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Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar has arrived in Abu Dhabi on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates.

PM arrives in UAE on two-day bilateral visit

ABU DHABI (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday arrived here on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Minister for Justice of the UAE Abdullah Sultan bin Awad Al Nuaimi and Pakistani diplomatic staff received the prime minister on his arrival at the Abu Dhabi's Al-Bateen Airport, a Prime Minister Office Press Release said. During his visit, the prime minister will meet President of the UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed.

The visit will also include signing of MoUs between Pakistan and the UAE in a range of areas including investment cooperation in the sectors of energy, port operations projects, waste water treatment, food security, logistics, mining, aviation, and banking and financial services.

Calls for peace:

Religious leaders advocate swift global action to end oppression in Gaza

LAHORE (APP): The leaders from various faiths on Sunday collectively implored the international community to promptly intervene in putting an end to Israel's aggressive actions and brutality in Gaza.

Addressing a press conference here at Lahore Press Club, the scholars and leaders from diverse religious backgrounds, including the Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, and the Chairman of the All Pakistan Minorities Alliance, Dr. Paul Bhatti emphasized that the events unfolding in Gaza transcend religious affiliations, asserting that these actions were not targeted

against any specific faith but rather against humanity.

They extended their plea to the United Nations, Europe, America, Britain, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, urging them to swiftly address the persecution of the oppressed Palestinian population and transition the current temporary ceasefire into a lasting resolution.

The leaders further advocated for the creation of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state, designating Al-Quds as its capital. Urging the international community to promptly intervene, they underscored the need for collective efforts to address the humanitarian crisis in

Gaza.

Leading the presser, Ashrafi who is also the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Religious Harmony, emphasized that Islamic countries and the global community must actively address the ongoing Israeli aggression in Gaza. He called for concerted efforts to put an end to Israeli fascism, highlighting the worldwide demand for cessation of the conflict in Gaza to facilitate humanitarian relief operations.

Ashrafi lamented the targeting of the Church Hospital in Gaza by Israel, noting that during Israeli attacks, the Church Hospital opened its doors to Muslims.

PTV has come long way during past 59 years: Solangi

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Sunday that Pakistan Television, the national broadcaster of Pakistan had come a long way during past 59 years.

This he said while delivering his speech at PTV's 59th anniversary celebration ceremony here.

Congratulating the employees of PTV on the 59th anniversary of the founding of Pakistan Television, Murtaza Solangi said 59 years ago in Lahore, his teacher Aslam Azhar started broadcast of PTV transmission by pitching a

tent in the lawn of an old building.

Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi himself had been a broadcaster and journalist, who had seen this journey himself, Murtaza Solangi remarked.

Appreciating the performance of the caretaker set up of Punjab, he said due to the changes in Punjab, Mohsin Naqvi was now looking like a benefactor to everyone. He said that Punjab had witnessed so many changes during his tenure as he would become "Sher Shah Suri" of the province.

Meanwhile in a celebration hosted by Pakistan Television Corporation

(PTV) for its 59th anniversary on Sunday, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi lauded the staff for their contributions.

He highlighted the beginning of a renaissance period for PTV, honoring the legacy of its first Managing Director Aslam Azhar. Solangi expressed gratitude to the dedicated PTV team, acknowledging their pivotal role in the television network's successful 59-year journey.

The event concluded with a ceremonial cake cutting, joined by Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi.

Pakistan is all set to plead its case in COP28

ISLAMABAD (APP): In the face of escalating climate challenges, Pakistan, a country contributing less than 1% to global greenhouse gas emissions, is confronting an outsized battle against climate adversities. As the world prepares for the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28), Pakistan's journey offers a compelling narrative of resilience and determination, according to a press release issued by the Ministry of Planning and Reforms here.

Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change is starkly evident.

The World Bank notes that the country's exposure to extreme weather events has risen dramatically, with the recent floods in Balochistan exemplifying this trend. These floods not only devastated communities but also highlighted the urgent need for climate-resilient strategies.

This disproportionate impact of global climate change on Pakistan has garnered attention at international forums like COP28,

where the nation's efforts and challenges will be under global scrutiny.

Despite its minimal contribution to global emissions, Pakistan stands at the forefront of experiencing the harsh realities of a warming planet. At the heart of Pakistan's response is the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2023, a comprehensive framework aimed at fostering resilience and sustainability.

The Ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives is aligning the future of Pakistan with the blueprint for a sustainable future, presented by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination.

The NAP 2023 is structured around six key pillars, each focusing on a critical area of climate adaptation and resilience. These pillars include Water Resources Management, Focusing on sustainable management and utilization of water resources to ensure water security in the face of changing climate conditions.

IMF reduces estimate of Pakistan's external debt requirement

ISLAMABAD (Online): International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reduced the estimate of loans required by Pakistan.

According to sources, the IMF has estimated Pakistan's external debt demand during the current fiscal year and the next fiscal year to be \$124 billion, which is \$8 billion less than the previous estimate.

2023-24 and the next financial year 2024-25, these estimates will be discussed further in the talks in February or March next year.

It should be remembered that four months ago, the IMF estimated this at 131 billion dollars, while in this way, the external public debt will reach 103 billion dollars in the total external debt, which is 5 billion dollars less than the previous estimate.

The main reason for the decline in Pakistan's demand for external debt is a reduction in the current account deficit, lower external debt repayments and debt restructuring by China.

FIR register case against Bajwa, Faiz Hameed excludes from cause list

ISLAMABAD (Online): The case of application for registration of case against former Army Chief General Retired Qamar Javed Bajwa and former General Retired Faiz Hameed has been removed from the cause list.

Islamabad High Court (IHC) removed from the cause list, the case scheduled for hearing on November 28 on the application of the registration case against Gen-

eral Retired Qamar Javed Bajwa and General Retired Faiz Hameed. High Court's website revealed that the case has been canceled from the November 28 cause list. It is being told that the IHC had fixed the request to register a case in FIA against former Army Chief General Retired Qamar Javed Bajwa and former DG ISI General Retired Faiz Hameed on November 28 for hearing.



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi along with Caretaker CM Punjab Mohsin Raza Naqvi cutting the 59th Anniversary cake of PTV Lahore Center.

IPP to ensure stability in country: Aleem Khan

LAHORE (APP): Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) President Abdul Aleem Khan on Sunday lauded the role played by the Pakistan Army in ensuring stability of the nation.

Addressing a workers' convention in Kamoke, he asserted the current state of stability owes much to the unwavering commitment of the armed forces, stating, "If this country is stable, then it is because of the Pakistan Army." The IPP president, while taking a dig at previous regimes, criticised the previous governments for making grand promises but failing to deliver. The seasoned politician asserted that, under his leadership, the party would not entertain any dissent against the military.

Talking on the local issues, Khan turned his attention to the concerns of the citizens of Kamonke. Acknowledging challenges including inadequate healthcare facilities, lack of clean water, and subpar infrastructure, he pledged that if the IPP assumed power, Kamonke would be transformed into a model city. Khan also promised the establishment of a cardiology hospital and an overall improvement in the town's amenities.

He pointed out that the 18-month PDM government, which he referenced, was remembered for achievements and failures alike, with electricity bills becoming a lingering reminder of its tenure.

The IPP president accused previous rulers of corruption, asserting that the people's trust in the system had been eroded.

Al-Azizia, Avenfield references will be heard today: IHC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) will hear the appeals against the conviction of former Prime Minister and leader of Muslim League (N) Nawaz Sharif in Al-Azizia, Avenfield references from Monday. A decision will also be taken to continue the hearing on a daily basis.

Nawaz Sharif's lawyers will prepare the summary of arguments and present it in the court.

IHC Chief Justice Amir Farooq, Justice Mian Gul Hasan Aurangzeb will conduct the hearing, the former Prime Minister will appear along with his legal team.

Looking ahead, Aleem outlined a series of economic reforms and social welfare initiatives, his party intends to implement.

Khan announced party's manifesto plans to provide free electricity for the poor, double electricity prices for the affluent, and offer interest-free loans to the youth.

The minimum wage for workers would be raised to 50 thousand rupees, and efforts would be made to generate employment opportunities through the establishment of new industries, he added. Likewise, as a part of his vision for a prosperous Pakistan, Khan pledged to build a dispensary in every union council, ensuring the provision of free treatment and medicines for the public.

He undermined the need to boost industry and increase exports to provide ample job opportunities for the youth. In a bid to alleviate the financial burden on the people, Khan proposed reducing the price of petrol for motorcycles by half, with the remaining cost covered by larger vehicles.

Strengthening Pak-Saudi skills development cooperation need of hour

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Deputy Governor of the Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC) welcomed the Pakistani delegation.

The meeting was held in a very cordial manner. The Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC) team gave a detailed presentation on the working of TVTC.

SAPM, Jawad Sohrab Malik appreciated the great role of the Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC) in the skills development of Saudi nationals.

Headed by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD), Jawad Sohrab Malik, a Pakistani delegation on Sunday visited the Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC) of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh.

The delegation comprised Ambassador of Pakistan Ahmad Farooq, Director General of Bureau of Emigration & Overseas Employment (BEOE) Akram Khawaja, Joint Sec-



KAMOKHE: Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) leaders Jahangir Khan Tareen, Abdul Aleem Khan and others pose for a group photo during the party's workers convention in Kamoke.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed, Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George, Islamic scholar Abdul Khabeer Azad and others showing solidarity during National Message Pakistan Peace Conference, at a local hotel in Provincial Capital.

Nationwide anti-polio drive to begin today

ISLAMABAD (APP): A five-day anti-polio campaign will begin across the country from tomorrow to eradicate the crippling disease.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, more than 7.4 million children up to five years of age will be administered polio drops during the campaign.

Thirty one thousand teams have been constituted to vaccinate the children.

Likewise, in Balochistan, more than eleven thousand teams have been constituted for the door to door vaccination drive to inoculate 2.5 million children up to the age of five years.

According to the polio emergency operation center, vaccination campaign in Quetta, Pishin and Qilla Abdullah has been continuing since Friday.

EPC to issue 327 electoral symbols list for general elections 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has prepared list of electoral symbols, encompassing over 300 options for political parties and independent candidates alike.

The list boasts a diverse array of symbols, ranging from eagle, lion, and crane to arrows, swords, and bats.

The list includes representations as varied as cars, jeeps, bulbs, ducks, birds, and flowers.

Even everyday items like soap dishes and thermoses have found their place among the plethora of symbols, creating a unique visual narrative for the electorate.

With a total of 327 electoral symbols, the ECP ensured an extensive selection process that allows political parties and independent candidates to align their

campaigns with symbols that resonate with their ethos and communicate effectively with the voters.

Sources within the ECP claimed the much-anticipated list of election symbols is set to be unveiled next week.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announcing the reserved verdict ordered Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) intra-party elections within 20 days.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) said PTI did not conduct transparent elections as per the Constitution.

The PTI should conduct the election within 20 days under the Constitution. The ECP said that intra-party election reports submit the report in seven days after the election.



RIYADH: SAPM, Jawad Sohrab Malik meets Engr. Abdulrahman Almarwani, Deputy Governor, Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC) in Saudi Arabia.

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retary Emigration Aurangzeb, and Community Welfare Attachés, said a press release.

The Saudi side was represented by Deputy Governor Engr. Abdulrahman Almarwani, Director General of International Cooperation Eng. Sultan Alsunaya, Supervisor at the Deputy Governor Office for Training and Quality Policies, Dr. Khaled Al-Othman, and International Cooperation Specialist at the Directorate of International Cooperation, Khaled Alshehri.

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Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Lessons in complicity

If there is one takeaway from Israel's war on Gaza — other than the fact that Israel is more than happy to commit a genocide and get away with it — it is that world powers, media (Western and some in the Global South), the entertainment industry, and even the human rights industry, are all more than capable of not just cynicism but sheer hypocrisy when it comes to their practise of rights-based discourse. As the 'truce' in Gaza began not two days back, some of the most heartbreaking scenes unfolded: Palestinian families reuniting with their children and loved ones released by Israel, some after years and years of detention for crimes as small as stone-throwing. Some children arrested years back have returned as full-blown adults, having spent years in Israeli prisons without recourse to a justice system or anything resembling justice at all. Some of the Hamas-held Israeli captives too got to see their families as a result of the temporary truce. More hostages on both sides are set for release. In total, 39 Palestinians and 13 Israelis were released, while Hamas also released ten Thai and one Filipino hostages.

As Gazans return home to a flattened city, whose every corner screams of the genocidal war waged on it, there are questions over what possible justification could ever be used for what Israel did to Gazans and those also in the West Bank. Nearly 15,000 Palestinians — including more than 6000 children — have been killed in Gaza since October 7 while more than 200 Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces and settlers in the West Bank. These numbers could have been far less had Israel agreed to Hamas' demand for a prisoner swap early on after October 7. But Israel seemed to have had one goal: flatten Gaza. Which it has, rendering its 2.3 million people starved, dehydrated, buried under rubble or running for cover from skies that rained down bombs relentlessly. With 137 aid trucks entering Gaza on Friday, aid agencies have already said much more will be needed for a starving population that also faces growing incidence of disease. Just one look at the Palestinian prisoners' details is enough to understand the brutality of Israeli occupation, many of the Palestinians having been arrested for offences such as carrying and manufacturing knives and daggers, illegally entering Israel without a permit, throwing stones or associating with hostile organizations. In the past 20 years, 13000 Palestinian children have been arrested or detained by Israel. No tears were shed by the international community, no opeds were written, no panels were arranged by incensed American or European politicians — not for these children. Israel had held 5200 Palestinians in total in its prisons, a number that increased by 3000 after October 7.

Beyond corridors: empowering Pakistan



By Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

Pakistan's ability to maximize the benefits of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) hinges on the formulation of a practical and inclusive industrial policy. The success of CPEC in fostering Pakistan's industrial development necessitates a strategic approach that actively involves stakeholders, particularly those from medium and small industries. Without a comprehensive policy framework addressing the needs of a diverse industrial landscape, the nation may fall short of fully capitalizing on CPEC's transformative potential.

As Pakistan navigates the transformative corridors of CPEC, the wisdom of inclusive industrial policies becomes paramount. The journey towards sustainable progress echoes the sentiment that a nation's strength lies in empowering every facet of its economy. With this in mind, a pertinent question arises: Can Pakistan truly harness the full potential of CPEC without a well-crafted industrial policy that actively involves stakeholders, especially those from medium and small industries.

A critical examination of the committees overseeing CPEC's industrial policies becomes imperative. How can the composition of these committees be scrutinized to ensure diverse representation, particularly including stakeholders from medium and small industries, fostering an inclusive approach to decision-making?

In the pursuit of trans-

formative change, there's an inherent risk of bias. How can CPEC strike a balance to ensure that industrialists, benefiting from the current system, do not resist reforms that might disrupt their positions, and how can diverse stakeholder interests be accommodated?

Considerations must extend beyond immediate gains. In the intricate web of CPEC, how might we ensure that the lens through which industrialists view their involvement doesn't solely focus on the gains of their enterprises? Instead, how can it broaden to encompass broader socio-economic considerations — such as ensuring fair resource distribution, prioritizing the welfare of workers, and championing environmental sustainability?

The historical imbalance in Pakistan's industrial landscape is a challenge that CPEC must confront. How can policies be crafted to rectify historical disparities where large industrialists have thrived, leaving smaller enterprises struggling, and how can the inclusion of diverse stakeholders be a driving force in achieving a more equitable distribution of benefits?

A comprehensive analysis of the committees responsible for overseeing the industrial policies within CPEC is of utmost importance. It is essential to scrutinize the intricacies of how these committees are structured and operate to guarantee a fair and effective decision-making process. In seeking an answer to this question, the wisdom of iconic industrialist Henry Ford reverberates: "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." The essence of this quote encapsulates the essence of our inquiry. It underscores the importance not just of assembling diverse perspectives but of ensuring their

continual inclusion and collaboration, fostering a synergy that propels us toward genuine success.

As we envision the committees overseeing CPEC's industrial policies, we must view them not merely as bureaucratic entities but as dynamic hubs where the collective aspirations of a nation converge. Inclusive decision-making, where the voices of both large and small industries are harmonized, paves the way for a transformative journey. The success of these committees lies not just in their composition but in their commitment to maintaining a vibrant, ever-evolving collaboration that mirrors the diversity and dynamism of Pakistan's industrial terrain.

The journey toward comprehensive and inclusive decision-making within CPEC is a journey toward unlocking the true potential of Pakistan's industries. To echo the sentiments of Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, "Inclusive development is possible only when we foster the capabilities and participation of all individuals." It is in this spirit of fostering capabilities and participation, especially from medium and small industries, that the committees overseeing CPEC's industrial policies can truly become architects of transformative change. As they navigate the intricacies of decision-making, let them be guided by the understanding that true success lies in a collaborative and inclusive journey toward a more prosperous and harmonious future.

This scrutiny is indispensable for fostering an inclusive approach to decision-making, ensuring that the diverse needs and interests of all sectors within the industrial landscape are considered and addressed. This review is essential for ensuring fair growth. It means recognizing and considering the

contributions of different industries, no matter their size, when creating the overall industrial plans for CPEC.

As Pakistan confronts challenges in its industrial landscape, there arises a critical necessity for substantial reform, aligning with China's commitment to fostering progress and innovation. How can committees involved in CPEC navigate complexities without being encumbered by the fear of disrupting the status quo, and how can an inclusive policy approach be the cornerstone for meaningful and sustainable change?

Examining global examples from places like Vietnam, Bangladesh, South Korea, Ethiopia, and Colombia sheds light on how committees unafraid to challenge established norms have propelled significant progress, and what lessons Pakistan can glean from these instances to ensure that its current initiatives become a catalyst for genuine and lasting industrial advancement. Reminding again that the success of Pakistan in harnessing the transformative potential of CPEC lies in the formulation of a practical and inclusive industrial policy. As the nation embarks on this crucial journey, the path to progress demands a collaborative approach that actively includes stakeholders from medium and small industries. Only through such an inclusive strategy can CPEC evolve into a catalyst for genuine and sustainable industrial progress in Pakistan.

[The writer, serves as Secretary General of the Pakistan China Friendship Association's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter. With a passion for fostering international bonds, he also lends his expertise as a Senior Media Consultant based in Peshawar, can be contacted through syeed.gilani@gmail.com.]

Geoeconomic pivot



By Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

For nearly two years, the subject of geoeconomics has been discussed in Pakistan's academic and official echelons. In an article published in this paper in December 2021, this writer had discussed the prospects of geoeconomics benefiting Pakistan by leveraging our economic geography to address geostrategic challenges — it being understood that geoeconomics is not a replacement for geopolitics and that both must work in tandem.

However, it is important to recognise that Pakistan's pivot to geoeconomics is different from the way the term evolved in the Cold War context. US strategists proposed to use geoeconomics to gain geopolitical advantage against adversaries. An elaborate menu of economic instruments was developed: promoting or blocking investments, market access, or infrastructure projects and imposing economic sanctions, tariff wars, and technology wars. This represented a skewed dimension of geoeconomics — only stronger economies, while working against vulnerable ones. This is not the geoeconomic pivot to which Pakistan aspires. For Pakistan, the pivot to geoeconomics would mean benefiting from our unique economic geography.

Pakistan is at the confluence of three major theatres of global contestation. First is the Indo-Pacific region, which extends from Japan through the Pacific and Indian Oceans and ends up in India to our east. The region is at the heart of the ongoing US-

China competition. Pakistan, as a neighbour of both India and China, cannot shy away from the challenges emanating from this region.

Second is the Middle East, which extends from North Africa across the Arab heartland and ends in Iran to our southwest. Momentous winds of change are sweeping across this vast region. We can witness these in the Iran-Saudi rapprochement brokered by China, waning US influence in the region, and the Israel-Hamas conflict, which has disrupted the Arab-Israeli normalisation process. As a neighbour of Iran, and located in the vicinity of the Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia, which itself is undergoing a socio-economic transformation of historic proportions, Pakistan cannot stay aloof from these developments.

Third is the Central Asian region, which is connected to both Russia and China, and straddles the energy and mineral-rich lands down to Afghanistan, Pakistan's northwestern neighbour. Russia sees this region as its backyard, while China and Turkey are both seeking to extend their influence. Here, too, the US seems to be losing ground. Any changes across Central Asia, particularly in Afghanistan, are bound to be of direct concern to Pakistan.

While this economic geography is throwing up geostrategic challenges as major power competition intensifies in all the three regions, there will also be opportunities which Pakistan can avail only if it plays its geoeconomic hand in tandem with pursuing its geopolitical goals, while understanding its limitations. These challenges and opportunities have been discussed at length in a recent book-

let, *Geoeconomic Pivot*, authored by Moeed Yusuf and Rabia Akhtar, which was discussed at a recent conference in Islamabad. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

UN FAO's 40 ambitious projects to revolutionize agriculture in Pakistan: Country Rep Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) has unveiled a dynamic portfolio of 40 diverse projects strategically dispersed across various regions of Pakistan.

These initiatives, with varying scopes, financial parameters, and target audiences, underscore the FAO's commitment to fortifying the agriculture and food security sectors in the country.

In an exclusive panel

interview with the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), Country Representative Florence Rolle and Assistant FAOR (Programs) Dr. Aamer Irshad highlighted the proactive role of the FAO in numerous initiatives and programs aimed at strengthening Pakistan's agriculture and food security sectors. These initiatives span a spectrum, including enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainability, supporting livestock and fisheries

development, and implementing food security programs to alleviate hunger and malnutrition.

Rolle outlined FAO's 2023-2027 priorities with Pakistan: enhancing food availability, strengthening climate-responsive planning, and improving agricultural value chains. The focus includes nutrition policy, climate frameworks, support for enterprises, disease control, and women's empowerment in agriculture.

She explained that

project selection is based on a thorough consultative process, aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027. The FAO's Country Programming Framework (CPF) for 2023-2027 involves consultations with relevant ministries, departments, academia, UN agencies, and resource partners at both federal and provincial levels. The FAO's involvement extends beyond traditional agricultural support.



RIYADH: SAPM, Jawad Sohrab Malik visits Tamkeen HR in KSA.

SAPM visits Tamkeen HR office to discuss paramedical manpower job opportunities

ISLAMABAD (APP): SAPM on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Jawad Sohrab Malik visited Tamkeen Human Resources along with Deputy Head of Mission Moazzam Ali, Community Welfare Attaches, DG Bureau of Emigration, and Joint Secretary Emigration on Sunday. He was received by CEO Tamkeen Faris Al-Hanaki. He was briefed by the CEO about the working of the Company, said a

press release. CEO HR informed that there was a lot of demand for manpower, especially in the healthcare sector, particularly for paramedical staff.

Tamkeen was ready to fully cooperate and engage with OEC and other companies to increase the manpower import from Pakistan. He also informed that the hospitality sector was another potential sector in which there was great demand.

SAPM assured full cooperation for expedition export of manpower from Pakistan.

He also informed that a new Saudi desk has been set up in the Ministry of OP&HRD Pakistan for solving all the issues of Saudi recruitment companies.

SAPM also requested cooperation in enhancing the level of skills of Pakistani workers and professionals to meet the market demands of KSA.

PR all set to procure 230 passenger coaches, 820 High Capacity Wagons

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways is set to procure 230 passenger coaches and 820 High Capacity Wagons under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) aiming help to improve the speed of the trains and ensure adherence to fixed timings.

"Out of the total, around 46 Completely-Built-Up (CBU) passenger coaches have been procured up till now while the remaining 184 would be manufactured in the country and the coaches would be able to travel at the speed of 160km/h," said an official in the

Ministry of Railways. "Pakistan Railways is putting maximum efforts to complete rehabilitation and reconstruction work on the railway track, improving the speed of the locomotives to carry passengers to their respective destinations on time," he added.

The infrastructure, including the track and signalling system from Karachi to Peshawar, Main Line-I (ML-I), and doubling of track from Lahore to Peshawar (462.20 Km) was also being revamped, he added.

Pak Olive National Gala concludes

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a concerted effort to raise awareness about the quality standards in the Virgin Olive Oil industry, a Virgin Olive Oil Competition recently took center stage, spotlighting excellence and fostering a culture of quality within the sector.

The conclusion of the competition marked a significant moment as awards were distributed to commend outstanding achievements, said a news release issued here on Sunday.



LAHORE: People enjoying the second day of exhibition at the Pak China Industry Exhibition at the Expo Center.

40% windfall tax on banks' profits faces uncertainty

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) notification imposing a 40% additional tax on banks' windfall profits has been met with uncertainty as it requires approval from the National Assembly by February 19, 2024. The formation of the National Assembly is not expected until after the upcoming general elections, raising concerns about the timely implementation of the tax

measure. The FBR issued SRO 1588(1)/2023 on November 21, 2023, invoking its powers under Section 99D(2) of the Income Tax Ordinance to tax banks' windfall profits. The notification outlines the calculation method and formula for determining the 40% tax. However, Section 99D(3) of the Income Tax Ordinance mandates that the federal government obtain approval from the National Assembly for such a tax measure.

FBR releases updated Income tax rules 2023

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has released an updated version of the Income Tax Rules 2002, incorporating all amendments made up to November 24, 2023.

These amendments include those introduced in the current fiscal year's federal budget, as well as any changes made since June 30.

The primary goal of issuing these updated rules is to simplify the tax process for taxpayers.

Momin urges Govt to prioritize uninterrupted power supply for industrial, agri sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Pakistan Business Forum Lahore Momin Ali Malik Sunday urged the government to prioritize uninterrupted power and gas supply for the industrial sector and agriculture sector during the winter season. Talking to a delegation of industrialists, he said, "The industrial sector plays a pivotal role in the economic growth and uninterrupted gas and power

supply is essential for its smooth functioning," said a news release issued here.

"This will not only sustain production but also safeguard jobs and contribute to overall economic stability besides helping export targets," he said. "Timely availability of power is crucial for agricultural activities, especially during winter, to support processes such as crop drying and irrigation."

Energy secretary to brief senate committee

ISLAMABAD (Online): The matter of non-implementation of the recommendations of the Senate Energy Committee, Secretary Energy will give a briefing to the committee today (Monday).

The meeting of the committee will be held in the Parliament House under the chairmanship of Senator Saifullah Abru. In the meeting, Secretary Energy and MD NESPAK will explain the non-implementation.

Naqvi inaugurates Cavalry underpass completed in record time of two months

Reviews police data report, praises crime reduction trend

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated Lahore's Cavalry Ground Underpass on Sunday, which has been completed in a record time of two-and-a-half months, instead of six months.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, he congratulated the people of Lahore on completion of the underpass. He felicitates people of Lahore, especially the residents of Gulberg and Defence on the completion of the Cavalry underpass.

He said that people should confine themselves within their houses on holidays for reduction in smog. They should not come out of their houses unnecessarily. "If we take care of our environment, then positive changes will come into effect," he added. The level of smog has reduced due to lessening of traffic during previous three days, he added. "We had to close the main road due to construction work and that's why Cavalry underpass was a difficult project," he said and added that with the opening of Ghora Chowk flyover on Dec 7, the route would become signal-free from the Centre Point up to Defence Mor. About two lakh vehicles would pass through the road daily after opening of Cavalry underpass. People had to stop at three signals earlier, he added. "We are focusing more on the three important projects namely Lahore, Rawalpindi Ring Roads and the Bund Road project and striving for an early completion of these projects," he added.

DG LDA, his team and the contractor completed the Cavalry underpass by working day and night, he said.



LAHORE: A group photo of Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi along with Caretaker CM Punjab Mohsin Raza Naqvi and other members during 59th Anniversary of PTV Lahore Center.

Azam Khan slapped hefty fine for Palestine sticker on bat in National T20

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Pakistani batter Azam Khan has found himself at the centre of controversy during a National T20 Cup match against Lahore Blues, reports on social media claim.

The batter has been fined 50% of his match fees for affixing a sticker of the Palestine flag on his bat. The authorities have warned Azam Khan of potential suspension if he persists in using the flag sticker, reports say.

Earlier during the world cup 2023 match against Sri Lanka, wicket keeper batter Muhammad Rizwan chose to dedicate the win to the oppressed Palestinians in Gaza.

Rizwan took the opportunity to express his deep-rooted solidarity with the Palestinian cause via X. It was reported that Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had asked Rizwan to delete the post, but he did not comply with it.

Notable, Pakistan ex-skipper Babar Azam also posted in favour of Gaza right after the team's return to Pakistan, and after he had left captaincy.



SWABI: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali, Chairman Higher Education Commission Professor Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed and Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr. Nasir Jamal Khattak addressing the 3rd Convocation of University of Swabi.

CM visits MDCAT center at AWKUM

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice @ Syed Arshad Hussain Shah paid a short visit to Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan on Sunday to take stock of the arrangements put in place for holding Medical and Dental College Admissions Test (MDCAT) in the centre established in the premises of the University.

The concerned authorities on duty in the centre briefed the Chief Minister about the arrangements made for the MDCAT, and said that foolproof arrangements in all respects have been put in place for holding the test in a transparent manner.

The Chief Minister was informed that a total of 5443 candidates were registered in Mardan centre for appearing in the MDCAT adding that entry of all irrelevant persons into the premises of the centre is prohibited whereas all kinds of electronic gadgets including cell phones, wrist watches, etc. are banned in the premises. It was further told that a complete body search of all the candidates and supervising staff has been ensured while mobile service in the area has been suspended through the Pakistan Telecommunications Authority.

The Chief Minister was further informed that the required strength of supervising staff has also been ensured for conducting the test in the desired manner whereas Section 144 of CrPC has been invoked by the district administration to ban the use of all kinds of electronic gadgets in the vicinity of the centre.

China gears up to mitigate smog in Punjab

ISLAMABAD (INP): China and Pakistan are collaborating to tackle the hazardous smog and air pollution threatening the lives of over 100 million residents in Punjab province.

Three areas have been identified for China-Pakistan partnership to help Punjab address the dangerous atmospheric toxicity that has enveloped many districts over the last two months, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday.

One area of cooperation is conducting artificial rain in smog-affected localities.

A Punjab government official told Gwadar Pro that cloud seeding is the most effective method for inducing artificial rain, adding that arrangements with Chinese experts have been finalised.

"Chinese experts will soon visit Pakistan," he added. Artificial rain, or cloud seeding, is a weather modification technique involving the dispersion of chemicals into clouds from an aircraft to encourage precipitation.

It is used to induce rainfall in drought-stricken or pollution-laden areas.

The second area of collaboration involves using Chinese anti-smog technology by installing smog towers in Lahore and other parts of the province.

Progress was made following a successful meeting between Punjab CM Mohsin Naqvi and Chinese Consul General Lahore Zhao Shiren.

According to the Chinese Consul General, good air quality is essential for the people of Lahore.

The Chinese Consulate Lahore has provided comprehensive documents regarding smog-eating towers built in China to the Chief Minister Office Task Force Smog.

Hotels business centres sealed for violating smog lockdown

SIALKOT (APP): The local administration sealed six hotels, eight business centres and Sunday Bazar Imam Sahib for violating the smart lockdown to combat smog. Similarly, 11 business centers including a school were sealed in Daska and 12 people were detained. Over 108 business centers have been sealed since Friday and 52 people were arrested for violating government instructions and a fine of Rs.5,80,000 was imposed. Meanwhile, during the smog lockdown in Lahai Bazar under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner (AC) Sialkot Ghulam Sarwar, a trader resisted and took out a gun.

Cycling rally held in Lahore to raise awareness about smog

LAHORE (APP): A bicycle rally was held from Liberty to Valencia Town to raise awareness about dangers of smog and cycling promotion, here on Sunday.

The personnel of the Police Friendly Patrolling Unit (PFPU) also took part in the rally specially. The look of the city fades due to smog, an elderly citizen told APP while taking part in the rally. He said the blurring was not due to fog but smog, whose damages to human health were numerous.

Around 300 people took part in the bicycle rally. Women and children also participated in the rally from Liberty and reiterated their commitment to make the city smog-free.

The Police Unit, participating in the event, specially made arrangements to create awareness about causes of smog and the preventive measures.

The rally passed through Barkat Market, Jinnah Hospital, Johar Town and Shaukat Khanum before reaching Valencia Town. An official at Deputy Commissioner's office said millions of vehicles ply The Mall road everyday, adding to smoke pollution.

Smog lockdown continues in Sargodha

SARGODHA (APP): A smart lockdown to contain smog was observed across the district on Sunday.

Action was also taken against industrial units, brick kilns, vehicle owners and farmers who caused air pollution and smog. Since April 1, Rs. 5.9 million fines and 61 cases have been registered.

These details were given by Deputy Commissioner Captain (Rtd) Shoaib Ali about the implementation of smart lockdown orders to control smog and steps taken by the district administration.

The DC said that after following the instructions of the Punjab government, educational institutions remained completely closed in all tehsils of the district from Friday to Sunday, while shops, shopping centers, hotels and restaurants were allowed to open after 3 o'clock.

International News

Thousands march in Indonesia, Canada calling for permanent ceasefire in Gaza

News Desk

JAKARTA: Thousands of Indonesian protesters turned out for a peaceful march in solidarity with Palestine on Sunday, as they called for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

Indonesians from various cities marched through the streets of Karawang, West Java, mostly dressed in white and wearing traditional Palestinian scarves, as they waved Palestinian flags and chanted "Free Palestine."

The demonstration in Karawang was the latest in several huge protests staged across Indonesia since Israel began its deadly onslaught on Palestinian civilians in Gaza last month. Indonesians in Bali, North Sulawesi and Depok, West Java, also took to the streets over the weekend in similar marches.

Sunday's protest came on the third day of a four-day cease-fire that has allowed humanitarian aid into the besieged strip, after Israel agreed to stop the daily bombardment in exchange for the release of its hostages held by the Gaza-based militant group Hamas.

"We are calling for a permanent ceasefire ... We also demand the immediate delivery of critical humanitarian aid to Palestinians in need," protest coordinator Cecep Jasim told Media.

"These protests are important, especially for the international community, so that we can show what Israel is doing to Palestine is an act of terrorism that we must fight against," he said. "The situation in Gaza right now is a product of Israeli violence that has hurt people's hearts across the globe."

Since early October, Israel has killed at least 14,800 people in the besieged Palestinian enclave and wounded tens of thousands more. The Israeli military has dropped about 40,000 tons of bombs on Gaza, authorities in the strip said, and carried out attacks on crucial public facilities, including hospitals and schools.

Indonesia has long been a staunch supporter of Palestine, with its people and authorities seeing Palestinian statehood as mandated by their own constitution, which calls for the abolition of colonialism.

INP adds: Thousands of protesters carried placards, waved Palestinian flags and chanted slogans before Canada's Parliament in Ottawa, demanding a permanent ceasefire in the war between Israel and Hamas.

The diverse group included Palestinian, Arab, Muslim, Jewish, anti-war, labor and social justice organizations.

The rally followed an online petition presented to lawmakers on Friday with 286,719 signatures—said to be the most of any parliamentary e-petition—urging Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to press for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

LAHORE: A group photo of Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi along with Caretaker CM Punjab Mohsin Raza Naqvi and other members during 59th Anniversary of PTV Lahore Center.



A Palestinian checks the damage in a street in the aftermath of an Israeli raid in Jenin, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa pose for a photo prior to the 10th trilateral foreign ministers' meeting in Busan, South Korea

China, Japan, South Korea agree to boost trilateral ties, seek summit

News Desk

SEOUL: The foreign ministers of China, Japan and South Korea agreed on Sunday to restart cooperation among the Asian neighbours and pave the way for a summit of their three leaders in the latest move to ease tensions in the vital region. Even as China and the United States mend frayed ties, including a summit this month between Presidents Xi Jinping and Joe Biden, Beijing is concerned that Washington and its key regional allies are strengthening their three-way partnership.

Beijing, Seoul and Tokyo had agreed on annual summits from 2008 to bolster diplomatic and economic exchanges, but two-way rows and the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted the plan, with the three leaders last meeting in 2019.

The three top diplomats met in the South Korean port of Busan for their first such meeting since 2019, after officials of the three countries agreed in September to arrange a trilateral summit at the "earliest convenient time".

The three ministers did not specify a timeframe for the trilateral summit.

61 trucks deliver aid in northern Gaza: UN

WASHINGTON (INP): The United Nations said 61 trucks carrying medical supplies, food and water had delivered their payloads in northern Gaza, as a pause in fighting allows aid to enter the besieged coastal territory.

Another 200 trucks had been dispatched to the Gaza Strip from Nitzana, Israel, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in a statement, with 187 of them having made it past the border by the early evening local time.

Eleven ambulances, three coaches and a flatbed were delivered to Al-Shifa hospital, which had seen heavy fighting in recent days, "to assist with evacuations," the statement said.

"The longer the pause lasts, the more aid humanitarian agencies will be able to send in and across Gaza," it added, thanking the Palestinian and Egyptian Red Crescent groups.

The day prior, when a temporary truce between Israel and Hamas began in order to facilitate the hostage and prisoner exchange, a total of 137 trucks had delivered aid in Gaza, according to the UN.

"We welcome the release of more hostages today and renew our call for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages," the OCHA said.

"And we hope the release of more Palestinian detainees brings relief to their families and loved ones."

Exchanges continued into early Sunday, local time, with Hamas expected to free a total of 50 hostages during the four-day truce in exchange for 150 Palestinian prisoners, under an agreement brokered by Qatar, Egypt and the United States.

Hamas fighters snatched around 240 people when they broke through Gaza's militarized border with Israel on October 7, killing about 1,200 Israelis and foreigners, according to Israeli authorities.

Following the deadliest attack in its history, Israel launched an air, artillery and naval bombardment alongside a ground offensive to destroy Hamas, killing nearly 15,000 people, mostly civilians and including thousands of children, according to the Hamas government in Gaza.

'Act immediately,' says UN chief on visit to frozen but rapidly melting Antarctica

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Ahead of the COP28 conference in Dubai, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres says that while the frozen but rapidly melting Antarctica has been called the sleeping giant, the continent is now being awoken by the adverse impacts of climate change.

The UN chief is on a three-day official visit to Antarctica, which regulates the planet's climate because its ice and cold waters drive major ocean currents. Chilean President Gabriel Boric joined him for an official visit to Chile's Eduardo Frei Air Force Base on King George Island. He was also scheduled to visit the Collins and Nelson glaciers by boat.

"Fossil fuel pollution is heating our planet, unleashing climate anarchy in Antarctica," said Guterres, adding that the Southern Ocean has taken the majority of the heat from global warming.

"That means ice is melting into the ocean at record rates. Melting ice means sea levels are rising at record rates," he explained.

"That directly endangers the lives and livelihoods of people in coastal communities across the globe. It means homes are no longer insurable. And it threatens the very existence of some small island states."

Antarctic sea ice is at an all-time low. New figures show that this September, it was 1.5 million square kilometers smaller than the average for the time of year—"an area roughly the size of Portugal, Spain, France, and Germany combined."

Guterres noted that the Greenland ice sheet is also melting fast, losing over 250 gigatons of ice every year.

Another Israeli-owned ship seized in Indian Ocean amidst rising tensions

WASHINGTON (INP): An Israeli-owned ship became the target of a suspected drone attack in the Indian Ocean the other day.

The information was disclosed by an anonymous US defense official. The vessel in question, CMA CGM Symi, fell victim to the attack in international waters, amidst heightened concerns for regional shipping routes during Israel's conflict with Gaza.

The assault on the CMA CGM Symi occurred shortly before the commencement of a four-day ceasefire on Friday, according to Lebanon's Al-Mayadeen news network.

The risk management company Ambrey suggested that the attack was likely aimed at the vessel due to its Israeli association through the Israeli-owned shipping management company, Eastern Pacific Shipping.

Govt to enhance standard of medical education

ISLAMABAD (APP): The quality of medical and dental education will be enhanced at par with international standards, considering local needs and ground realities.

Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Medical Education and Patient Care and Minister of State Prof. Dr. Aamir Bilal said that while chairing a high-level meeting at Pakistan Medical Council and Dental Council (PMDC) head office for the promotion of medical education and quality health care in the country.

He said there will be no compromise on the minimum standards and quality. The minister said that PMDC has a pivotal role in ensuring the quality and standardization of medical and dental education, professional practice, and ethical standards in the country.

He said that all necessary steps will be taken to revise existing rules and regulations of PMDC including the syllabus for MDCAT, curriculum for

undergraduate medical dental education, and accreditation standards for the accreditation of medical and dental institutes.

He emphasized that it will be ensured to standardize the MDCAT, NRE and NEB exams to stringent quality assessments, updated curricula, and modern teaching methodologies to produce competent and globally competitive healthcare professionals which are safe for society.

The meeting was attended by PMDC council members, the Federal Special Secretary for Health, President CPSP, members of the task force and sub-committees, nominee of HEC, nominees of the provincial health departments, present and former vice-chancellors, deans, experts in the field, representatives of nursing council from across the country.

The meeting was also attended by Federal Secretary Health Iftikhar Ali Shallwani and Prof. Dr. Rizwan Taj President of PMDC.



Special Assistance to Prime Minister on human rights and women empowerment Mushaah Mullick addressing a seminar in Islamabad to express solidarity with the Muslims of Kashmir, Palestine and around the globe over gross human rights violations.

Anti-power pilferage campaign: Rs 34b recovered; 125, 142 people held nationwide

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the government's initiative, the fruits of effective actions against electricity thieves across the country began to emerge.

According to the statistics from September 7 to October 31, Rs 34 billion have been recovered from across the country and 125,142 people have been arrested.

From September 2023 to October 2023, losses due to electricity theft decreased by Rs 12 billion.

From November 1 to November 19, 14,769 people have been arrested while Rs 36,547 million have been recovered.

According to the statistics from November 1 to November 19, 98 people were arrested from Islamabad and Rs 175 million were recovered.

A total of 1617 people were arrested from Gujranwala, Faisalabad and Multan while Rs. 1439 million were recovered.

In the crackdown against electricity theft, a total of 121 people were arrested from Peshawar, Hyderabad, Sukkur and Quetta and Rs 520 million were recovered.

The relevant institutions are determined to continue the crackdown against electricity theft.

Search operation conducted against illegal foreigners

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: According to the details, the Islamabad Capital Police Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) conducted a search and combing operation against illegal foreigners at Shahzad Town police station jurisdiction, a public relations

officer said. He said that, following the special directives of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the search and combing operations are being conducted in different areas of the city, to ensure the safety and security of the Islamabad citizens.



Following these directives, a search and combing operation was conducted in different areas of Shahzad Town police stations jurisdiction by CTD, QRF and local police teams under the supervision of DSP CTD. During the search and combing operation 32 houses and 64 individuals were thoroughly checked. ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan said that the purpose of the search and combing operations was to heighten the security in the Federal Capital. All zonal officers were directed to continue these operations in their respective areas. Citizens are also requested to cooperate with police during the checking.

52 absconders involved in heinous crime held

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Police have arrested 52 absconders and proclaimed offenders involved in heinous crimes during the last week, a public relations officer said.

Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, he said special tasks were assigned to all senior police officials to ensure the arrest of proclaimed offenders and absconders involved in heinous crimes. During the crack-

down, the Islamabad Capital Police teams have arrested 52 absconders and proclaimed offenders involved in heinous crimes during the last week. ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan said that the Islamabad Capital Police is taking all possible steps to eradicate crimes from the city, and those involved in heinous crimes and illegal activities will be dealt with iron hands. Safety of the lives and property of the citizens is the foremost priority of Islamabad Capital Police, he added.



Imam-e-Kaaba visits new campus of IIUI

ISLAMABAD (APP): Imam-e-Kaaba Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid visited the new campus of the International Islamic University Islamabad.

He was accompanied by IIUI President, Dr. Hathaif Homoud Alotaibi who briefed him about the male and female campuses, faculties and facilities.

Imam-e-Kaaba also visited the site for King Salman bin Abdul Aziz grand mosque. He was briefed on the occasion that the mosque will be built at the cost of around 32 million dollars.

He was told that there will be an ample capacity in the inner hall of the Mosque where as many as 4000 male and 2000 female will offer prayer, while the yard will also have a capacity to accommodate 6000 people.

There will be a library and a museum, while there will also be a Muhammad bin Salman Auditorium for conferences in the Mosque.

Akbar came to fray for PTI transparent intra-party elections

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founding leader Akbar S. Babar has come into field for transparent elections in the party.

Akbar S. Babar has said in his message to the party workers that ideological workers should come forward for transparent elections in the party, workers should be mobilized to ensure transparent intra-party elections in the next 20 days as per the order of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). If transparent intra-party elections are not held, the retention of the 'bat' symbol in the national elections and participation in the elections may be in jeopardy. He said that PTI workers have to come forward to save the party from complete destruction. Akbar Babar announced the launch of a nationwide contact campaign with PTI workers and said that PTI workers should mobilize immediately to save the party from being hijacked again, in consultation with the central and ideological party members.

APHC urges world to take stock of worst human rights situation in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leaders and organizations have urged the international community to take stock of the worst human rights situation in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), as the Indian forces and its agencies, shielded by the draconian laws, kill, harass and arrest the subjugated people with impunity. According to Kashmir Media Service report on Sunday, the APHC leaders, including Ghulam Muhammad Khan Sopori, Abdul Ahad, Muhammad Saleem Zargar, Advocate Arshad Iqbal and Maulana Musaab Nadvi in their separate statements issued in Srinagar said a prosperous and strong Pakistan is in the best interest of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and they always pray for prosperity and stability of the country.

The leaders maintained that at a time when India was hell bent to eliminate every Kashmiri and snatch their land and government services, it is incumbent upon Pakistan to galvanize the support of the

international community to force India for settlement of the Kashmir dispute as per the United Nations resolutions. They said India has forgotten the reality that the freedom movements and sentiments could not be suppressed through military and brutal tactics, adding that the Bharatiya Janata Party regime was systematically committing genocide and killing Kashmiris in fake encounters during cordon and search operations.

Meanwhile, the APHC AJK chapter's leaders Syed Faiz Naqshbandi, Altaf Hussain Wani and Shamim Shavi in their separate statements in Islamabad, have urged the international community to take notice of the worst human rights violations in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. They urged the United Nations Council for Human Rights, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and other peace-loving people of the world to take cognizance of the prevailing gruesome situation of Kashmir wherein people were being killed mercilessly without any reason.



ISLAMABAD: Participants take a park in a cycle rally organized by Al-Shifa Hospital at F-9 park in Federal Capital.

World Sustainable Transport Day being observed today

ISLAMABAD (APP): First ever World Sustainable Transport Day is being observed on Sunday.

In his message on the occasion, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres said there is an urgent need for a transformative shift towards more sustainable transport, emphasizing importance of cleaner energy to combat climate change.

The UN adopted a resolution earlier this year to designate November 26 as the World Sustainable Transport Day.

PIMS financial issues to be resolved soon

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government will soon address the issue of financial needs and pending salaries of staff of the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS).

According to a spokesperson of the Ministry of Health, there will be no compromise on the provision of medical facilities to patients. He said that the doctors and paramedical staff of PIMS hospital are valuable assets of the health sector.

He said that all necessary steps are being taken to provide medical facilities in the hospital.

Property, water tax increase in Islamabad, JJ announces to move courts, streets

ISLAMABAD (Online): Deputy Amir Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan Mian Muhammad Aslam has announced to appear in a public hearing tomorrow, go to courts and take to the streets against the proposal of 200 percent tax increase on property and water in Islamabad. While giving a press conference in Islamabad, Deputy Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Mian Muhammad Aslam said that there is a proposal to increase property tax and water tax by 200% in Islamabad. Deputy Amir said that tax on Islamabad can be increased only by the representatives of the local government, and only by the assembly led by the mayor of Islamabad.

How MCI administrator can increase property tax? If tax on property and water is increased, it will be illegal, Mian Aslam said. An attempt was made once before, we canceled the notice from the High Court, he continued, CDA went in appeal, the matter has been pending in the court for four

years, without waiting for the MCI decision in a pending case, to increase the tax. It has been decided that 3 percent CDA was earlier and now it wants to increase it by 2 percent more. Mian Aslam maintained that increasing taxes by 500% in the last four years is not the limit of cruelty. There is no water in the sectors and taxes are being increased. 200% tax is also being imposed on tankers' water.

Jamaat-e-Islami rejects this proposal of tax, the drama of 27 and 28% public hearing on tax should also be stopped. Jamaat-e-Islami will go to court against these taxes. Five lakh passports are pending. If the cruel system is not withdrawn, they will protest strongly, if the taxes are not withdrawn, the youth will leave the country.

Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Islamabad Nasrullah Randhawa said that 40,000 tax is being levied on a two-and-a-half-marle house in Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: A gypsy family is carrying bundle of dry wood on their heads for domestic use on their way at Constitution avenue.

Residents want immediate extension of Blue bus route from PWD interchange

ISLAMABAD (APP): The residents residing in different housing societies located near the Islamabad Expressway have demanded an immediate extension of the route covered by Blue Bus service up to PWD interchange after substantial road widening and construction work had been completed, easing vehicular traffic on one of the busiest arteries of the twin cities. Residents of Korang, Pakistan, Jinnah Garden, PWD, Sohan, and other adjacent societies were of the opinion that the authorities have unveiled the plying of the Blue Bus service route from Rawat but deferred it due to the condition of the road and the subsequent construction and expansion work from Korang Bridge to Rawat.

The demand coincides with the Capital Development Authority's (CDA) decision to roll out 160 electric buses on 13 different routes in the capital city.

As the extensive work on the laying of new road lanes has been com-

pleted up to PWD interchange with smooth and rapid vehicular traffic, the route of Blue Bus service should be extended to PWD interchange to facilitate a large number of commuters, students, and office-going people, Raziq Ali

Shaheena Jabeen and Humaira, two working women and residents of Korang town, opined that they conveniently moved to their workplaces located



in the Blue Area regularly by boarding the Blue buses, but for reaching the Korang bus stand to catch the service, they still faced the issue of moving from the entrance of the society on the highway to the designated Blue bus stop via private vehicles.

"Traversing a distance from the PWD interchange to Korang by a private public vehicle is too difficult," Humaira added.



ISLAMABAD: Participants hold a banner during a walk on the eve of World Olive Tree Day at F-9 park in Federal Capital.

FCCU's Islamabad-Rawalpindi alumni celebrates annual-2023 reunion

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad-Rawalpindi chapter of Forman Christian College University (FCCU) Alumni Association joyously held its annual reunion for alumni and their families over the weekend.

The gathering welcomed a prestigious array of attendees, including bureaucrats, ambassadors, army officers, ministers, industrialists, businessmen and other distinguished individuals, said a news release issued here Sunday.

Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik, an esteemed alumnus and Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, graced the

event as the chief guest. Dr. Jonathan Addleton, the revered Rector of FCCU, was the guest of honor.

Notable alumni, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed and former Chairman of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Chaudhry Qamar Zaman, were also present as esteemed guests of honor.

Expressing their delight at being part of the Formanite gathering, Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik and Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed extended their heartfelt congratulations to the Rector of FCCU for his outstanding contributions to the university's development and growth.

They lauded the multi-

dimensional work taking place at FCCU, highlighting its pivotal role in nurturing responsible citizens.

Dr. Addleton shared insightful details regarding several new initiatives that have transformed the college, emphasizing the recent naming ceremony for the sports fields and library at FC College.

Muhammad Mobeen, the chapter secretary, adeptly moderated the event, providing updates on the past year's activities and offering a preview of forthcoming plans.

He stressed the importance of active participation from every Formanite in the "A Talk with Formanite" series.

Bilawal felicitates Sikh community on 554th birthday of Guru Nanak

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has extended felicitations to the Sikh community on the 554th birthday of Guru Nanak Devji, which is being celebrated across the globe tomorrow including at his birthplace Nankana Sahib, in Pakistan.

In his message on the eve of Guru Nanak Devji's birthday, the PPP Chairman said that his teachings are meant to spread love, peace and harmony everywhere on the globe.

Bilawal welcomed the Sikh pilgrims, who came from all over the world to Pakistan to pay homage to their Guru at his birthplace.

ICT admin posted seven new ACs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory administration has posted/ transferred seven Assistant Commissioners against vacant posts after issuance of notification from establishment division.

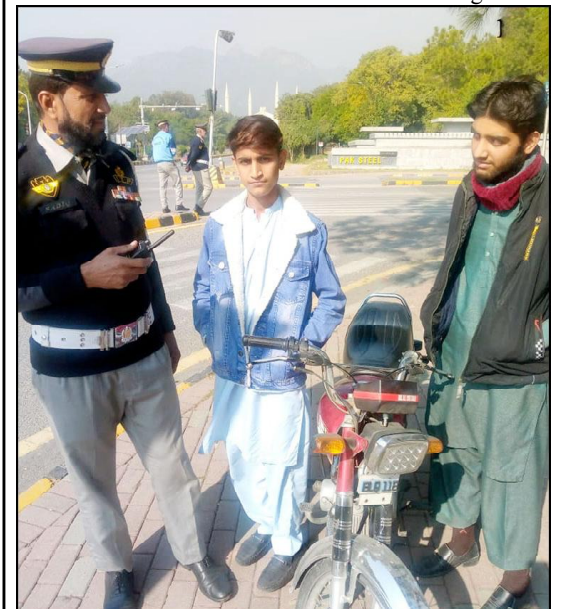
In this regard Islamabad administration has issued orders for postings and transfer of new assistant commissioners. According to notification Abdullah Khan Swati has been posted Assistant Commissioner Secretariat Circle, Nihal Hafeez Assistant Commissioner Shalimar, Aneeq Anwar Assistant Commissioner Potohar, Kamran Asghar Assistant Commissioner Rural, Farwa Batul Assistant Commissioner Industrial Area, Aziz Khan Assistant Commissioner Nellore and Farhan Ahmed Assistant Commissioner City.

Over 1,47,000 bikers fined during ongoing Year for riding without helmets

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police issued more than 1,47,000 fine tickets to motorcyclists driving

without helmets. As per directions he said that the Islamabad Capital Police personnel have been directed to ensure implementation on traffic rules and regulation



their bikes without helmets during the ongoing year, a public relations officer said.

He said that the Islamabad Capital Police is endeavoring to maintain an exemplary traffic system in the city and check those involved in negligence on roads. Over 1,47,000 fine tickets were issued to motorcyclists driving their bikes without helmets.

Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad has appreciated this performance and said that a vigorous campaign of Islamabad capital police had been launched as per directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan to create awareness among citizens about traf-

irrespective of status and rank and demonstrate patience and politeness while issuing traffic violation tickets to the road users.

He further said that the Islamabad Capital Police is utilizing all available resources to facilitate the general public. He has appealed to the parents not to allow their children to drive bikes or cars till age of maturity.

The personnel of the force issue traffic violation tickets not as a punitive measure but the purpose is to ensure a safe road environment in the Capital and secure the lives of the people, the Chief Traffic Officer maintained.