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COAS expresses satisfaction with troops' operational preparedness.

Top military brass reaffirms full support to national security, regional peace

Reaffirms unequivocal diplomatic, political support to Palestinians; Military commanders also express concerns over continued repression of people in India Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir; Pay rich tribute to supreme sacrifices of martyrs; Forum urges the people to stay determined and united.

RAWALPINDI (APP): The 82nd Formation Commanders Conference on Thursday resolved to fully support government's initiatives in various domains for sustainable recovery of the economy and curbing illegal activities including smuggling, hoarding, electricity theft, implementation of One Document Regime, dignified repatriation of illegal foreigners and safeguarding of national database etc.

Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir presided over the 82nd Formation Commanders Conference at GHQ, which was attended by Corps Commanders,

Principal Staff Officers and all Formation Commanders of Pakistan Army, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The forum paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of Shuhadas including officers and men of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies and Pakistani Citizens.

The participants were briefed on professional matters, national security challenges and measures being undertaken to counter traditional and non-traditional security threats.

The forum took a holistic view of the ongoing counter-terrorism operations and resolved that all

terrorists, their facilitators and abettors, working on the behest of hostile forces to destabilise Pakistan will be dealt with full might of the state.

The COAS expressed satisfaction over operational preparedness and high standards of training and morale maintained by formations to deal with the emerging threat paradigm.

The forum expressed unequivocal diplomatic, moral and political support to the people of Palestine and reiterated Pakistan's principled stance supporting the two-state solution, based on pre-1967 borders with Al Quds Al Sharif as the capital of Palestine.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir addressing 82nd Formation Commanders Conference

PM stresses media role to highlight outcomes of drive against smuggling, power theft

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday urged the media to play its role for creating public awareness on the outcomes of the government's initiatives like drive against smuggling and power theft and its benefits for the common man.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society, also emphasized the media to highlight the importance of the strategy for economic stability, formulated under the Special Investment Facilitation Council.

He said that the media had a key role to play in promoting good governance, besides creating awareness among the masses.

Being the fourth pillar of the state, the media's

contribution towards society's progress and intellectual development of the people, was of crucial importance, he added.

He also assured the delegation of the government's support for the resolution of the issues confronting the newspaper industry.

He instructed the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to ensure the payment of advertisement dues payable to the newspapers by immediately coordinating with all relevant ministries and departments.

The delegation comprised APNS President Naz Afreen, Secretary General Samad Ali and Finance Secretary Shahab Zuberi.

Caretaker Information and Broadcasting Minister Murtaza Solangi, Federal Information Secretary and relevant senior officers also attended the meeting.

Pakistan firmly supports two-state solution of Palestine issue: President Arif Alvi

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Dr Arif Alvi has reiterated that Pakistan firmly supports a just and peaceful resolution of the Palestine issue, based on the two-state solution. He said that the world must realize the pain of the Palestinian people and play its role in ending the Israeli atrocities in Gaza that had killed thousands of innocent people, including women and children.

The President expressed these views while talking to Imam Khatib at Masjid Al-Haram and Advisor at Saudi Royal Courts of Saudi Arabia, Dr Saleh bin Abdullah Humaid, who called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr today.

Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Mr Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy, also attended the meeting. The meeting exchanged views on the situa-

tion in Gaza, Islamophobia, and other challenges being faced by the Islamic World.

Welcoming the Imam Khatib, the President said that Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) enjoyed excellent brotherly relations, based on common faith, shared history, and people-to-people contacts.

Dr Saleh bin Abdullah Humaid stated the Muslim World had adopted a unanimous stance on the Palestine issue that the Palestinians should be given their due rights based on the two-state solution.

He remarked that joint efforts by the Muslim World were needed to end the ongoing violence and atrocities in Palestine and extend humanitarian aid and supporting development projects, especially in the education and healthcare sectors in Paki-

(KSA) for important Muslim causes. He emphasized the need for unity and solidarity among Muslim nations to address the common challenges being faced by them.

The President lauded the leadership of KSA for the recent Saudi-Iran normalization of relations and termed it a major breakthrough that would bring peace and security in the region, besides promoting trade and development. He also appreciated the Saudi initiatives for peace and stability in Yemen, Syria, and Sudan. The President deeply thanked KSA for its economic support to Pakistan in difficult times as well as for extending humanitarian aid and supporting development projects, especially in the education and healthcare sectors in Paki-



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of All Pakistan Newspapers Society calls on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar

When nothing found against me I was removed on receiving salary from my son: Nawaz

MURREE (Online): PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif has said when nothing was found against him then he was removed on receiving salary from his son.

"Who brought the country to this situation where our country stands now. The era after our era ruined culture of the country. I did good that I did not receive 5 billion dollars and conducted nuclear blasts. We bade good bye to IMF.

I did not seek even penny from any one. Today who is earning Rs 25000 will spend his life how, he said this while ad-

ressing party workers along with Maryam Nawaz here Thursday.

We have plundered our home with our own hands. Send my message to entire nation if they are understanding what I am saying. We should reform ourselves.

These people have done big injustice with the country. You have been listening tales and still are listening them. I live in Lahore but Murree is my second home, he remarked.

When I was prime minister I saved the country from going default. I ended program with IMF. Paki-

stan was in grey list and we brought it into white list.

We integrated 11000 megawatt electricity in system. We ended loadshedding from country.

We can generate thousands of megawatt electricity from coal. I don't lie for the sake of politics. We completed several power projects within shortest possible time through hard work.

I was listening since 50 years that there were coal mines in Sindh. We worked on coal mines in Sindh and started electricity production from them.

Govt to provide maximum facilities to ECP for holding free, fair elections: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Thursday said the caretaker government was committed to conduct free, fair and transparent elections and it would provide all possible facilities to the Election Commission of Pakistan for conducting elections.

He said this during a meeting with the delegation of Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), which was led by its President Major General (ret'd) Raza Muhammad.

The current political and economic situation of the country, elimination of fake news and disinformation, upcoming general elections, social media issues, and elections in other countries of South Asia were discussed in the

meeting, a press release said.

The delegation informed the minister about the IPRI's latest research on the political scenario of the country, and appreciated the caretaker government's commitment for conducting free, fair and transparent elections.

"Equal opportunities are being provided to all political parties, there will be no discrimination against anyone," Murtaza Solangi said.

He said for improvement of the political environment in the country, development of consensus among all political parties was indispensable.

The minister said the world was facing the problems of misinformation, disinformation and fake news, while the latter was the biggest challenge on social media.

Interior Minister, AJK PM discuss development in Azad Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Bugti on Thursday visited the Kashmir House where he met Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq.

Both the dignitaries discussed construction work and progress of development projects in Azad Kashmir at length.

The interior minister

assured the AJK PM that the Government of Pakistan would provide all possible support to solve the problems of the people of Kashmir and the government. He said that despite of economic difficulties, full cooperation with the Azad Kashmir government would continue because the latter "stands with the government and the people of Pakistan".

Govt remains committed to tackling challenges of climate change, ensuring food security: Sami

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Thursday said the government remained dedicated to addressing the challenges of climate change as key interventions were being taken under the umbrella

EC nullifies PTI intra party election orders to hold election again

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EC) while nullifying intra party election of PTI has ordered to hold election within 20 days. According to EC intra party election of PTI were not transparent. Election be conducted within prescribed time.

The EC while announcing September 13 reserved judgment on PTI intra party election nullified the intra party election besides ordering for holding election again within 20 days.

Special court summons Imran in cipher case on Nov 28

ISLAMABAD (APP): The special court on Thursday summoned the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman and vice chairman on November 28 in the cipher case registered under the Officials Secrets Act. Special Judge Abul Hasnat Muhammad Zulqarnain heard the case at the Judicial Complex, Islamabad. During course of hearing, the defence lawyers produced the copy of the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) order regarding the termination of jail trial.

The court observed that the trial would be proceeded from the position of August 29, and instructed the officials of Adiala Jail to produce the two accused before it on November 28.



Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). He made these remarks while addressing the 26th Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) here, a news release said.

The minister addressed the thematic session titled, "Impact of Climate Change on Food & Nutrition Security in Pakistan, the session was held in collaboration with World Food Program (WFP) and SDPI.

The panelists of the session included Country Director World Food Program (WFP) Ms Coco Ushiyama, Nutrition Division WFP Ms Lynda Kiess, Dr Friederike Greb, Dr Irfan Ullah from Nutrition International Pakistan, Dr Aneela Afzal from PMAS-AAU, Rawalpindi, Muhammad Daniyal Masood from NUST.

The event was attended by a larger number of people from different walks of life including students and civil society activists.

"The government is well aware of the climate crisis and several interventions are being undertaken to address the issue under the umbrella of SIFC as agriculture is one of the key areas of this council," the minister said while emphasizing the adoption of strategies highlighted by the experts to address this crisis.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a meeting with Imam Khatib of Masjid Al-Haram and Advisor at Saudi Royal Courts of Saudi Arabia, Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah Humaid, at Aiwan-e-Sadr

IMF technical delegation to arrive in Pak next week

ISLAMABAD (Online): Technical delegation of IMF will arrive in Pakistan next week to increase tax revenue and tax net.

According to FBR sources, technical delegation will negotiate with FBR on tax policy for about a week.

FBR and technical delegation of IMF will take steps for amendments in tax policy. The purpose of amendments in tax policy will be to widen the tax net and collect more revenue.

Sources further said that infrastructure for introducing the scheme for retailers will also be developed in collaboration with technical delegation. The number of tax payers will be increased to 6 million by bringing 1 million more people in tax net through tax policy.

Missing persons case: If police, admin have nothing in their hands then we will summon PM: SHC

KARACHI (Online): Justice Naimat Ullah of Sindh High Court (SHC) has remarked in missing persons case if police and administration have nothing in their hands then we will summon care taker Prime Minister (PM).

The petitions regarding recovery of missing persons came up for hearing before SHC Thursday. The court remarked 10 years have passed in missing persons cases. No headway has been made. The meetings of JTs and Task force are not result oriented.

Justice Amjad Sahito remarked we hear 10 or 15 cases of missing persons daily since 10 years. Had we given such time to other cases then several matters would have been dealt with.

The state counsel said 21 meetings of JIT have taken place, however no clue has been found so far.

Justice Naimat Ullah remarked present the citizens in the court otherwise we will take any step.

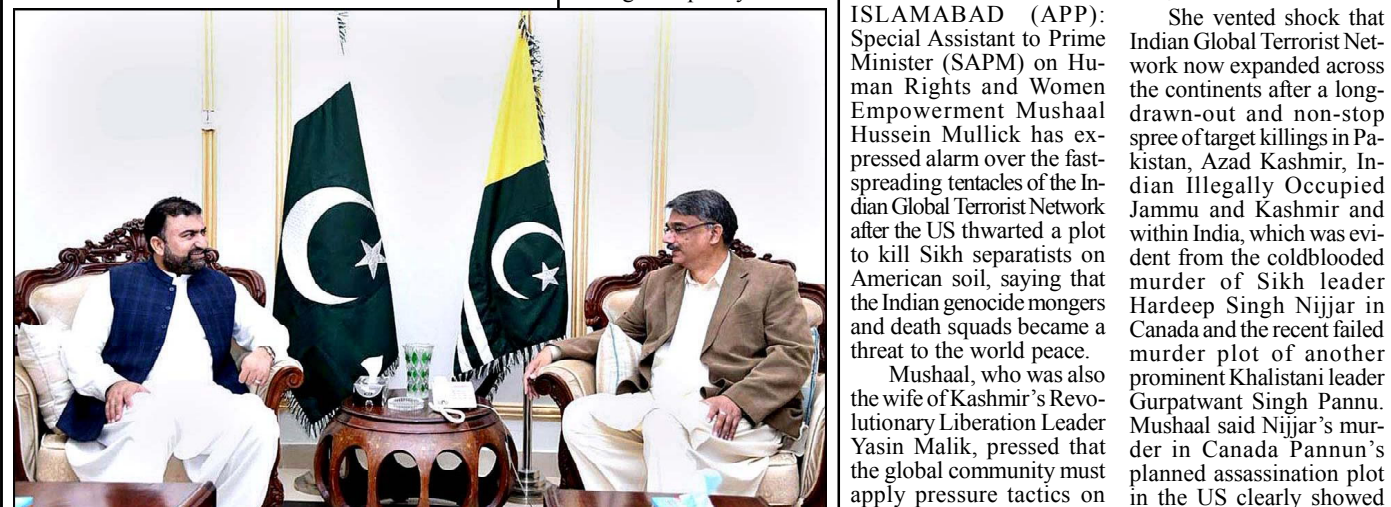
The court adjourned the hearing of the case till January 15.

Spreading tentacles of Indian Global Terrorist Network to US, Canada alarming: Mushaal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick has expressed alarm over the fast-spreading tentacles of the Indian Global Terrorist Network after the US thwarted a plot to kill Sikh separatists on American soil, saying that the Indian genocide mongers and death squads became a threat to the world peace.

Mushaal, who was also the wife of Kashmir's Revolutionary Liberation Leader Yasin Malik, pressed that the global community must apply pressure tactics on the supremacist Hindutva regime to stop the butchery and genocide of Indian minorities, said a press release.

She vented shock that Indian Global Terrorist Network now expanded across the continents after a long-drawn-out and non-stop spree of target killings in Pakistan, Azad Kashmir, Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and within India, which was evident from the coldblooded murder of Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada and the recent failed murder plot of another prominent Khalistani leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannu. Mushaal said Nijjar's murder in Canada Pannun's planned assassination plot in the US clearly showed that Indian death squads even now directly challenged Ottawa and Washington's sovereignty and national security.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti in a meeting with the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Temporary ceasefire

On the 48th day of Israel's war on Gaza, more than six weeks of a settler-coloniser state having massacred thousands, displaced even more and destroyed and flattened a city to unrecognizable levels, finally a ceasefire agreement has been reached between Israel and Hamas. Unfortunately, the agreement is not for a cessation in violence by Israel but really a 'four-day pause' in the air strikes and raids and killing. Both sides have for now agreed to this arrangement which includes Hamas releasing 50 of the 237 Israeli hostages it currently holds captive. Israel has agreed to release 150 Palestinian women and children from its prisons. For context, around 237 people were reportedly captured by Hamas during its October 7 attack; there are 33 children among the hostages. Israeli forces arrested 3000 Palestinians in daily raids across the occupied territories of West Bank and East Jerusalem, adding to the 5200 Palestinians already in Israeli jails; nearly 150 of the Palestinians in Israeli prisons are children. As part of the ceasefire deal, humanitarian aid will also be allowed inside Gaza.

Since October 7, the Israeli army has killed more than 14,000 Palestinians; 6000 of these are children. According to reports, around 1.7 million Palestinians have been displaced. The ceasefire demand had been growing in the past two weeks, as report after report showed Israel committing war crimes openly, with the blessings of Western world powers like the US and UK. It has been said that Qatar had been mediating between Israel and Hamas and this ceasefire is seen as a result of these efforts. Not insignificant was also the fact that on Tuesday, BRICS countries had called for an end to Israel's war on Gaza while on Monday Arab and Muslim ministers too had demanded an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, as they visited Beijing for solely this purpose: how to get a pause in the violence and mayhem being unleashed by Israel on more than two million Palestinian lives.

In an interview with Al Jazeera after news broke of the ceasefire, which is supposed to start today, Hamas official Abu Marzouq said that Hamas seeks a permanent ceasefire, is agreed to a prisoner swap but is worried Israel could target those Palestinians released from Israeli prisons, and that the whole world has been asking for a ceasefire except the US. The attitude of the US, in particular US President Joe Biden, can in the politest terms only be called an open support for a genocide. In fact, till Wednesday night, at least, Israel had not curbed its violence. This is in keeping with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's stance: we agree to a four-day 'ceasefire' but it is only temporary. What does this mean? According to some analysts, Israel is smarting from the loss of face it has had to contend with as a result of its unrestrained campaign of terror in Gaza.

When the pie shrinks



By Khurram Husain

The state, the economy and the people pull the resource envelope of the country in different directions. This is especially the case when periods of macroeconomic adjustments get going, meaning when an IMF programme is being implemented.

The state needs revenue. The economy requires liquidity. The people want incomes. Each of these can come from different sources, and they are finite. When the economy is growing, these resources grow in tandem and, for a moment, it seems as if everybody is getting what they want.

These are the feel-good years. But when the growth stops, a tug-of-war ensues between the state, big business and 'the people' to secure their respective shares of the pie.

Each episode of adjustment looks substantially the same, but differences of detail do emerge. Growth stalls, interest rates rise, the currency is devalued, utility prices rise, taxes are applied. But look at where the resources flow during these times, and you'll get a better idea of who is getting how much when the pie shrinks.

An episode of adjustment began in July this year, when the country signed onto its latest IMF Stand-by Arrangement, and its first review just ended successfully. Now look closely at where the resources have gone during these months. Banks declared record-high profits all year.

Between July and September of the year, the whole corporate sector

saw the "highest-ever quarterly earnings" (post tax) according to a report put out by Topline Securities. Listed companies raked in Rs417 billion in post-tax profits in these months, of which Rs149bn were taken by the banks alone.

Make sure you understand this before moving on. Banks took in more than one-third of the total profits of all listed companies in the first three months since the IMF programme began. All sectors in the listed companies' universe saw their quarterly profits rise in the same period, even if by varying amounts. Cement, fertiliser and automobiles saw the highest quarterly profits they have made in almost two years.

Each sector paid out a rich harvest of dividends to their shareholders. According to the same report, Rs97bn were paid out in dividends, of which Rs51bn was by banks alone. The amount was higher by 13 per cent from the same period last year. A small number of people were made very rich in these months.

At the same time, small and medium enterprises issued SOS calls for survival. After all, these are months in which demand in the economy is collapsing, large-scale manufacturing is registering near zero growth, high interest rates are weighing on debt service costs of corporates, and the state is thirsting for revenue. Partially out of this thirst, the government imposed a 'windfall tax' on the banks for the outside profits they made last year on their foreign currency dealings, aiming to capture up to Rs58bn of these banking sector profits for itself, according to calculations presented by Arif Habib Ltd.

In two years, the banks raked in close to Rs145bn foreign exchange income, so the government seems to be capturing a fairly large chunk of this for itself

through this (supposedly) one-off tax levied earlier in November.

Meanwhile the government's tax revenue collection recorded an increase of 24pc from the same quarter last year. Much of this was due to inflation. A small amount would be due to nominal GDP growth. Suffice it to say, the IMF was left deeply satisfied with the fiscal performance in the first quarter.

The primary balance registered a surplus of 0.4pc of GDP (which sounds small but is actually quite large), and it is possible the government may have over-performed on the fiscal side compared to the quarterly targets set in the programme.

So business is shutting down. Imports continue to face restrictions, which is what accounts for the current account deficit shrinking so rapidly—as always happens in the first few months of an IMF programme. Small and medium size businesses are on the verge of shutting down.

Confidence in the economy, according to a recent survey by Ipsos, is near rock bottom, with nine out of 10 people surveyed saying the economy is moving in the wrong direction.

Yet big business is raking in profits and dishing out the dividends. Government is getting its revenues, slashing its expenditures, and jumping all the hoops set for it by the IMF programme in what is without doubt the smoothest IMF review we have had since 2019. So the question is, who exactly is suffering here? Why does confidence still remain so low? he answer is simple. The poor, the working poor, the salaried classes are all suffering. Their incomes have not moved in tandem with inflation, nor with devaluation. Their savings have eroded. Their costs are seeing one shock after another, with an unending series of utility price hikes.—Courtesy Dawn

Anti-Americanism: rhetoric and reality



By Husain Haqqani

Imran Khan's PTI rushed to condemn the recent meeting between former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and the US ambassador to Pakistan, Donald Blome, as "a significant intrusion into Pakistan's internal matters."

But the party failed to express similar indignation over a letter by eleven US members of Congress belonging to President Biden's Democratic Party, calling for suspension of security assistance to Pakistan pending an inquiry into human rights abuses inside Pakistan. The letter specifically included Imran Khan's name amongst those whose human rights were allegedly being violated.

The fact is that there is nothing unusual about either the US ambassador meeting a major political figure in the country where he is posted or American Congressmen expressing their views on the human rights situation of any country. The conduct of foreign relations between nations requires diplomats' meetings with politicians and public figures of all shades. Blome's meeting with Nawaz Sharif is no more an indication of US preferences in Pakistan's politics than his earlier meetings with other party leaders amounted to endorsing anyone for high office.

Furthermore, US foreign policy is primarily conducted by the president and his team in the executive branch of government not through letters by small groups of Congressmen and women. Members of the US Con-

gress have control over the government's budget, and they sometimes use this power to withhold funding for what they deem to be undesirable policies abroad. But it takes a majority of 100 senators and 435 members of the House of Representatives to approve or cut funding.

A letter by 11 members of Congress is nothing more than the expression of their views, not a policy or budget decision. Although the PTI keeps blaming the US for removing its leader, Imran Khan, from the office of prime minister, it maintains contracts with lobbying and public relations firms in the United States. The members of Congress who signed the latest letter are not known for their knowledge or interest in Pakistan. They most likely acted in response to lobbying.

Last year, official documents revealed that the PTI had hired lobbying firm Fenton-Arlook at a cost of \$25,000 per month. In March this year, a contract to manage the PTI's ties with the US government and media with Washington-based firm, Praia Consultants, came to light. Lobbyists often take advantage of Congressmen's perpetual need for donations and votes to persuade them to speak out on issues in accordance with their client's desires.

The members of Congress who recently wrote to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, to describe the arrests of PTI members and leaders, including Imran Khan, as human rights violations either have Pakistani-American voters in their constituencies or are recipients of the community's financial contributions.

The PTI's current lobbying effort is in the range of two to three hundred thousand dollars per year, which is no more than a drop in the bucket for the

four billion dollar-a-year lobbying business in the US. It is unlikely that it will change American policy and seems geared more towards raising hopes of demoralized party supporters at home. Cult-like fans are expected to forget that the US allegedly caused the removal from power of their hero and start believing that is about to intervene to get him released from prison.

Just so that we are clear, I do not think the US played any role in the political events in Pakistan last year and I believe it has no intention of playing a role in this year's developments either. Ambassador Blome's meeting with Nawaz Sharif and the US Congressmen's letter are important to Pakistanis only because of a widely believed conspiracy theory: that major decisions in Pakistan are subject to American control.

Almost every major Pakistani political party has, at one time or another, popularized that conspiracy theory. As a result, it is not unusual for Pakistanis to look for signals from the US in trying to make sense of the country's bewildering politics. Pakistani politicians engage in anti-American rhetoric while privately assuring Americans of their friendly disposition towards the United States. Declassified records of Pakistani leaders' interaction with their American counterparts serve as the historic record of that pattern.

Every politician seems to understand that reality dictates pragmatism towards the United States, which is a global superpower and wields considerable influence in world affairs. It was Pakistan's major foreign aid provider for years, remains a significant security partner, and is the country's largest export market.—Courtesy The News

Commerce News

Dr. Saif unveils first ever national IT Export Strategy to increase IT Exports, up to \$ 10 bln

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications Dr. Umar Saif Thursday unveiled the nation's first ever national IT Export Strategy to increase Pakistan's IT exports, up to \$ 10 billion in the next three years.

Speaking as a chief guest at the launching ceremony, he said that the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) under Ministry of IT and Telecommunication (MoITT) in collaboration with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), and other international partners, including faculty from the University of Oxford, developed the strategy

closely aligned with the government's vision.

The minister said that Information and Communications Technology (ICT) was the only key that open the door to stabilizing and strengthening the country's economy.

He said that Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) had a significant role in enabling the sector and removing departmental bottlenecks.

The minister hoped the forum of the SIFC would attract more Foreign Direct Investment in Pakistan.

Highlighting about the strategy to increase ICT exports, Dr. Umar Saif said that according to the official figures, IT exports were \$



RIYADH: SAPM, Jawad Sohrab Malik meets Ahmad Al-Yamani, CEO Takamol.

Chinese envoy, Gohar Ejaz discuss economic cooperation especially in trade, investment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister of Commerce & Industry Gohar Ejaz and Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong in a meeting on Thursday discussed Pakistan-China Economic cooperation, especially in the fields of trade and investment.

The focus of the discussions revolved around the implementation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which has now entered its second stage, said a press release issued here.

Dr. Ejaz informed the Ambassador that the first phase of CPEC is at an advanced age at an inter-governmental level which has helped Pakistan to develop the infrastructure, road network, and power plants to meet energy needs and now the time has come for the private sectors of both countries to gear up to realise the benefits of the ground that has been prepared by the two governments.

Minister heralded the start of a new relationship initiated by President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar on the second stage of CPEC.

He urged the Chinese private sector to invest in Pakistan, with particular attention to SEZs in Lahore and Karachi.

He also informed the envoy that he met Ambassador Sha Zu Kang, President of Pak China Friendship Association, in China and they also agreed that this was the way forward.

SNGPL is committed to ensure adequate gas supplies to its valued customers

PESHAWAR (6 AM Report): SNGPL Peshawar Region is supplying gas to its esteemed consumers at appropriate pressure and delivers its services round the clock for satisfaction of the consumers. SNGPL is committed to ensure adequate gas supplies to its valued customers prioritizing domestic consumers during peak cooking hours especially. However, in some areas of our network, low pressures are being faced by our valued customers due to gap between demand and supply being a seasonal impact in winter season.

Therefore, in order to facilitate our valued consumers during the current winter season, SNGPL Peshawar has established special situation rooms where a senior level officer will be available from 0800 hrs to 2300 hrs for in time resolution of low gas pressure issues.

Apart from that, in order to redress the low-pressure issues, SNGPL has successfully carried out replacement of 223 KMS Old network during FY 2022-23.

Further, SNGPL has laid and commissioned various major operational phases of 16" dia, 12" dia, 8" dia, 6" dia and 4" dia for Peshawar interior city, Cantonment, Warsak Road, Hayatabad, Pabbi and Kohat areas FY 2022-23.

Similarly, in the current Fiscal Year, SNGPL is carrying out several mega projects for ensuring smooth supply of gas to our esteemed consumers specially during cooking hours. These include laying of 10" dia x 20.8 Km Charsadda-Peshawar line transmission line, laying of 16" dia x 11.2 KMs operational phase line in Kohat, laying of 6" x 10.5 KM operational phase line in Charsadda. Apart from these, work on operational phases for further augmenting the network of walled city, Peshawar are also in progress. After completion of these mega projects, gas availability of Peshawar.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Energy, Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali addressing during seminar on "Renewable Energy, The Way Forward" at Information Service Academy.

LESCO detects 29,244 power pilferers in 76 days

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) detected a total of 29,244 connections from where the customers were pilfering electricity in all its circles of five districts - Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara - during 76 days of grand anti-power theft campaign.

The LESCO spokesman told media here Thursday that the company has so far submitted FIR applications against 28,883 electricity thieves, out of which 27,877 FIRs have been registered in respective police stations, while 13,219 accused have been arrested. The spokesman said that all the electricity thieves have been charged so far with 51,678,581 detection units amounting to Rs 2,070,720,552.

Gold imports decrease by 1.1% to \$8.8 mln

ISLAMABAD (APP): The imports of gold decreased by 1.11 percent during the first four months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

The gold imports during the July-October (2023-24) were recorded at \$8.883 million as compared to the imports of \$8.983 million during July-October (2022-23), according to PBS data.

In terms of quantity, Pakistan imported 189 kilograms of gold during the period under review as compared to the imports of 156 kilograms last year, showing growth of 21.12 percent. On year-on-year basis, the gold imports decreased by 35.62 percent in October as compared to the same month of last year. The gold imports during October 2023 were recorded at \$1.584 million as compared to imports of \$2.461 million. In terms of quantity, the gold imports declined by 9.81 percent to 35 kilograms in October 2023 as compared to 39.2 kilograms during October 2022.

Meanwhile, on month-on-month basis, the gold imports during October 2023 decreased by 31.96 percent when compared to the imports of \$2.328 million.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where two ships scheduled to load/offload 40,770 tonnes of Cement and 59,170 tonnes Coal, berthed at Multipurpose Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Wednesday. Meanwhile three more ships, carrying 56,607 tonnes Coal, 58,950 tonnes Wheat and 54,798 tonnes Mogas also arrived at outer anchorage of the port during last 24 hours. A total of eight ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them, an oil tanker Al-Soor-II left the port on Thursday morning and another ship VTC Phoenix is expected to sail.

Switching to renewable energy way forward for Pakistan: Energy Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali on Thursday said the government's commitment to increasing the share of renewable in the energy mix, coupled with international support and investment was paving the way for a sustainable energy future. Initiatives such as the Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB) and the implementation of supportive policies and incentives for renewable energy projects are driving the transition, he said and added, a diversified renewable energy not only enhances energy security but also contributes to reducing carbon emissions, aligning with global efforts to combat climate change.

While addressing a seminar titled Renewable Energy the Way Forward, jointly organized by Information Service Academy and Alliance for Good Governance Foundation, the minister said with abundant sunlight and wind resources, Pakistan has significant potential for solar and wind energy

Punjab's anti-smog strategy: CM Naqvi declares school closures on Friday & Saturday

LAHORE (APP): The Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi chaired a special meeting of the Cabinet Committee for Anti-Smog at the Chief Minister's Office today. Important decisions were made based on the recommendations of environmental and health experts. Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman attended the meeting through video link. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi briefed the media about the meeting's decisions, stating that educational institutions in 6 divisions, including Lahore, will

remain closed on Friday and Saturday. Markets, restaurants, and businesses will open at 3 pm on those days, with all establishments closed on Sundays in six Divisions. If suitable clouds for rain are present on November 29, artificial rain will be induced in Lahore. In Lahore, 10 thousand students will receive electric bikes with subsidies, and government employees will be provided electric bikes on lease. The Chief Minister announced the closure of vehicle entry on Main Mall Road on Sundays, allowing only bicycles. These measures

are applicable to Lahore, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Sargodha, Multan, and Sahiwal divisions due to increased smog effects. Mohsin Naqvi stated that an MoU for installing air filter towers in Lahore has been signed, and a special committee will propose recommendations for providing subsidized electric bikes to students. Steps are also being taken to offer electric bikes on lease to government employees. If conditions permit, artificial rain will be attempted on November 29, contingent on suitable cloud cover.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali, Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Rasheed Ahmed addressing 7th Convocation of University of Malakand.

Punjab Governor says: Consortium formed for the education & empowerment of women in universities

Independent Report
LAHORE: The scholars from University of Bolton UK under Pak UK Education Gateway Mobility Project with the support of Higher Education Commission and British Council called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor's House Lahore, here today. The delegation of students was led by Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Shafiq Naz and Project Lead Engineer Dr. Aqsa Shabbir. Project co-lead, Dr. Amina Moazzam, Dr. Naveed Iqbal and students from Lahore College for Women University who successfully completed the educational tours of British universities under the project were also present. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the exchange program in the field of education gives students opportunities to learn about modern trends in education. He said that the education of female students and empowering them is very important. Governor Punjab said that a consortium has been formed for the education and empowerment of women in universities. He appreciated the efforts of Project Lead Engineer Dr. Aqsa Shabbir for the promotion of research activities and student exchange programme with British universities.

KP Caretaker Cabinet advances key social welfare initiatives

PESHAWAR (Online): A meeting of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Cabinet presided over by Chief Minister Justice @ Syed Arshad Hussain Shah was held at the Civil Secretariat in Peshawar on Thursday. The meeting was attended by caretaker cabinet members, Chief Secretary, and the Additional Chief Secretary Interior, related administrative secretaries, and other pertinent officials. The meeting commenced with the recitation of Fatihah for the late Muhammad Azam Khan, former Caretaker Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In a significant move, the caretaker cabinet

approved the extension of the monthly stipend program for female students in classes VI to XII within the newly merged districts, extending support until the year 2025. The initiative aims to provide scholarships to 32,833, 37,758, and 43,422 female students in the years 2023, 2024, and 2025, respectively, with a total estimated project cost of 940.5 million rupees. Furthermore, the cabinet endorsed the proposal to link scholarship disbursement with student performance and examination results, requiring a minimum attendance of 70%. Additionally, approval was granted for allocating 2

kanals of land in Tehsil Jamrud, Khyber District for building offices and residential structures of Federal Government Institutions. In a move toward social welfare, the cabinet sanctioned the establishment of a welfare fund for prisoners and prison employees, with a focus on skill development. Under this initiative, 30% of the income generated from products made in jails will be allocated to inmates, enabling them to acquire skills and achieve financial independence upon release. The fund, established from prisoners' and prison employees' contributions, incurs no cost to the government.

Information minister launches LWMC mobile app for fee collection

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Minister for Information and Local Government Amir Mir has said the ongoing digitalization of administrative institutions is proving instrumental in curbing corruption and enhancing their efficiency. He was addressing the inaugural workshop for digitalization of Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) and the launch of a mobile application for fee collection here on Thursday. He highlighted the role of digitalization in making the mu-

nicipal system more transparent. Computerization of workshops, maintenance of complex garbage collection machinery, and fee collection through a mobile application are anticipated to reduce costs and boost revenue. The provincial minister commended the LWMC for justifying its existence through diligent work. Regardless of festive seasons or adverse weather, the company's staff consistently demonstrated dedication. Amir Mir acknowledged the visible improvement in the city's cleanliness.

MDA seals six unapproved commercial buildings

MULTAN (APP): Multan Development Authority (MDA) has raided against unapproved commercial constructions and sealed six illegal commercial buildings. The MDA enforcement teams under the directions of Director General MDA Zahid Ikram, raided Piran Ghaib road and sealed Mitho commercial hall, Anwar milk shop, Shobhan petrol pump unit and four illegal shops owned by Muhammad Afzal. The team also stopped the under-construction work at a shop owned by Dr Iqbal and Muhammad Bilal's under construction hall.

ANF recovers 44 kg drugs in 11 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 11 operations across the country managed to recover 44 kg of drugs and arrested eight accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday. He informed that 2.4 kg of heroin was recovered from a parcel at a courier office located in Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi. The heroin was soaked in six pants, booked for the UK. 230 grams of weed was recovered from a parcel sent from Canada at a courier office in Multan. The spokesman informed that 1174 grams hidden in a passenger's trolley bag was recovered at Sialkot airport. The accused was leaving for Bahrain by flight number GF-769. 7.2 kg hashish was recovered from two suspects riding a motorcycle on Shangla Hill Road, Faisalabad. 2.4 kg hashish and 150 grams of Ice drug were recovered from a motorcycle rider intercepted on Lahore Road, Faisalabad.

FCCI inks MoU with FAC for promotion of art and culture

FAISALABAD (APP): The Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) and Faisalabad Arts Council (FAC) have joined hands to promote art and culture in this division on scientific lines. In this connection, a Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) was inked in FCCI where President FCCI Dr Khuram Tariq and Abrar Alam Director FAC signed the MoU on behalf of their

Round-the-clock free food facility at Data Darbar

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has fulfilled yet another promise by introducing the 24/7 'Langar' [free food] facility at the Data Darbar complex within 48 hours. The Auqaf Department took the initiative, in partnership with the Madina Foundation, to feed round-the-clock influx of devotees. The step marks a significant development,

ensuring that devotees and the homeless have continuous access to free food. Auqaf's Secretary and Mian Rasheed of Madina Foundation briefed the media about the arrangements. While chairing a meeting at his office, the CM emphasised the importance of maintaining cleanliness and enhancing the aesthetic appeal of the area around Data Darbar.



LAHORE: The scholars from University of Bolton UK under Pak UK Education Gateway Mobility Project with the support of Higher Education Commission and British Council called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor's House.

International News

UN chief pushes for ceasefire as he welcomes deal to free hostages, 'pause' in Gaza bombardment

UNITED NATIONS (APP): UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres "welcomed" the temporary truce deal reached hours ago between Israel and Hamas, but said it was not enough, with his spokesperson emphasizing that he stands for a humanitarian ceasefire in besieged Gaza. "I welcome the agreement reached by Israel and Hamas. It's an important step in the right direction, but much more needs to be done," the UN chief said in a statement read out at the regular noon briefing at UN Headquarters in New York. For weeks Guterres has been advocating for an indefinite ceasefire for humanitarian reasons, in line with most of the international community, but it has been opposed by Israel and its ally the United States, which say that such a truce would serve to rearm Hamas. "The secretary-general is still pushing for a ceasefire" Deputy Spokesperson Farhan Haq told reporters in response to questions. In his statement, Guterres added that the UN "will

mobilize all its capacities to support the implementation & maximize positive impact on the humanitarian situation in Gaza," which after six weeks of relentless Israeli attacks is in ruins and its 2.3 million population traumatized. The temporary humanitarian truce between Israel and Hamas has been welcomed by the international community, from neighbouring Arab countries to multinational organizations. It is expected to come into force on Thursday and in a first phase, Hamas will hand over at least 50 hostages, almost all of them women and children, of the more than 240 it seized on Oct. 7, and Israel will release a first batch of 150 Palestinian prisoners. The agreement includes a temporary truce of at least four days, which may be extended to a maximum of 10, in which the fighting will be completely paused and will involve the entry into the Strip of between 100 and 300 trucks of food and medical aid and fuel.



A child looks at the rubble of a house after an Israeli strike in Khan Yunis

China and Uruguay upgrade ties as leaders meet in Beijing

News Desk

BEIJING: China is Uruguay's largest trading partner, in line with Beijing's steadily growing influence in Latin America, where it has poured billions of dollars of investment into infrastructure. "The strategic partnership between China and Uruguay has been elevated," Xi said according to state broadcaster CCTV, as he announced the establishment of a "comprehensive strategic partnership". China has targeted Latin America as part of its global quest for natural resources, with many countries joining China's decade-old Belt and Road Initiative infrastructure project. On Wednesday the Uruguayan presidency said Xi and Lacalle Pou had agreed to "continue efforts to accelerate the construction of a Free Trade Association" between the two countries. Uruguay is part of the South American trade bloc Mercosur along with Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay.



Montevideo's desire to negotiate a commercial deal with China independently has in the past sparked opposition from fellow members and even rumours that the bloc could break up. Brazil has recently reaffirmed strong ties with China under President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. But Argentina's president-elect Javier Milei had threatened to cut ties with China during his campaign, and Paraguay maintains diplomatic ties with Taiwan. On Wednesday Xi said he was committed to making China-Uruguay relations "a model of solidarity and cooperation", CCTV reported.

Afghan government is a victim of disorder, under Taliban rule

KABUL (Online): Afghanistan's government system is a victim of corruption, since the Taliban came to power in August 2021, Afghanistan has been at the top of human rights violations, women have been banned from working in human rights organizations and the United Nations. According to the United Nations report, the violations of women's rights in Afghanistan have gradually increased to an alarming level. It has also been banned from working in organizations and the United Nations. Other fundamental rights such as freedom of expression, assembly, physical integrity, access to justice and minority rights were also systematically destroyed. In Afghanistan, civil society, human rights activists, journalists and even peaceful protesters are being illegally arrested. According to the United Nations report, in November 2022, the Taliban government implemented mass executions and other inhumane punishments. Between November 2022 and April 2023, 74 men, 58 women and 2 boys were publicly flogged. The Taliban government's claim of adherence to Islamic laws and the positive opinion of the people about them is completely false, more than 85 percent of the population in Afghanistan is living at the lowest level of poverty and the Taliban has made it impossible for aid to reach them. In 2023, a budget of just \$744 billion was provided for the welfare of the people of Afghanistan, compared to \$1.49 billion in 2022. Due to the Taliban's ban on lady doctors and aid workers, the health situation across the country is also very alarming. The cause of the crisis in Afghanistan is poor governance, drought, climate change, earthquakes and the suspension of direct development aid. The Taliban government is also involved in supporting many terrorist organizations around the world. The peace situation is also getting worse day by day. It was believed that stability will come in the region after the Afghan Taliban took over, but their support to the terrorists has worsened the situation.

Car blast near Niagara Falls shuts down US-Canada crossing, kills 2

Niagara Falls, Canada, (AFP/APP): A car erupted into a fireball at a US-Canada checkpoint near Niagara Falls on Wednesday, killing the two occupants, triggering border closures and sparking a massive security alert on the eve of a major holiday. New York Governor Kathy Hochul confirmed the two fatalities in the blast at the checkpoint 400 miles (640 kilometers) northwest of New York City and said nothing pointed to a "terrorist" attack. "There is no evidence at this time that this was terrorist activity," Hochul

told a briefing. "It was a horrific incident, a crash, an explosion... but at this time no known terrorist connection." While the two victims' identities were not yet public, she suggested their vehicle may have been from western New York state. Witnesses described seeing a car traveling at high speed before it crashed into a checkpoint barrier and exploded into flames. The explosion happened at the major Rainbow Bridge crossing near Niagara Falls with nothing left of the vehicle which Hochul said was incinerated except for the engine.

Authorities on both sides of the border activated emergency responses and images showed access roads to the crossing swarming with emergency service workers and vehicles. The White House said President Joe Biden had been briefed and was closely following developments. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told parliament "this is obviously a very serious situation." "We've seen this car coming down towards the border and he was flying—over 100 miles an hour," Mike Guenther, a Canadian visiting the United States

Wildfire engulfs homes in Western Australia

SYDNEY (INP): Australian firefighters Thursday battled a runaway bushfire that has incinerated 10 homes and forced scores of people to evacuate in the northern outskirts of Perth during a fierce heatwave. Fire services issued emergency warnings for fire-swept areas north of the Western Australian capital, urging people to flee their homes if they can, or shelter in place if it is already too late to move. More than 500 emergency workers backed by

aircraft were trying to tame the out-of-control, fast-moving flames, which were being fanned by warm winds, officials said. The blaze has destroyed 10 homes, four sheds and a number of vehicles including caravans, said Western Australia Deputy Premier Rita Saffioti. "The forecast today is unforgiving," she told a news conference, predicting that thermometers would hit 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) during the day.

"It is crucial now that everyone involved continues to be alert as this bushfire emergency continues to unfold. Today is a day that everyone has to stick together." Firefighters in one truck struggled to navigate smoke-shrouded streets as red-hot embers flew through the air, television images showed. At one point, they were confronted by trees engulfed in towering orange flames, just a few steps from the roadside pavement.



ISLAMABAD: Imam-e-Kaaba, Professor Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid addressing a ceremony held at the Faisal Masjid Campus of International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI).

Imam-e-Kaaba stresses world to play role in halting massacre in Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): Imam-e-Kaaba, Professor Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid on Thursday said that the killing of human life was forbidden, Muslims were being massacred in the name of human rights in Gaza, the international community should respect the sanctity of human lives and they must act to stop the crimes in Gaza.

He expressed these views during a special address at the international conference on "Protection of Human Life in Shariah and Law" held at the Faisal Masjid Campus of International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI).

The Imam-e-Kaaba said that the massacre of innocent people in Gaza was the darkest period in human history.

He said that he prayed for the end of the cruelty against the Muslims of Palestine.

Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid said that special attention was paid to the sanctity of human life in Islam. He added that in

Islamic Shari'ah and law, human life had special importance without distinction of belief.

Referring to the sanctity of human life, he said that Islam strictly prohibited the loss of human life. Dr. Saleh said that there was a promise of hell for the person who takes human life for no reason.

He further said that the services of Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi and the International Islamic University were praiseworthy. "I appreciate the International Islamic University for organizing a conference on the most important topic of hour" he said.

He emphasized that educational and research institutions of Muslim countries should focus on mutual cooperation.

The Imam-e-Kaaba said that the people of Pakistan were loving and Pakistan was a hospitable country. He said both the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have deep rooted historic and brethren ties.

Climate action plan for Karachi kick starts with rapid strategic appraisal, visioning workshop

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pakistan, in collaboration with its partners at C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40), Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) and the Urban Unit on Thursday conducted a Rapid Strategic Appraisal and Visioning Workshop to commence the development of a Climate Action Plan for Karachi city (K-CAP).

UNDP's global flagship initiative, Climate Promise, is actively engaged in Pakistan, extending support at provincial and local levels to fortify climate change governance.

This initiative, coupled with UNDP Pakistan's Innovation-Accelerator Lab (AcLab), aims to revolutionize development approaches for accelerated impact through research, human-centred strategies, and portfolio logic. Climate Promise and AcLab are jointly spearheading the development of K-CAP, said a press release issued here.

At the Rapid Strategic Appraisal & Visioning Workshop to launch K-CAP, priority stakeholders from government departments and civil society organisations based in Karachi participated to set the tone for the city's long-term decarbonization strategy.

The workshop was conducted in two sessions with robust participation from government departments in the first session and civil society organizations in the second.

The participants were engaged in interactive activities to identify gaps and prioritise the issues and challenges to draft their Long-term Vision Statements for a carbon-neutral Karachi city by 2050.

The Mayor of Karachi, Murtaza Wahab Siddiqui, inaugurated the workshop, emphasizing the city's commitment to implementing sustainable and practical solutions.

Pak to continue political, moral support to Kashmiris till resolution of J&K issue: Caretaker PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday said Pakistan would continue to extend political, moral, and diplomatic support to its Kashmiri brethren till the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

He stated this as Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq called on him here at the PM House.

The prime minister vowed support for Kashmiris till the implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

The AJK prime minister extended an invitation to PM Kakar to visit Azad Jammu and Kashmir and thanked him for addressing the issues pertaining to energy, water resources, and infrastructure.

Chief Secretary AJK Dawood Muhammad Bareach was also present.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of AJK Chaudhry Anwaar-ul-Haq and Chief Secretary of AJK Dawood Muhammad Bareach called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Promotion of art & culture sectors key drivers for Pakistan's socio-economic growth: Jamal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah said on Thursday that the country's main sector of arts and culture promotion will soon play an important role in its economic development.

"Pakistani art and culture was playing a significant contribution to our sustainable development goals, fostering social, economic, and environmental development", he said while talking to a private news channel.

"Culture and creative economy has the potential to not only support the recovery of the country's

economy but transform it", he added. He said he had devised a comprehensive plan for promoting regional languages as it would help to promote the rich culture of the provinces, adding, that artists need to promote a soft image of Pakistan worldwide through their talents. The main purpose of the new cultural policy is to work for the revival of cultural organizations and the promotion of art and culture as no nation can develop by putting its culture behind it. Replying to a question, the minister said that Pakistan is blessed with a huge number of ancient and historic places, adding, that these places keep us linked to our past and conserve our culture and customs for centuries. Pakistan is a treasury of ancient culture and customs through centuries, he added. Pakistan needs massive financial resources, administrative capacity and effective governance to protect and promote its cultural heritage which is also going to help in economic growth, he added. The minister further expressed his concern over the decline of drama production at Pakistan Television (PTV), stressing the need to revive the local drama industry with quality content.



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of the Russian Federation, Daniia Ganich called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

PPP has no plan to make alliance with PTI in general polls: Kundi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary Information Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Faisal Karim Kundi Thursday said that PPP is not going for a political alliance with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in the upcoming general elections, scheduled in the month of February. Addressing a press conference here, Faisal Kundi said that PPP would contest the upcoming general polls according to its manifesto that is given by party chief Bilawal Bhutto.

"All the political forces should respect the mandate of the masses and PPP will contact all the political parties for making Bilawal Bhutto as Prime Minister after the general elections in the country," he added.

Highlighting their confidence on the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), Faisal Kundi said that the ECP would take all possible measures to ensure free, fair and transparent elections across the country. "PPP respect the senior politicians of the country but believe that now youth should be given chance to play their active role in the politics", he said.

Faisal Kundi said that Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had addressed the six workers convention in which he briefed about the performance of 16 months of the government.

Secretary Information appreciated the office bearers and party workers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter for conducting a successful 'Workers Convention' of the party chief in the province.

CS Punjab meets CEC

ISLAMABAD (Chief Secretary Punjab) has met Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Both exchanged views on election in Punjab and the matters related to the arrangements for election during the meeting.

Chief Secretary reached office of Punjab Election Commission and met CEC therein. According to sources chief secretary Punjab gave briefing to CEC about arrangements for general elections while CEC directed to ensure fool proof arrangements for election in Punjab.

Taxes, hike in electricity tariff matter: JI files appeal plea in SC against registrar office objections

ISLAMABAD (Online): JI has filed appeal in Supreme Court (SC) against registrar office objection on its constitutional petition on the matter of taxes and hike in electricity tariff. The JI has taken plea that registrar office raised baseless objections over the petition.

In the appeal it was said SC has declared supply of electricity in its several decisions a basic right.

The point raised by JI is not personal but it is of collective nature. SC has declared several petitions with reference to power tariff maintainable in the past. The objections cannot be raised on the petition in connection with provision of basic rights. Order be issued for fixing the constitutional petition for hearing by nullifying the registrar objections. It is pertinent to mention that SC registrar had raised objections saying under what capacity you can file this petition. You have no relevance with this matter.

Therefore, it should be told before hand what is your right to application in this matter.

ATC adjourns hearing of bail pleas of Imran, Shah till Nov 28

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) has adjourned till November 28 hearing of bail plea of chairman PTI in three cases and Shah Mehmood Qureshi in two cases due to non availability of investigation officer.

PTI lawyers Ali Bokhari and others appeared in the court of Judge Abul Hasanat Zulfqarnain during the hearing of the case Thursday. Prosecutor requested the court to give time in connection with arguments. Upon it Khalid Yousuf Chaudhry advocate said the court had issued order on previous hearing. State will give arguments today.

Mian Javed says: Fair, transparent elections should be held in country

ISLAMABAD (Online): PML-N leader Mian Javed Latif said that fair and transparent elections should be held in country.

Despite presence of constitution and law in Pakistan, country is being run with lawlessness and injustice.

Traditions based on injustice have made Pakistan hollow.

If they were not part of the sixteen-month national government, the gulf between the institutions and the people would have turned into a bloody civil war. In the fire of revenge, the opponents are taunting Nawaz Sharif.

Remaining people sitting in institutions are creating environment same as before 9 May.

An attempt is being made to make the elections controversial by creating an anti-Baluchistan narrative.

Anti Pakistan forces are standing behind Chairman PTI. Institutions should take notice.

While holding a press conference in National Press Club Islamabad, PML-N Leader Javed Latif further said that external pressure is being increased in Pakistan and decisions are being made on external pressure.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Mitsuhiro Wada addressing during a reception in the Honor of Senior journalists at his residence in Federal Capital.

Crackdown on illegally residing foreign nationals intensifies in Islamabad

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police have launched a robust campaign against foreign nationals unlawfully residing in the federal capital and nabbed 13 persons living without proper authorization.

Police spokesperson said that a joint team from Islamabad Capital Police's Bani Gala, Sabzi Mandi, and Shams Colony Police Stations successfully apprehended 13 individuals found to be residing in the country without proper authorization.

The detained foreign nationals were currently in the process of deportation, with 13 others handed over to the Islamabad administration for repatriation to their respective countries.

Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan underscored, "These measures are aimed at discouraging the unauthorized establishment of residency by foreign nationals within the federal capital's jurisdiction."

"The presence of illegal foreign nationals in Pakistan is only acceptable in accordance with national laws and regulations."

Moreover, Dr Khan highlighted the active pursuit of legal actions by Islamabad Capital Police against those individuals who facilitate illegal residency or employment of foreign nationals.

"Citizens are urged to uphold Pakistani laws and play their part in maintaining security by reporting any suspicious individuals or activities related to undocumented foreign nationals through the 'Pucar-15' helpline," he added.

DC Islamabad leads meeting, reviews DMA's performance

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a resolute move to enhance the cityscape and maintain its beautification standards, the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) convened a crucial review meeting to assess the performance of the Directorate of Municipal Administration (DMA).

The meeting, spearheaded by Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon, brought together key stakeholders, including the Chief Metropolitan Officer and Director DMA, to delve into the pressing issues plaguing Islamabad's urban landscape, ICT spokesman Dr Abdullah Tabasum talking to APP said on Thursday.

Director DMA provided a comprehensive briefing, outlining the directorate's efforts in addressing open spaces, advertising regulations, and the proliferation of unauthorized stalls. However, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad emphasized the need for further improvement and issued clear directives to address these concerns promptly.

One of the primary areas of focus was the registration of open spaces within Islamabad. The Deputy Commissioner directed the Chief Metropolitan Officer and Director of DMA to expedite this process, ensuring that all open spaces are accounted for and effectively managed.

PSDE's 3-day AGM, conference conclude

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: A three-day Annual General Meeting (AGM) and conference of the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE) titled "Breaking the Aid-Debt Chains" concluded on Thursday.

It was organized by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad in collaboration with Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU) Multan at the latter's Jinnah Auditorium, a news release here said.

The final day of the conference started with the third parallel technical session, during which several papers on diverse topics were presented by researchers from different parts of the country.

The topics of the papers included the lifetime cost of public sector employees, Public Sector Development Programme, public financial management, remittances, debt threat and gender.

The special lecture on "Fiscal Management for the Revival of the Economy" was delivered by Faisal Rashid of the Oxford Policy Management. He viewed that Pakistan's current situation was the most challenging for its economy.

He said the country had developed a major debt reliance to finance its high fiscal deficit as revenues continued to remain inadequate compared to the ever-increasing expenditures.

"The tax-GDP ratio remains low, while leakages in the energy sector have increased circular debt to unsustainable levels," he said, adding the pension schemes continued becoming unaffordable for the Federal Government, which also continued to overburden itself by undertaking development projects of even the devolved subjects.

In that scenario, he said, it was important to think of the possible options that Pakistan had to solve the problems.

"In the short to medium term, there is no doubt that Pakistan needs to turn towards the IMF (International Monetary Fund) for support," he said, adding a typical IMF programme required countries to focus on reducing fiscal deficits, and employ tight monetary policy.

In recent years, he said, the IMF had pressed Pakistan to reform its state-owned enterprises' governance and energy sectors on a priority basis.

Faisal Rashid said in the medium to long term, Pakistan needed to develop an economic reforms plan.



ISLAMABAD: Students carrying Palestinian flags, banners and placards as they hold pro-Palestinian demonstration to show solidarity with Palestinians outside Faisal Mosque.

Thousands of children take out rally in solidarity with Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): Thousands of children took out a rally here on Thursday against Israel's bombing of Gaza, assuring their moral support to the innocent people.

The rally, which began from Centaurs Chowk and culminated near Faisal Mosque was arranged by Jamaat-e-Islami (JI).

The participants were carrying banners and placards, inscribed with slogans such as "Free Palestine", "Down with Israel", and "Stop genocide in Palestine".

Addressing the participants Ameer JI, Siraj-ul-Haq demanded an immediate end to Israeli bombing in Gaza Strip.

"Gaza has become a graveyard. This gathering is a message for the oppressors that they must stop genocide," he added.

He said Israel was targeting civilians and infrastructure in densely populated civilian areas, which constituted war crimes.

The ameer said there was no respite for the people of Palestine, who had been enduring worst violence of modern age for the past several days.

He demanded that murderers and oppressors should be punished for their crimes against humanity.

He asked people to boycott all products of Israel.

He also called on international community to play its role for stopping bombing on Palestine.

He said that so far the world had abjectly failed to protect Gaza's hapless citizens from Israel's attacks.



ISLAMABAD: A group of Youth Representatives along with Tribal elders from Balochistan visiting Senate Museum at Parliament house.