
Panelists deliberate on country's taxation, public debt management policies**

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: The economic experts participating in panel discussions on Wednesday highlighted different aspects of the country's existing taxation and public debt management policies and recommended corrective measures to strengthen the national economy on a sustainable basis.

The discussion was held on different topics titled "Is Taxing More the Only Solution?" - "Evaluating Pakistan's Public Debt Management Policies and Practices" - "Growing Pakistan: FDI, Domestic Investment and Foreign Aid" - "Aid and Development in South Punjab," and "Understanding the Economy of South Punjab," a news release said here.

The three-day Annual General Meeting (AGM) and conference of the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE) on the theme "Breaking the Aid-Debt Chains", organized by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) in collaboration with Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU) at the latter's Jinnah Auditorium in Multan.

The panel discussion on "Is Taxing More the Only Solution?" was moderated by Mahmood Khalid, Senior Research Economist at PIDE and participated by panelists FBR Member Customs, Legal and Accounting Mukaram Jah Ansari, former Member at the Planning Commission Asim Saheed, NDU Professor Abdul Jalil and PIDE Senior

Research Economist Omer Siddique.

Dr Mahmood Khalid said the current focus on taxing more ignored the burden it imposed, adding "Our complex tax system and regulatory landscape contribute to a high regulatory burden. Pakistan ranks low in ease of paying taxes, discouraging firms from growth and formalization.



PIDE's approach suggests improving the system first

before considering additional taxation."

Mukaram Ansari explained Pakistan's fiscal model, highlighting an annually rising tax collection target given to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

"Two-thirds of the collection is from customs and withholding agents. Taxing at the import stage, however, hampers busi-

nesses due to restricted cash flow." Abdul Jalil criticized Pakistan's projection as a nation of tax evaders, emphasizing the need to build a narrative of growth.

He stressed that tax collection does not cause growth, citing China and India's examples of promoting growth first. Omer Siddique posed the question of whether taxing is a panacea for our ills.

He said that even though taxes created distortions and disincentivized economic activity but were essential. He highlighted PIDE's research on the heavy taxation burden on the retail sector.

For charting a way forward, the FBR Member Customs recommended fixing how FBR worked, separating the regulator from the tax collector.

SECP bans advertisements promoting illegal investments

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has imposed a ban on advertisements promoting illegal investment schemes on Wednesday.

This follows a recent spate of cases involving fraudulent investment platforms that have fleeced unsuspecting investors of large sums of money.

In a notification issued today, the SECP directed all media outlets to refrain from publishing or broadcasting any advertisements promoting illegal investment schemes.

AJK PM invites intending entrepreneurs to enjoy investment opportunities

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while highlighting the bright investment opportunities in Azad Jammu Kashmir, has said that the government was ready to provide maximum facilities to the intending investors seeking investment of their capital in the region.

Prime Minister Haq made these remarks while talking to CEO Hashu Group Murtaza Hashwani who called on him in the federal metropolis on Wednesday.

Speaking on this occasion, the PM said that the AJK offers massive investment opportunities in different fields including the hydel power generation, tourism, mining sector. He said that steps were being taken to improve the road infrastructure in Azad Kashmir in order to promote tourism.

He said that Azad Kashmir has a lot of potential for tourism and hydel-power generation.

Referring to the investment friendly and peaceful atmosphere in the region, the PM said that the liberated territory was the best place for investment.

Chief Minister KP says: Cheap energy resources to be developed immediately

PESHAWAR (APP): Secretary, Secretary Energy and other relevant officials attended the meeting. The chief minister issued directives to concerned authorities to prepare an immediate plan to generate maximum power in minimum time. Nature has blessed the province with immense resources that need to be fully utilized, he said. For this purpose, the Energy Department should work day and night, the caretaker chief minister said, adding, Emergency



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Khaili George meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

foundations need to be worked to make the province self-sufficient in power generation. The speed of work on the ongoing hydropower projects in the province should be accelerated, he said. Significant progress in this regard should be ensured in the coming months, the caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said. Hydropower plants can not only meet the needs of electricity in the province.

Minister for Human Rights calls on KP Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Khaili George on Wednesday called on the Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali here at Governor House.

In the meeting, the general situation of the province, especially the situation of human rights, was discussed.

They also discussed all human rights requirements for the honorable return of Afghan refugees from across the country, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Shaukat Yousafzai arrested at BKIA

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former provincial minister Shaukat Yousafzai was offloaded from plane at Bacha Khan International Airport (BKIA) here on Wednesday.

Yousafzai, who previously served as the information minister in both PTI provincial governments, had been in hiding since the riots on 9th May.

ECP organizes 'Voter Education' seminars

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Following the directives of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), a comprehensive series of seminars on election-related matters has been launched on Wednesday in various girls' colleges across the district.

As part of this initiative, a seminar was also organized in Government Girls Degree College Malikpura, drawing significant participation from students.

During the seminar, the students presented reports highlighting the significance of voting in a democratic society. District Election

Commissioner, Zeeshan Khan, emphasized the importance of voting not only for good governance within the country but also for creating awareness about the correct and transparent voter lists.

He informed the participants about the 8300 service, which facilitated citizens in verifying their voter registration status.

Zeeshan Khan provided insights into the functioning and role of the Election Commission of Pakistan, shedding light on the preparations involved in the election process, including voting and result tabulation.



LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi being briefed about progress on Walton Road and ADA drain remodeling & upgradation, Cavalry underpass and Centrepoint to Walton Road CBD Punjab Quaid District projects.

Pending salaries of WSSC sanitation workers to be paid soon: CEO

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Syed Sada Hussain Shah, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Water and Sanitation Services Company (WSSC) has said that the funds would soon be released to pay the pending salaries to the sanitation workers.

"It is our priority to pay the pending salaries of these sanitation workers as soon as possible, after which they will end the strike as their only demand for the payment of salaries will be resolved," he said. Sada Hussain Shah added that the issue of salaries and release of grant has been discussed with the Provincial Secretary of

Local Government during a recent meeting held in Peshawar, we hope that the salaries of the employees will be paid immediately after the grant is provided.

Earlier, sanitation workers and staff of Water and Sanitation Services Company (WSSC) DIKhan announced a complete strike and boycott of work for an indefinite period in protest against non-payment of salaries from the last two months. The employees of WSSC appealed to the caretaker provincial government to take notice of the non-payment of their salaries for the last two months.

Four killed, one injured as roof caves in

SARGODHA (APP): Four people, including three girls of a family, were killed and one was injured in a roof collapse incident here on Wednesday.

The Rescue 1122 said the incident occurred at Syduwana village in which Hafza Bibi, 32, Mehnaz Fatima, 7, Minahil Fatima and Hanja Fatima, 3, died on the spot while Saleem, 48, sustained injuries.

The Rescue 1122 reached the spot and shifted the bodies and injured to the DHQ hospital.

Court extends interim bail of sisters of Imran

LAHORE (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore has extended interim bail of Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan sisters of chairman PTI in May 9 arson cases.

Judge Arshid Javed of ATC took up for hearing the petitions of Asad Umar and sisters of chairman PTI and others.

Asad Umar and Zareen Qureshi did not appear in the court.

The lawyers of Asad Umar and Zareen Qureshi presented exemption from attendance pleas on their behalf which were accepted by the court. During the hearing of the case the investigation officer said the accused are not joining investigation.

Kashmir's EU Week to begin in Brussels next month

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Kashmir's EU (European Union) Week is all set to begin in Brussels, the European headquarters early next month under the auspices of Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU).

The scheduled Kashmir's EU Week will commence from December 05-15 in the European Headquarters Brussels", disclosed Chairman of KC-EU Ali Raza Syed while talking to APP over telephone from Brussels on Wednesday.

The events include seminars, conferences, a media conference, debates and a photo exhibition at European Press Club Brussels and the European parliament.

There would also be several meetings

with the European officials, members of European parliament and representatives of civil society and human rights organizations during the Kashmir EU Week starting on December 5 (Tuesday). Chairman Kashmir Council Europe Ali Raza Syed said, "The week long programs of Kashmir's EU week are being organized by Kashmir Council EU for many years and purpose of such programs is to highlight Kashmir issue including miseries of oppressed Kashmiris and beauty of the Kashmir's culture in Europe."

He said, as currently people in all over the world stood against the state terrorism and atrocities on the common citizens.



LAHORE: Former Senator Waqar Ahmed and Engineer Ameer Muqam meeting with President PML-N Shehbaz Sharif.

LDA demolishes illegal constructions

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Development Authority (LDA) demolished various constructions during a crackdown on illegal buildings and commercial use of residential buildings in the provincial capital, here on Wednesday.

According to a spokesman for the authority, the operation was launched in Awan Town, Sabzazar, Allama Iqbal Town, Qazi Town and adjacent areas, resulting in demolition of multiple illegal commercial properties. The LDA teams partially demolished illegal shops in Awan Town, removed shutters of illegal

shops in Qazi Town, and demolished Neelam Ghar [auction house], illegal sheds at plot No. 766H, Sabzazar scheme. In plot No. 14A, Marghar scheme, commercial encroachments were cleared. An illegal showroom was sealed at plot No. 15H/I, Sabzazar scheme. Support nets were removed from plot No. 22D and 58C, Sabzazar scheme. Boards were removed after sealing plot No. 1050 and 1051, Ravi Block, Allama Iqbal Town.

An illegal under-construction restaurant was demolished at plot No. 1, Kamran Block, Allama Iqbal Town.

International News

We must think how to stop 'the tragedy' in Ukraine: Putin

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin told the Group of 20 leading economies on Wednesday that it was necessary to think about how to stop "the tragedy" of the war in Ukraine, and said Moscow had never refused to participate in peace talks with Kyiv.

Putin's decision to send troops into Ukraine in February 2022 triggered Europe's deadliest conflict since World War Two and the gravest confrontation between Russia and the West since the depths of the Cold War.

Addressing G20 leaders for the first time since the start of the war, the Kremlin chief said some leaders had said in their speeches that they were shocked by the ongoing "aggression" of Russia in Ukraine. "Yes, of course, military actions are always a tragedy," Putin told the virtual G20 meeting called by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the current chair.

"And of course, we should think about how to stop this tragedy," Putin said. "By the way, Russia has never refused peace talks with Ukraine."



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un watches conditions of a satellite at a satellite control center in Pyongyang.

A senior Russian official said on Tuesday that Moscow could not co-exist with the current government in Kyiv and that it would continue what it calls its special military operation to "demilitarise" Ukraine.

Ukraine has vowed to fight until the last Russian soldier has left its territory, and its Western allies have said they will continue to support Kyiv.

Along with Crimea, which Moscow annexed in 2014, Russia controls nearly a fifth of Ukraine's internationally recognised territory. Putin says that territory is now part of Russia. Ukraine's counter-offensive has failed to make any significant gains this year against well-dug in Russian forces. Putin skipped previous G20 summits in New Delhi and Nusa Dua, Indonesia, sending Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov instead.

The Russian leader addressed the 2021 and 2020 summits from Moscow. He last attended a G20 gathering in person in Osaka, Japan, in 2019.



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchukh attend the G20 virtual summit via a video link in Moscow, Russia.

Hundreds of Rohingya come ashore in Indonesia, joining about 1,000 this week

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: More than 200 ethnic Rohingya came ashore in Indonesia's Aceh province late on Tuesday, taking total arrivals of members of the Myanmar Muslim minority to more than 1,000 for the week, a leader of the province's fishing community said. During November to April, when the seas are calmer, many members of the persecuted minority leave Myanmar on rickety boats for Thailand, Muslim-majority Bangladesh, Malaysia and Indonesia.

UN peacekeepers no 'magic wand' for crises, their chief says

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The presence of United Nations peacekeepers, whose shortcomings can frustrate local populations, is not a "magic wand" for conflict zones, said their leader Jean-Pierre Lacroix, who supports an expanded tool kit to protect civilians in increasingly complex territory.

From Lebanon to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), from South Sudan to the Western Sahara, some 90,000 so-called Blue Helmets serve under the UN flag, engaged in 12 separate operations.

Japanese political party visits China to bolster frayed ties

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: The junior coalition partner of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) sent a delegation to Beijing in a bid to improve ties on a trip delayed from the summer amid strains between Asia's two largest economies. A Komeito party delegation led by Natsuo Yamaguchi on Wednesday met with Cai Qi, head of the powerful Secretariat of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee that oversees day-to-day affairs of the CPC.

The ruling parties of both countries should "accurately grasp each other's development and strategic intentions," Chinese state media quoted Cai as telling the Japanese delegation.

Both sides should work together to promote "positive" and "friendly" mutual understanding, said Cai, also the five-ranked member of the CPC's seven-person Politburo Standing Committee, the highest tier of political power in China helmed by President Xi Jinping.

In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad

ZTBL Naripur Branch (Plaintiff)
Versus
(1) Muhammad Asif Khan S/o Yunus Khan R/o Bagra No. 1 Tehsil & District Haripur (Defendant)
Whereas the ZTBL Haripur Branch has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 1452000/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial Institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (30-10-2023). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.
Next date of hearing is 30-11-2023

(sd/)
JUDGE
Banking Court Hazara Division,
Abbottabad.

In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad

ZTBL Haripur Branch (Plaintiff)
Versus
(1) Waheed Khan S/o Muhammad Ashraf Khan R/o Dingi P/o Kot Najibullah Tehsil & District Haripur (Defendant)
Whereas the ZTBL Haripur Branch has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 1403869/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial Institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (30-10-2023). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.
Next date of hearing is 30-11-2023

(sd/)
JUDGE
Banking Court Hazara Division,
Abbottabad.

In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad

ZTBL Abbottabad Branch (Plaintiff)
Versus
(1) Sardar Qurban Ali S/o Bostan R/o Nagri Bala Tehsil & District Abbottabad (Defendant)
Whereas the ZTBL Abbottabad Branch has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 63863/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial Institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (30-10-2023). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.
Next date of hearing is 30-11-2023

(sd/)
JUDGE
Banking Court Hazara Division,
Abbottabad.

In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad

ZTBL Abbottabad Branch (Plaintiff)
Versus
(1) Muhammad Aqeel S/o Muhammad Ishaq R/o Deedal Naka (Dalola) Tehsil & District Abbottabad presently residing at Street No. 14 Mohallah Mia Meer Colony Lahore (Defendant)
Whereas the ZTBL Abbottabad Branch has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 276000/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial Institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (30-10-2023). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.
Next date of hearing is 30-11-2023

(sd/)
JUDGE
Banking Court Hazara Division,
Abbottabad.

In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad

ZTBL Abbottabad Branch (Plaintiff)
Versus
(1) Muhammad Raheel Awan S/o Muhammad Ishaq R/o Deedal Naka (Dalola) Tehsil & District Abbottabad presently residing at Chungi # 2 Airport Link Road House No. 53/2 Mohalla Khurshed Karyana Street Rawalpindi (Defendant)
Whereas the ZTBL Abbottabad Branch has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 276000/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial Institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (30-10-2023). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.
Next date of hearing is 30-11-2023

(sd/)
JUDGE
Banking Court Hazara Division,
Abbottabad.

PSDP 2023-24: Govt. releases Rs300.904b funds in four months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Government has authorized the utilization of development funds amounting to Rs300.904 billion, out of a total allocation of Rs 950 billion, for various ongoing and new social sector uplift projects of the federal ministries and divisions during the first four months (July-October) of the fiscal year 2023-24 under its Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP). Out of the total authorized/distributed amount, the total amount spent so far on the development projects during the corresponding period stood at Rs 76,002 billion, according to the latest data released by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives.

According to the disbursement mechanism of the Planning Division, the development funds allocated in the federal budget are released at the rate of 20% in the first quarter (July-September), followed

by 30% each in the second and third quarters, and the remaining 20% in the last quarter (April-June) of a fiscal year.

The detail shows that Rs 61.344 billion out of a total allocated amount of Rs 211.777 billion has been disbursed to corporations including National Highway Authority (NHA), National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) and Pakistan Electric Power Company (PEPCO), while Rs250 million have been disbursed to the Prime Minister's Initiatives and Project Liabilities schemes out of a total allocation of Rs 850 billion.

For the Aviation Division, funds amounting to Rs 1,907 billion have been disbursed and Rs 390.17 million for the Board of Investment.

Similarly, the government authorized Rs 61.282 billion to the Cabinet Division, Rs 1,417 billion to the Ministry of Climate Change, Rs 385 million to

the Commerce Division, Rs 126 million to the Ministry of Communications (other than NHA), Rs 1,120 billion to the Defence Division, Rs 560 million to the Defence Production Division, Rs294 million for the Establishment Division, Rs2,975 billion to the Federal Education & Professional Training Division, Rs1,127 billion to the Finance Division, Rs43,265 billion to Provinces and Special Areas (Previously Under FD/KA&GB), Rs20,895 billion to the Higher Education Commission, Rs14,238 billion to the Housing and Works Division, Rs284.90 million to the Human Rights Division, Rs1,050 billion to the Industries and Production Division, Rs700 million to the Information and Broadcasting Division, Rs2,100 billion to the Information Technology and Telecom Division, Rs665 million to Inter Provincial Coordination Division, Rs3,482 billion to the Interior Division.

CDA seals 28 buildings in different areas of city

ISLAMABAD (APP): Capital Development Authority (CDA) during the operation, so far, 28 buildings have been sealed for violation of building by-laws in different areas.

According to the details, the Building Control Directorate in collaboration with the Enforcement Directorate with the assistance of the district administration and Islamabad Police took strict action against the violation of building by-laws in the different areas of the city. The buildings that were being constructed without the DA's approval have been sealed and notices have also been issued to the owners.

On this occasion, the CDA administration said that the implementation of the Master Plan to beautify the city of Islamabad should be ensured in all circumstances.

Cipher case: SC accepts Hamid plea

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has granted plea of Hamid Khan on the petition of chairman PTI against indictment proceedings in cipher case.

The court has adjourned the hearing of the case for indefinite period.

Justice Tariq Masood remarked you can file new appeal against high court decision. The bail case of PTI chairman will be heard on its turn.

The petition against the proceedings of indictment of chairman PTI in cipher case came up for hearing in the court Wednesday. A 3-member bench of SC presided over by justice Sardar Tariq Masood heard the case.

AIS hold week long celebration

ISLAMABAD (APP): The AlHuda International School (AIS) organized a week-long celebration of arts and literature with various competitions for children to showcase their skills and passion. Students enthusiastically participated in writing, oratory contests, painting, storytelling, advocacy, art of expression, graphic designing, 2D, 3D, Bake Sale, and others. Following these events, an appreciation ceremony was conducted to acknowledge the efforts and enthusiasm of the students. Irtaza Hassan, Shehzad Zia and Abdul Razzaq Sial visited the event of emerging entrepreneurs.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of BISP Dr. Amjad Saqib and CEO of Dunia Foundation Mian Amir Mehmood called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

PM emphasizes public awareness on social welfare projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said that the creation of awareness on social welfare projects among the people was essential for public benefit.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Chairperson of Benazir Income Support Programme and Founder of Akhuwat Foundation Dr

Amjad Saqib, and Chief Executive Officer of Dunia Foundation Mian Amir, said BISP's huge database could prove to be very beneficial for the social welfare projects.

In the meeting, the prime minister was briefed about the "Adopt a Family" project jointly launched by Dunia Foundation and Akhuwat Foundation.

Prime Minister Kakar viewed that the "Adopt a Family" project had the potential to become an effective strategy for the poverty alleviation.

He instructed the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to launch awareness drives on the social welfare projects like the "Adopt a Family" initiative.

Virtual University gets ICDE Prize of Excellence 2023

ISLAMABAD (PR): The International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE) awarded the 2023 ICDE Prize of Excellence to the Virtual University of Pakistan during the 29th ICDE World Conference 2023 held in Costa Rica, Central America. The award was presented by the Secretary-General and President of ICDE.

The award was presented by the Secretary-General and President of ICDE, said a press release on Wednesday.

This Excellence Prize for 2023 was unanimously decided by an international committee of experts in recognition of the Virtual University's

extensive contribution in the field of open, flexible, and distance learning. ICDE, an international organization based in the Netherlands, has a membership body of more than 200 institutions from around the globe.

The Rector of Virtual University of Pakistan, Prof. Dr. Arshad Saleem, received this award during the conference held at the National Convention Center of Costa Rica, hosted by UNED-San José, Costa Rica. During his remarks, he dedicated this award to the founding Rector, Dr. Naveed A. Malik, and the VU family.

The conference was attended by delegates from over 50 countries worldwide. He mentioned that the Excellence Prize for VU adds more responsibility to deliver quality education.

Dr. Saleem informed the participants that the establishment of VU was a futuristic idea in 2002 and has played a key role in educating and imparting skills to the youth of Pakistan.

He also added that VU is not hesitant to harness the strength of generative AI to offer knowledge and skills to its students. Finally, he expressed gratitude to the Ministry of IT&Telecom and HEC for their unconditional support.



Prof. Dr. Arshad Saleem Bhatti Rector Virtual University speaking at the international conference after receiving the excellence award from the International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE).

IP launch program to uncover wanted criminals

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police have initiated a program aimed at unveiling information about wanted criminals and their involvement in various crimes. The program, which is being broadcast on social media platforms, sheds light on Register No. 10 (Monitoring of Criminals), a comprehensive record maintained by the Islamabad Police documenting proclaimed offenders and absconders involved in crimes of various nature. The Police Register Number 10 holds crucial information about individuals wanted by the police for their alleged involvement in criminal activities. The program seeks to inform the public about these wanted individuals, urging citizens to be vigilant and collaborate with law enforcement to ensure the apprehension of these offenders.

Zardari assigns important task to PPP Punjab leadership

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former president Asif Ali Zardari is staying in Islamabad now a days.

Sources said Asif Ali Zardari has assigned important task to PPP Punjab leadership after their arrival in Zardari house.

Important tasks have been given to leaders of PPP central, South and North.

Chairperson BISP urges officials to serve needy women in dignified manner

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Chairman, Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib Wednesday urged the BISP employees to approach their work with empathy and ensure provision of financial support to needy women in a dignified manner. During his visit to BISP office in Abbottabad, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib interacted with needy women, listened to their concerns and directed the staff to resolve the issues at the earliest.

Dr. Amjad Saqib emphasized that every act of kindness was a form of charity and serving the less fortunate was not merely a job but a noble cause.

He advocated for the provision of facilities for the elderly using their own resources. He stressed the importance of upholding

the dignity of the elderly while ensuring they receive the support they need.

The Chairman BISP said that empowering the poor was their fundamental right and BISP aims to uphold their right.

He directed the BISP staff to ensure the timely and complete payment of stipends in a most transparent way and without any deductions. This commitment reflects BISP's dedication to transparent and efficient financial assistance delivery, he added.

Earlier, Dr. Amjad Saqib also visited Jamia Masjid Taqva Abbottabad and addressed a gathering of BISP staff.

Expressing a broader vision for BISP, Dr. Amjad Saqib underscored that it is a collective responsibility to make BISP the premier institution in the country.



ISLAMABAD: An artist is briefing Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan Frederico Silval during exhibition entitled "Off Grid Goes, On Grid" at Pakistan National Council of Arts in Federal Capital.

ICP ensures robust security measures in high-security zone

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Police is actively implementing robust security measures in high-security zone and maintaining heightened vigilance in the area.

The teams of Islamabad Capital Police stationed in the high-security zone are dedicatedly executing their duties to guarantee effective security arrangements for crucial court hearings.

Senior police officials have instructed on-duty officers and personnel to prioritize the security of vital

government offices, superior courts, and embassies situated in the high-security zone. Emphasizing unwavering commitment, all officers and personnel have been directed to execute their duties diligently, ensuring no lapses or complacency during duty hours, thereby upholding peace and security. The Islamabad Capital Police is proactively taking all necessary measures to protect the lives and property of citizens, with a zero-tolerance policy toward any disruptions to public peace.

Chairman HEC conferred 'World Excellence Award in Higher Education'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed has been conferred "World Excellence Award in Higher Education" by World Business Angels Forum (WBAF - an affiliated partner of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion) on the sidelines of World Congress of Angel Investors being held at Durban International

Convention Centre, South Africa. Ambassador of Pakistan to South Africa, Afab Hasan Khan received the award on behalf of the chairman HEC, said a press release issued here on Wednesday.

The World Excellence Award in Higher Education is conferred upon world leaders for their outstanding achievements in higher education globally.



ISLAMABAD: Naib Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Mian Muhammad Aslam addressing a press conference regarding Children of Ghaza March, which will be held on 23 Nov outside Faisal Mosque.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage & Culture, Syed Jamal Shah inaugurating Mobile App and Web Portal of mapping project at Department of Archaeology and Museums (DOAM), Sir Syed Memorial Building.

Jamal inaugurates mobile app, web portal of archaeological sites mapping project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interim Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah, inaugurated the mobile app and web portal for the archaeological site mapping project in the Department of Archaeology and Museums (DOAM) on Wednesday.

The Federal Secretary, National Heritage and Culture Division, Humaira Ahmed; Adviser, National Heritage and Culture Division, Muhammad Kashif Irshad; and Director General, DOAM, Dr Azeem Khan, were also present on the occasion. Pakistan's cultural heritage is now accessible to the world, with 8,000 archaeological and religious sites now at your fingertips. A Gateway to Pakistan's past new mobile app launched that will promote cultural exchange and boost tourism in the country. Addressing the inauguration ceremony, the Minister said, "Under this project, over 8,000 archaeo-

logical and religious sites have been mapped, and all data is accessible through the website of the Department of Archaeology and Museums." He said, "Around 500 cultural and religious sites of tourism potential have been selected from all over Pakistan, adding that after physical examination of these sites, recommendations have been made to the concerned provincial authorities for their preservation and development as tourism destinations." He said, "The mobile app developed under this project is more than just a technological achievement. It is a gateway to our past, a treasure trove of knowledge, and a bridge that connects the present generation with the legacies of our ancestors."

"Through this app, users will have the power to explore the historical and religious sites of Pakistan with ease, learn about their significance.

Crackdown continues against unregistered medicines

ISLAMABAD: The crackdown is underway against illegal profiteering on drugs and fake unregistered medicines across the country.

The crackdown was started on the direction of Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan, spokesperson of the Ministry of Health said on Wednesday.

He said that distributors, pharmacies and medical stores are being raided in all major cities across the country. He said in Karachi, the DRAP team inspected the pharmacies and medical stores in different areas.

The team raided Irfan Medicos in DHA Karachi and various pharmacies in

Gulshan Iqbal and Gulistan Johar.

He said that the Heparin injection was being sold at more than the approved price. He added Heparin injection was being sold for Rs 3500 instead of Rs 800.

Similarly, Tramal Injection and Augmentin DS Suspension Hydryline Syrup were also being sold at a higher price. He said that Ventolin Inhaler Tegeral and tablets Augmentin DS were also being sold at higher prices.

These medicines were seized and sealed, he added. He said that the Minister for Health started the process of legal action against the pharmacy owners under the DRAP Act.



ISLAMABAD: Traffic police giving ticket to motorcyclists who riding without wearing helmet in Federal Capital.

Human Development Foundation marks 25 years of transformative impact

By M. Ilyas

PESHAWAR - The Human Development Foundation, commemorated its 25th Anniversary at the Sustainable Development Conference 2023, in collaboration with Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). Mr. Mehboob Ul Haq, CEO HDF, during his opening remarks, stated, "Today, we gather not merely to celebrate a milestone but to reaffirm our commitment to the noble cause of human development in Pakistan. We stand united in our vision of Pakistan where every individual has the opportunity to reach their full potential, where poverty is eradicated, and where prosperity is shared equitably."

The milestone event followed HDF's triumph at the Sustainability Investment Expo 2023 on November 19th and 20th, where they took the win at the prestigious Sustainability Awards 2023 in the "Water Conservation" category for the Afaf Dam in Soon Valley, Khushab. Mr. Haq proudly received the

award, remarking, "This is the sixth Dam that HDF has built in Pakistan and is unique in that it is part of an eco-system design that addresses the environment and multidimensional poverty simultaneously."

The success of the Afaf Dam was also greatly applauded by Senator Sherry Rehman, who inaugurated the expo and emphasized the need to replicate HDF's model in other climate-vulnerable regions of Pakistan.

A riveting documentary showcased HDF's remarkable journey, reflecting on decades of progress in education, healthcare, sustainable environment, WASH, livelihood, food security and social capital development. Emotions ran high as the documentary reflected on HDF's enduring commitment to marginalized communities.

The celebration then unfolded with a dynamic panel discussion on "Transforming Communities," featuring luminaries including Dr. Muhammad Khalid Riaz, Chairman HDF, Lt. Gen. (Retd) Anis Abbasi, Vice Chairman HDF, Dr.



Adil Najam, President WWF, Dr. Tariq Banuri, Former Chairperson HEC, Ms. Fatima Hussain, Managing Director HDF North America, and Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director SDPI. The discussion explored HDF's transformative journey and the way forward, focusing on poverty eradication and grassroots impact.

Looking back on HDF's journey through the years and the support of the expatriates who made it possible, Dr. Adil Najam, one of the founding members of the organization,

remarked, "Human development is not about holding hands. It is not that the diaspora supports HDF but HDF supports the diaspora. HDF gives meaning to their support, that is why this partnership works."

Addressing the team that works tirelessly for creating positive change in the society, another one of HDF's founding members, Dr. Tariq Banuri's words, "We are happy to live whatever life God gives us but we want to make a difference in the lives of others," resonated,

leaving the audience deeply moved.

The event facilitated meaningful connections, bringing together industry experts, HDF founders, donors and supporters united in their passion for sustainable development. In a profound moment, HDF also solidified commitments by signing Memoranda of Understanding with SDPI and Code for Pakistan.

These agreements pave the way for future collaborations, steering towards a greener and more sustainable Pakistan.