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KUWAIT: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Interior of Kuwait, Sheikh Talal Al-Khaleed Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Pakistan's Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir and Pakistani delegation in a group photo after the signing of MoUs of cooperation between Pakistan and Kuwait.

In major relief IHC acquits Nawaz Sharif in Avenfield property reference

Grateful to Allah Almighty over acquittal in Avenfield case: Nawaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday acquitted Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in the Avenfield property reference setting aside his conviction by the accountability court.

The IHC bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb announced the verdict in the appeal of former prime minister against his conviction.

The PML-N Quaid appeared before the court along with his legal team.

During the course of proceedings, Nawaz Sharif's lawyer Amjad

Parvaiz pleaded that co-accused Maryam Nawaz and Captain @ Safdar had already been acquitted in the instant reference, and that decision had become final as it was never challenged by the prosecution.

The lawyer read out various sections of the NAB Ordinance and said that it had defined 'benamidar' as well.

He said the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had to first provide a comparison of income and assets value in order to establish the point that the assets' value was higher than the income or not.

Without such comparison, the case of assets beyond sources of income could not be proceeded, he added.

He further said that there were cases where the value of the assets was known but not the income. In such cases, the courts declared that the case could not be instituted since the income was not known.

Amjad Parvaiz said the property in question was purchased during 1993 to 1996. The appellant had no connection with the property and the prosecution also could not prove it, he added.

To a court's query, the lawyer said that firstly the prosecution had to prove the accused as a public office holder, and then his dependents as 'benamidars'.

He further said that NAB could not prove even one of the allegations levelled against his client. In the Panama verdict, the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) and NAB investigation reports did not point out Nawaz Sharif's connection with the property.

JIT's head Wajid Zia admitted that there was no evidence to prove Nawaz Sharif's connection with the property, he added.

He said that it had also to be indicated in the indictment that the one's assets did not match with the declared income. The value of properties was not even determined by NAB or JIT and in the court's verdict.

Pakistan, Kuwait reiterate desire to further deepen bilateral relations

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan and Kuwait have reiterated the desire to further deepen and broaden bilateral relations.

The desire was expressed by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah during their meeting in Kuwait Wednesday.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed the importance Pakistan attaches to its relationship with Kuwait and reiterated the desire to further expand bilateral cooperation in diverse fields.

He underscored the resolve to forge deeper economic engagement between Pakistan and Kuwait including in trade, energy, IT, Labour, Mineral and investments. Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar expressed satisfaction at close cooperation between the two countries at multilateral fora. He appreciated the measures undertaken by Kuwait for recruitment of Pakistani manpower in the fields of health, security and infrastructure. The Crown Prince of Kuwait reciprocated the sentiments of the Prime Minister.

It is pertinent to mention that the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar is on a two-day official visit to Kuwait with the primary objective of signing of MoUs in multiple areas geared to transforming the six decades' long bilateral relations into mutually beneficial economic ties.

KSA extends term for a \$3 billion deposit placed with Pakistan for a year

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Wednesday, informed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia extended the term for the deposit of US\$ 3 billion placed with Pakistan for another year.

"The Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) on behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has extended the term for the deposit of US\$ 3 billion, maturing on 05 December 2023, for another year," said a statement issued here.

The \$ 3 billion deposit agreement was initially signed through the SFD with the SBP in the year 2021 and the said amount has been placed with the State Bank of Pakistan on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

It is worth noting that the amount was rolled over subsequently in 2022, after the issuance of the royal directives that reflect the continuation of the close relationship between the two brotherly countries.

The recent extension of the term of the deposit for one more year is a continuation of the support provided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, which will help to maintain the foreign currency reserves of Pakistan and contribute to the economic growth of the country, it concluded.



KUWAIT: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets Crown Prince of Kuwait H.H. Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

President directs bank to refund Rs 344,600 to fraud victim

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi, upholding the orders of Banking Mohtasib, has directed Allied Bank Ltd (ABL) to pay Rs 344,600 to a customer as the amount fraudulently transferred from his account. The bank had committed maladministration by opening the fund transfer facility without the consent of customer which caused him financial loss, the President House said Wednesday.

Deciding upon a representation filed by ABL against the decision of the Banking Mohtasib, the president held that the bank failed to discharge the burden and statutory liability cast upon it under the law and that it had committed basic irregularity and non-compliance by activating Internet Banking/Electronic Funds Transfer (IB/EFT) channel without customer consent.

In his decision, he observed that although the complainant received a phone call from a number similar to the bank's helpline, after which, a sum of Rs 344,602 was transferred from his account, however, if the IB/EFT facility had not been opened by ABL, the customer could have been saved from the financial loss caused to him with no fault on his part.

Politically stable, economically strong Pakistan vital for protection of Indian minorities: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday said that a politically stable and economically strong Pakistan was vital for the protection of the rights of minorities in India, especially Kashmiris who had been struggling for their right to self-determination for over seven decades.

Addressing the Kashmir seminar, jointly organised by the Friends of Kashmir and the Kashmir Media Service, he said Pakistan had always extended its moral, political and diplomatic support for the just cause of Kashmiris and would continue to do so till freedom of the occupied territory.

He said India was a so-called democracy where minorities were being mistreated and victimised by the majoritarian Hindu hardliners.

He said after the unfortunate Jaranwala incident, the Government of Pakistan expressed solidarity with the victims, but the Government of India never supported the victims of the atrocities of Hindutva brigade.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed chairing Steering Committee meeting to review progress over Integrated Flood Resilience Adaptation Project

SIFC under army chief emerges as game changer

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Special Investment and Facilitation Center (SIFC) set up about five months ago by the Pakistan government has turned out to be a game changer for the national economy, ensuring billions of dollars' investment.

Friends of Pakistan are set to invest 60 billion dollars in Pakistan in the near future.

The success is attributed to the leadership of army chief Gen Syed Asim Munir who assumed his office a year ago amidst economic challenges. Passing through multiple challenges, Pakistan has gained success on different fronts and removed the shadows of uncertainty.

Following the establishment of the SIFC, Pakistan is progressing through economic stability. The stock market is breaking all records and producing good results and the rupee is also strengthening against the US dollar. Efforts are afoot by the caretaker government to curb inflation.

In a bid to exploit the condition of Pakistan, the rivals sowed confusion and frustration with the help of social media.

Under the dynamic leadership of Gen Asim Munir, the armed forces started initiatives to transform the hopelessness into a robust and stable Pakistan. Stern action is under way against the smuggling mafia which was hitting the national economy, making life of common man miserable.

PPP set to hold powershow in Quetta today

QUETTA: All is set to stage the grand public meeting of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on occasion of its 56th founding day in Quetta today (Thursday).

The top leaders of PPP including its chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and former President Asif Ali Zardari would be addressing the public meeting in the spacious football ground of the Ayub Sports Complex.

The extra-ordinary arrangements have been made for the public meeting of PPP on eve of its founding day. All the leaders of PPP including Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Asif Ali Zardari, Nayyar Bokhari, Faisal Karim Kundi, Shazia Mari, Khurshed Shah, Sharjeel Memon have reached in Quetta.

COAS General Asim holds in-depth talks with Kuwaiti Crown Prince

KUWAIT City (INP): Chief of the Army Staff General Asim Munir on Wednesday called on Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and held a detailed meeting with him involving discussions on matters of mutual interest.

The Army Chief was accompanied by Minister for Law and Justice and Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Ahmad Irfan Aslam.

The meeting was also attended by Pakistan Ambassador to Kuwait Malik Mohammad Farooq.

Earlier, COAS General Asim Munir arrived in Kuwait, along with his delegation for an official visit.



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of Kuwait Sheikh Talal Al-Khaleed Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah shaking hands with Chief of the Army Staff of Pakistan General Syed Asim Munir.

Third nationwide polio immunization drive continues

ISLAMABAD (APP): The third nationwide polio immunization campaign of current year continued on Wednesday to vaccinate over 44.3 million children under five years of age in 159 districts.

In a message, Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan urged parents to ensure vaccination of their children during on-going polio immunization drive.

He said that all these children deserved a healthy life and future.

"We cannot allow a vaccine-preventable disease to continue to harm our children like this."

He said that protecting children's well-being was a collective responsibility. "Every country that has eliminated polio so far has done so with the support of communities, parents, religious leaders, and social organizations."

Dr Nadeem said, "We need the same in Pakistan, for communities to join the government in its fight against polio."



RAWALPINDI: Lt Gen (Retd) Hamood uz Zaman Khan, Secretary Defence and H.E. Datuk Seri Isham Ishak, Secretary General, Ministry of Defence, Malaysia signing Minutes of Meeting (MoM), at Ministry of Defence.

Imran picks Gohar for PTI's top spot

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Chairman Imran Khan has officially nominated Barrister Gohar Khan as his preferred candidate for the pivotal position of chairman in the upcoming PTI intra-party election. This announcement underscores the party's commitment to a democratic process within its structure.

Barrister Gohar Khan, hailing from the Buner district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, brings a wealth of legal expertise to the table, being a distinguished lawyer of the Supreme Court.

His academic background includes an LLB from the University of Wolverhampton, UK, and an LL.M from Washington Civil of Law, USA, highlighting a global perspective in his legal education.

Govt to try to resolve missing person issue: Sarfraz Bugti

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Interior Minister, Sarfraz Bugti said on Wednesday that the caretaker government would try its best to resolve the issue of missing persons.

Talking to media persons after appearing before the Islamabad High Court's Chief Justice, he said that chief minister Baluchistan had constituted an inquiry commission to probe the murder allegations on Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and if allegation was proved correct, an action would be taken according to the law.

The minister said that the issue was sub-judice and should not be discussed publicly however the commission earlier constituted for missing persons would present its report on the recovery of 25 missing persons to the court.

Responding to a query, Bugti said that there was a very thin line between self-disappearance, enforced disappearance and missing, adding there were many cases of self-disappearances however the cases of enforced disappearances were to be decided under the UN charter.

The minister further said that the commission would categorize the cases of self-disappearances, enforced disappearances and missing persons after reviewing all the cases.

NEPRA reserves its decision on request to increase price of electricity tariff

ISLAMABAD (Online): National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has reserved its decision after completing the hearing on request to increase price of electricity tariff by Rs 3.53 per unit.

Hearing was held in NEPRA under Chairman NEPRA Waseem Mukhtar in which Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) has requested the increase of Rs 3.53.

NEPRA officer told that units were sold less in October 23 compared to electricity in October 22.

Electricity demand in the country decreased further in October as compared to September.

NEPRA authorities raised question that the demand of electricity decreased by 10% from last year.

How can it be that the population is increasing and the demand for electricity is decreasing?

CPPA authorities told that 9 billion and 25 crore units of electricity were sold in October 23.

According to the cost of production, the increase is 20%. We will satisfy the Authority on what is included in addition to the cost of production. The fuel of Thar Coal Block One has had an impact of 25 billion. Increase of Rs 3.13 will be included in current bill for next 1 month.

Overall increase of Rs 3.53 paisa is requested. Surely it is big decision but additional burden of Rs 600 to 700 will be on consumers with 200 units.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

The story of Palestine

The yearning for liberation from oppression is part of the human condition. Whether the fight against colonial rule, oppressive regimes, or systemic injustice, resistance movements represent the resilience of humanity to shape its own destiny. And what better example of this yearning for freedom and justice than the decades-old resistance waged by the people of Palestine against the settler-occupier coloniser than is Israel. Today – the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People – is a UN-sanctioned reminder of the Palestinian struggle, a tale of unwavering bravery and resilience in the face of relentless brutality and tragedy. The day this year holds even new meaning after the genocide unleashed by Israel on Gaza in October. It is due to the sheer determination of the people of Gaza and the rest of Palestine that the world has finally seen Israel unmasked. While most mainstream media in the West even today is acting as apologists for Israel, social media has hundreds of thousands of videos showing the true face of the horrors unleashed by Israel against the children of Gaza, the women and men of Gaza, the doctors, nurses, teachers and journalists of Gaza. Despite the US and the entire world powers siding with Israel, for the first time in many years, Israel has lost its PR war – but only after bombing Gaza to rubble and killing thousands of Palestinian, including children who had not even turned one.

Central to the spirit of solidarity is the understanding that liberation is not a one-size-fits-all concept. From the fight for indigenous rights to the quest for racial equality and the battle against authoritarianism, each resistance movement contributes to the broader tapestry of human rights and dignity. It is also crucial to emphasize that solidarity is not synonymous with interventionism. Rather, it involves listening to the voices of those at the forefront of their struggles, amplifying their narratives. The people of Palestine need to be at the centre of every discourse regarding their destiny. This is important at a time when the world has collectively failed them, turning away as the most ruthless example of ethnic cleansing was enacted on Gaza by Israel.



By Dr Muhammad Zeshan

Pakistan's economy faces a pivotal juncture, marked by the imperative need to reassess its import tariff structure. Recent trade data underscores the urgency for policy reforms to stimulate economic growth, foster competitiveness, and integrate seamlessly into the global market.

According to the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Pakistan's import tariff structure reflects a patchwork quilt of rates across various sectors. Average effective tariff rates range from 1.2 per cent for agriculture to 40 per cent for manufacturing where automobile is the most protected industry with more than 45 per cent protection rate.

While protective tariffs aimed at shielding local industries have been in place, they inadvertently hinder international trade and exacerbate the cost of living for consumers. This conundrum demands a strategic overhaul.

Rationalizing tariffs on essential goods and raw materials, where local production is inadequate, can significantly reduce costs for consumers and invigorate industries reliant on imports. Additionally, aligning tariff rates with comparative advantage sectors can spark growth, creating a fertile ground for innovation, employment, and export potential.

Yet, tariff adjustments alone cannot carve a path to economic resurgence. Robust policy reforms must march hand-in-hand. Streamlining bureaucratic processes, enhancing trade facilitation mechanisms, and fortifying institutional frameworks are vital to at-

How to reform trade

tract investments, stimulate business growth, and amplify competitiveness.

Recent global shifts underscore the urgency for Pakistan to pivot towards greater trade integration. Engaging in strategic alliances through free trade agreements (FTAs) or preferential trade arrangements can open new vistas for the nation's exports, diversify market access, and attract foreign direct investment. However, such agreements must be approached with a clear understanding of their implications and calibrated to safeguard national interests.

Crucially, data-driven reforms should be complemented by a comprehensive approach. They will safeguard the vulnerable segments of society through a shift of welfare gains from producers to consumers to ensure equitable outcomes amidst structural changes.

A stable long-run plan will mitigate potential adverse impacts on specific industries and establishing a transition plan are crucial for social cohesion and economic stability.

Furthermore, bipartisanism is key. Building consensus across political divides and fostering collaboration with stakeholders including industry leaders, economists, and civil society ensures a more inclusive and effective policy formulation and implementation process.

In tandem with tariff and policy reforms, embracing technology emerges as a catalyst for progress. Implementing digital solutions across customs procedures, logistics, and supply chain management can significantly reduce transaction costs, eliminate inefficiencies, and bolster trade volumes, propelling Pakistan into a more competitive global arena. PIDE finds that digitalization and elimination of unnecessary documents cut the time cost by around 40-60 per cent.

Nonetheless, the path to reform is riddled with challenges. Addressing entrenched interests, bureaucratic inertia, and navigat-

ing resistance to change necessitate unwavering commitment and visionary leadership. However, the potential dividends of a revitalized economic landscape far outweigh these initial hurdles.

Now is the opportune moment for Pakistan to embrace transformative reforms that leverage its strengths, capitalize on global opportunities, and prioritize the welfare of its citizens. The road ahead demands bold and decisive actions towards a more prosperous and inclusive economic future.

However, embarking on these reforms demands a phased and coordinated approach. Here's a roadmap for the way forward:

Phase-out approach: This is a three-phase scenario. In the first phase, reduce import tariffs on the most protected intermediate industries until their tariff rates reach the average tariff rate (around 12 per cent at present), which will boost producer welfare.

In the second phase, achieve a uniform import tariff rate of 12 per cent by reducing tariffs on all other industries facing higher tariff rates, which will increase consumer welfare.

In the third phase, uniformly reduce tariffs on all industries until we achieve a tariff rate of 5.0 per cent. It is believed that the tariff revenues from this approach will be higher due to a higher size of the economy than the current revenues.

Comprehensive policy overhaul: Simultaneously, embark on a comprehensive policy overhaul. Streamline bureaucratic processes, enhance trade facilitation mechanisms, and fortify institutional frameworks to attract investments and amplify competitiveness.

Strategic trade partnerships: Evaluate existing and potential FTAs and preferential trade arrangements. Negotiate agreements that unlock new markets for Pakistani exports while safeguarding vital domestic industries. —Courtesy The News

Cities left behind



By Rafia Zakaria

Every year, thousands of tourists visit the ruins of the Italian city of Pompeii. This city, which sits at the foot of Mount Vesuvius, was destroyed by a volcanic eruption in 79 AD. The vegetation that covered the mountain had hidden some of the signs of the oncoming eruption but eventually the rivers of molten lava began to flow into the city.

Even then, many of the city's inhabitants did not leave. Most of those people would perish as the volcano erupted and the ash and fiery lava covered everything.

One reason that the ruins of Pompeii still attract so many people so many centuries later is because many of the people whose corpses were found in Pompeii were 'frozen' in the positions in which they died. There are crouching and cowering women and children, people trying to get away, people with their belongings.

This provides a picture of the crisis unlike that provided by any other city — it shows why this one city was destroyed and abandoned. People who visit the ruins can clearly envisage the last moments of the living city. After those moments, the city as it once was died, never to live in that form again.

In fact, many cities die. But in several cases, there are no definitive answers as to why they were abandoned or left behind. One such city is located in the American Midwest, just east of the contemporary city of St Louis in the state of Missouri.

Driving on Interstate 70, all that can be seen of

the city is a series of mounds. These mounds were created by the inhabitants of the ancient city of Cahokia which was established around 700 AD and had grown in prominence by around 1050 AD. While it would be impossible to tell now, at its height the city was said to have rivalled London or Paris.

Unlike Pompeii, it is not exactly known what happened to Cahokia. It is said that when the city was at its peak the mound-like structures that still remain, housed markets, temples and space for all sorts of rituals. It was home to nearly 20,000 people, making it one of the most populous of its time.

The culture was rich and there is evidence of beautifully sculpted vessels and statues made of clay. Farmers were responsible for maize cultivation. And yet 200 years after the city was at its peak, it declined and was eventually abandoned.

One of the many theories as to why Cahokia was abandoned was that the people who lived there cut down too many trees from the adjoining farmlands. It was theorised that, as a result of the deforestation, there was nothing to prevent the area from repeated flooding and consequent devastation.

However, recent research published in National Geographic revealed that the soil around the mounds was not disturbed all the way until the 1800s. This meant that there was no significant deforestation by the Native American population.

It turns out that the Western researchers who had been analysing the mounds had just imposed their own understanding of the human relationship with nature on the question of why Cahokia was abandoned.

It is far more likely that the city declined gradually because of conflicts among the elites and some natural phenomena, and so on.

It is only natural to reflect on these cities of long ago at a time when the whole world is witnessing the deliberate devastation in Gaza City and other parts of the Gaza Strip by Israeli bombing. No one knows whether Gaza City will live again.

The mass trauma of the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who have suddenly been displaced or have become homeless while the world looked on is simply unimaginable. However, our generation of witnesses will know why and how this particular city was razed to the ground.

These are stories of cities that were literally devastated. But, there does not have to be an actual destruction or even ruin of a city for it to be lost forever. In a live performance that famous ghazal artist Tina Sani gave in Kathmandu, she prefaced her performance of one of Faiz Ahmed Faiz's poem with a wistful remembrance of Karachi as it was in the 1960s.

The city has changed so much she noted, too many of the people who made it what it was have gone. The poem is Kuch Pehlay Inn Ankhon Aagay (before my eyes a little while ago)

Tina Sani's words and Faiz's poem remind one of the fact that cities can be lost when the people that make them leave, or even when one leaves oneself. It is often said that one does not step into the same river twice — this could also be said about cities. Once a city is left behind, the passage of time ensures that one does not step into that city again. Immigrants recount this phenomenon again and again when they return to the cities they once lived in after a long period of time. In their minds, the frozen city that they left behind, one they reference repeatedly in their mind's eye, is more alive than the actual version of that city as it actually exists. —Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Govt's top priority to provide quality telecom services to masses: Saif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr Umar Saif said on Wednesday that providing quality telecom services to the masses was the government's top priority. "The government is taking all possible steps to improve connectivity in the country," he said during a meeting with the Group Chief Executive Officer of VEON, along with CEO Jazz, Aamir Ibrahim.

Matters of mutual interest related to the telecom sector were also discussed during the meeting, said a news release. During discussions with the VEON delegation, Dr Umar Saif mentioned that the tech-neutral spectrum would be auctioned soon to enhance telecom services for the public. Vowing to launch 5G, he expressed that the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication would provide every possible cooperation to the telecom industry. Smart mobile phones would be provided in easy installments soon, he added. Dr Umar Saif informed the delegation

that Pakistan has a conducive investment atmosphere, urging Jazz to invest

in e-agriculture, e-education, and e-health sectors. He also commended the VEON Group for its efforts in the technology field and the provision of smartphones.

VEON, CEO Aamir Ibrahim stated that stable telecom systems are vital for the foundation of the digital ecosystem and the economic stability of the country.

The meeting was also attended by senior officers of the IT Ministry.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information Technology, Telecommunications Dr. Umar Saif in a meeting with Group Chief Executive Officer of VEON Kaan Teziogly.

Senate body on Finance and Revenue convenes

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue was held here at Parliament House on Wednesday with Senator Saleem Mandviwalla in Chair. The Senate Committee unanimously passed the "Limited Liability Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2023" with an amendment, extending the grace period for filing statements of accounts from 30 to 90 days. Senator Shahadat Awan, the bill's mover, emphasized that Small and Medium Enterprises

(SMEs) are the future of the country and the primary objective of the bill is to boost these enterprises by providing them a reasonable grace period for filing statements of accounts after establishment.

Furthermore, the Committee deliberated on the non-payment of salary to daily-wage teachers working in the Islamabad Territory. Mrs. Rabia Waheed, one of the affected individuals, apprised that AGPR has not been paying salaries to teachers and working staff despite having an allocated budget.

Rupee gains 14 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Wednesday gained 14 paise against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 285.38 against the previous day's closing at Rs 285.52.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 285.4 and Rs 288 respectively. The price of the Euro increased by Rs 1.10 to close at Rs 313.49 against the last day's closing of Rs 312.39, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).



KUWAIT: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar witnessing the signing of MoUs between private sectors of Pakistan and Kuwait.

Farmers told to begin sunflower sowing from Dec 1 in south Punjab

MULTAN (APP): Agriculture experts have advised farmers to begin sunflower sowing for spring season from Dec 1, 2023 and complete the process by Jan 31, 2024 in south Punjab to gain maximum yield from the vitamin rich food crop that carry 40-45 per cent oil content.

In a statement issued here Wednesday, agriculture spokesman said that Pakistan spend a whopping Rs 300 billion every year to import edible oil to meet the food needs at home adding that

government was encouraging farmers to opt for oil seed crops to lessen dependence on imported edible oil and save resources.

Spokesman said that sunflower contains vitamins A, B, E and K and experts want farmers to sow this nutrition rich oil seed crop from Dec 1 to Jan 31 in south Punjab districts including Dera Ghazi Khan, Bahawalpur, Rajanpur, Rahim Yar Khan, Multan, Vehari, Bahawalnagar, Muzaffargarh, Layyah, Lodhran, Bakhar and

Railways announces 5pc freight rate hike

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Railways has announced a five per cent increase in freight rates across all categories starting from Friday, December 1. The decision, as per an official notification released on Wednesday, exempts cargo express services 501-Up/502-Dn and 503-Up/504-Dn from the rate adjustment.

The revised freight rates table, detailing the calculated rates per ton for distances up to 5000 kilometers, will soon be disseminated to divisional superintendents. These officials are tasked with facilitating the distribution of the updated rates to all stations that cater to goods traffic bookings.

Railways upgrade 181 un-manned crossings in country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways has converted approximately 181 un-manned level crossings to manned level crossings across the country, out of 550 identified by the department over the entire railway network in over one year. "The relevant provincial government provided the finances to Pakistan Railways for the

up-gradation of un-manned level crossings in the country," official sources in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

They said the department was taking several steps including the up-gradation of un-manned and vulnerable railway level crossings across the country in collaboration with respective provincial governments.

BISP committed to provide financial support to 10m families: Dr Amjad

PESHAWAR (INP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib here Wednesday said that BISP is committed to providing financial assistance to nearly one core deserving families.

While addressing a gathering of BISP employees at City University Mosque in Peshawar, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib underscored the moral responsibility to alleviate the financial difficulties of needy families, outlining a strategic approach to lift them out of poverty.

Highlighting BISP's possession of authentic data for deserving families, Dr. Amjad Saqib urged philanthropists to adopt the principles of 'Mawakat', fostering collaboration to support underprivileged families.

He proposed the establishment of an

endowment fund dedicated to the welfare of needy families.

In his address, Dr. Amjad Saqib advocated for linking children from impoverished families to technical skill areas, promoting holistic development. Dr. Amjad Saqib also emphasized the need for dialogue with Point of Sale (POS) agents for stipend payments to ensure transparency.

During his visit to BISP Tehsil Office in Peshawar, Dr. Amjad Saqib personally engaged with needy women, instructing staff to provide facilities using available resources.

Dr. Amjad Saqib urged employees to maintain cleanliness standards in offices, displaying kindness to needy women. Emphasizing collective responsibility, he stated, "It is our duty to make the Benazir Income Support Program an exemplary



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik presiding over 46th Board of Governors meeting of PARC at NARC.

Mardan Chamber signs MoU with KP Radio for business industry promotion

PESHAWAR (APP): The President of the Chamber of Commerce Mardan, Zahir Shah and the Station Manager of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Radio Mardan, Aftab Ahmad, signed the memorandum of understanding for business promotion. A special ceremony was held in which a large number of traders participated. Addressing the ceremony, President Zahir Shah said that the purpose of the memorandum of understanding is to resolve the issues of the business industry through the platform of the radio.

He emphasized the need for business leaders to embrace the demands of the new era beyond traditional methods. He also highlighted the role of social media in engaging youth in business. Aftab Ahmad, the Station Manager of Radio Mardan said that Radio Mardan serves as a bridge between the public and government and non-governmental organizations, contributing to its increasing popularity.

Inaugurate solarization project in PPC CM KP launches 'Khushal Pakhtunkhwa' campaign

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Justice (Retd) Arshad Hussain Shah here Wednesday launched the "Khushal Pakhtunkhwa" campaign and inaugurated the solarization project at Peshawar Press Club (PPC).

The project has been completed at a cost of Rs6.4 million.

Accompanied by Caretaker Information Minister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel, Chief Secretary KP, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, and other relevant authorities, the Chief Minister KP has formally inaugurated the mega project.

The CM was informed that installation of the 25KV solar system

would help save Rs2 million under the head of electricity to the press club and provide uninterrupted power supply to the journalist community helping them to fulfil their professional duties with ease. Upon arrival at the press club, the Chief Minister was warmly received by the President of PPC, Arshad Aziz Malik, elected members of his cabinet and journalists in large numbers. Later talking to reporters, the chief minister said a 'Khushal Pakhtunkhwa' campaign has been launched in the province under which problems of people would be addressed at their doorsteps.

Besides improving governance on principles of people's service delivery,

he said that a strict campaign against encroachment, price hike, profiteering, adulteration, crimes, traffic problems and drugs were launched in KP under the campaign.

Seeking the cooperation of journalists in the fight against narcotics, the chief minister said that training through agriculture and livestock departments would be provided to people and farmers enabling them to get maximum production from crops. The Khushal campaign's positive effects would soon become visible.

Tourism in KP would be promoted through awareness, linkages with tourist operators and hotel unions besides exploration of new destinations for tourism.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice (R) Syed Arshad Hussain Shah and President of Press Club Arshad Aziz Malik inaugurating the solar system and renovation work of Press Club.

Gilani for revolutionary steps to address terrorism, poverty, inflation issues

MULTAN (APP): Former Prime Minister, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on Wednesday emphasized the importance of addressing the issues of terrorism, poverty, and inflation through revolutionary actions for the betterment of the people.

In a statement issued here in connection with Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) 56th Foundation Day, he stated that the PPP is a mission whose foundation was laid by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Its purpose was the establishment of democracy and the struggle for the rights of the people, he said adding that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Co-Chairman

Asif Ali Zardari were committed to the mission of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto.

They are advancing the Charter of Democracy (CoD), initiated by Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif, to strengthen democracy. The PPP has worked extensively on the (CoD), and the remaining tasks will be included in the new manifesto, the senator maintained.

This year foundation day ceremony was being organized in Quetta which aims to end a sense of deprivation in smaller provinces. Gilani praised the significant achievements of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto, followed by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

Iranian CG, KP minister holds deliberations on promotion of tourism

Independent Report

PESHAWAR: The Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ali Banafsheh Khah and KP Minister for Information, Culture and Tourism, Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel held extensive deliberations here on Wednesday.

The meeting underscored the profound historical, cultural, and

religious bonds between the people of Iran and the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The meeting emphasized the pivotal role of people-to-people connections, promoting cultural exchange, and unlocking the tourism potential inherent in the rich tapestry of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Iranian cities.

Punjab Governor says: Pak values its ties with Germany, wants to further expand in various fields

Independent Report
LAHORE: Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Pakistan Alfred Grannas called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman and discussed matters of mutual interest, promotion of cooperation in education, environment and trade during a meeting at the Governor's House, here on Wednesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Pakistan values its relations with Germany and wants to further expand relations in various fields, especially education, environment, technology, energy and trade. He said that devastating flash floods wrecked havoc in Pakistan

last year due to climate change. He said that the Pakistani government and people are grateful to the German government for helping the flood victims. He said that both countries need to continue coordinated efforts to tackle the challenges of climate change and finalize the climate partnership agreement soon.

The Governor Punjab said, "We are thankful to Germany for continuous support to Pakistan for GSP plus status." He further emphasized the need of students exchange programme between Pakistan and Germany. He said that the academic exchange program will strengthen people to people contact between the two countries.



LAHORE: Ambassador of Germany to Pakistan, Alfred Grannas, called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

Governor stresses youth to divert attention toward modern educational research

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali Wednesday said that we should prepare our children to meet challenges of the current century and divert their attention toward research and modern fields of education.

Addressing a dinner hosted by Dir Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Lower Dir, the Governor stressed youngsters to improve their capabilities and meet the requirements

of the current world. The dinner was also attended by the former caretaker minister, Fazal Elahi, Provincial Chairman, Federation of Pakistan Chamber, Qaisar Khan, President Malakand Chamber, Shoaib Khan, President Haripur chamber, Tayab Swati, presidents of Bajaur and Chitral Chambers besides members of FPCCI executive body.

He said that world nations have achieved success by following long-term policies while our people are more attracted towards short-term benefits despite that our country has been richly endowed by countless precious resources and reserves adding that sixty percent of our natural resources remained unused due to lack of policies and vision.

Governor said that we should work to change the mindset of the young generation and help them to enter new fields of technology and science.

Ashrafi urges UN tribunal to probe Israeli aggression in Gaza

LAHORE (APP): Special Representative to the Prime Minister and Chairman of the Pakistan Ulama Council Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi has said that a United Nations (UN) tribunal should be established to investigate Israeli aggression and war crimes in Gaza, Palestine.

He was addressing a seminar, organised at Jamia Manzoor-ul-Islamia on Wednesday, to express solidarity with the Palestinian people. He said Israel was an occupier, aggressor, and oppressor. "We are working towards a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and the government is maintaining open and direct communication at the global level, in this regard," he said. Ashrafi said today, the entire world observed the Day of Solidarity with Palestine. He said the atrocities of Israel were evident not only to Islamic nations but also to the people of Western countries, who continue to raise their voice against Israeli aggression.



RAWALPINDI: SAPM for Human rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick, distributing souvenirs during the opening ceremony of the two day international conference on Transformative Nexus: higher education and women empowerment at Fatima Jinnah University.

International News

Disease, fueled by Israeli-imposed blockade, could be bigger killer than bombs in Gaza: WHO

UNITED NATIONS (APP): With the brief "humanitarian pause" between Israel and Palestinians so far failing to result in the delivery of sufficient aid in Gaza, UN officials on Tuesday warned that the spread of disease could soon begin killing more Palestinian people than the deadly Israeli bomb attacks.

They said that priorities include transporting fuel to the north of the war-torn enclave, so that it can be used to power hospitals, provide clean water and maintain other vital civilian infrastructure.

Such services have been massively impacted by weeks of Israeli bombardment since Oct 7.

Gazan health authorities have reported that more than 15,000 people, mostly women and children, have been killed in attacks to date.

In an update from southern Gaza, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) spokesperson James Elder said that a doctor from Al-Shifa hospital in the north had told him that the threats to children were "very much from the air and now very much on the ground", in the form of diarrhoea and respiratory infections.

"He was terrified as a medical professional in terms

of the disease outbreak that is lurking here and how that will devastate children whose immune systems and lack of food... is making them perilously weak," Elder added.

As negotiations continue for the release of more hostages in return for a prolongation of the pause in fighting, the UNICEF spoke of his dismay at seeing so many youngsters fighting for their lives, "with horrendous wounds of war, (lying) in carparks on makeshift mattresses, in gardens everywhere, doctors having to make horrendous decisions on who they prioritize".

Another boy whose leg had been blown off in the violence had spent "three or four days" trying to reach the south, delayed by checkpoints, Mr. Elder continued. "The smell (of decomposition) was clear...and that boy had shrapnel all over. Potentially, he was blind and had burns to 50 per cent of his body."

Echoing deep concerns over the scale of needs in Gaza, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) noted that an assessment carried out in the north at the start of the pause in fighting on 24 November had shown that "everybody everywhere has dire health needs".



KUWAIT: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meeting with Kuwaiti Cabinet Ministers during the welcoming ceremony at Bayan Palace

After 17 days trapped in tunnel, India workers say hope kept them alive

News Desk

NEW DELHI: After 17 days trapped inside a collapsed Himalayan road tunnel they were building, Indian workers described the horror of their ordeal, and the hopes and prayers that kept them strong.

"We were really scared, every moment felt that death was standing nearby," rescued worker Deepak Kumar told AFP on Wednesday.

"We were not sure whether our lives would be saved or not." The men were welcomed as heroes after being hauled through 57 metres (187 feet) of steel pipe on stretchers specially fitted with wheels late Tuesday, the culmination of a marathon engineering operation.

Draped in garlands of orange marigolds, they were greeted with wild cheers. "The world is again beautiful for us," rescued worker Sabah Ahmad told AFP, describing the heartache of hearing his wife's "worried and hopeless" voice while he was trapped.

"I know it was a difficult moment for those inside and more difficult for families outside," said Ahmad, who comes from Bihar, one of India's poorest states.



People walk past destroyed buildings, opposite the Grand Mosque of the southern Gaza Strip city of Khan Yunis

Nikki Haley's getting buzz, but faces tough math to beat Trump

News Desk

WASHINGTON: Nikki Haley is having a moment: The 2024 Republican presidential candidate is seeing a swell in media coverage, new interest from big-dollar donors and increasing chatter that she is poised to make a real run at Donald Trump.

But there is buzz, and there is reality. The reality is that Haley, 51, faces a massive uphill battle to take down the former president and gain the Republican presidential nomination - but the sooner the race can be whittled down to her and Trump, 77, the better her still-remote chances.

"I don't think you can look at the numbers right now and see much of a path for anyone other than Trump," said Kyle Kondik, an elections analyst at the University of Virginia Center for Politics.

Trump, according to aggregates of national opinion polls, holds about a 50-percentage-point lead over her, with Florida Governor Ron DeSantis also in the mix. Trump also has large leads in early Republican

nominating states such as Iowa and New Hampshire.

Still, Haley has been gaining ground in some polls on the back of strong performances in debates. The polls show her tied with DeSantis in Iowa and surpassing him in New Hampshire.

"There is a narrow path" to victory for Haley, said Republican pollster Whit Ayres.

That path involves top-tier finishes in both Iowa and New Hampshire and perhaps a victory in her home state of South Carolina, where she served as governor.

That would provide Haley with the things she would need most to have a chance against Trump: momentum, media coverage and money flowing in from anti-Trump donors.

From there, it would be a matter of trying to compete in the larger states later in the calendar such as California and Texas, which award large swaths of delegates. "Momentum matters a tremendous amount in these things," Ayres said.

'Powder keg': Georgians fear Russian army at separatist frontier

Ergneti, Georgia (AFP/APP): Sitting among fading rose bushes in her yard in northern Georgia, Lia Chlachidze said locals live under "a permanent threat" from Russian troops stationed nearby in the separatist Tskhinvali region.

The 70-year-old's village of Ergneti lies just metres from a Russian checkpoint at the border of the breakaway enclave, which Moscow has controlled since it invaded in 2008.

"The locals' number one challenge is the problem of security. Russian soldiers could come at any moment and arrest us," Chlachidze told AFP.

Her concerns—echoed in villages throughout the region—were validated this month when authorities announced that Russian troops had killed a 58-year-old civilian.

They said the man, Tamaz Ginturi, along with several other villagers, went to pray in a church that Russian soldiers had denied Georgians access to earlier

this year. Authorities in the capital Tbilisi say that hundreds of ethnic Georgians have been detained by Russian troops since the five-day war 15 years ago.

In a particularly egregious incident in 2018, one of the detainees, a 35-year-old vegetable seller Archil Tatanashvili, was tortured to death in a South Ossetian prison.

His mutilated body was only returned to his family after weeks of diplomatic negotiations by Western countries.

"We're afraid of the Russians. They're too close," said Levan Iluridze, 58, a resident of the village of Tirdzini.

Tskhinvali sits in the autonomous South Ossetia region—created by the Bolsheviks upon Georgia's annexation in 1921 due to the largely Ossetian population.

Russia invaded Georgia in August 2008 after Tbilisi launched a large-scale military offensive against South Ossetian militia who were shelling Georgian villages.

After routing Georgia's small army in just five days, Russia officially recognised the pro-Kremlin authorities in Tskhinvali and in another secessionist Georgian region, Abkhazia, and stationed military bases there.

Moscow still controls the breakaway regions, where Russian is widely spoken, even though the territories are recognised internationally as part of Georgia.

Since 2008, Russia's military has been building barbed wire fences between the enclave and the rest of Georgia, with the aim of transforming the line into a "state border."

The process has been dubbed "illegal borderisation" by international observers and has forced almost a quarter of the local population to move deeper into Georgia.

"As the line divides communities and families, the fence along it produces an array of difficulties for people living on both sides," the International Crisis Group said last year.

Government, ILO to forge collaborative path to enhance social justice, decent work

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Jawad Sohrab Malik held a meeting with Assistant Director-General & Regional Director, International Labour Organization (ILO) Ms. Chihoko Asada-Miyakawa here at the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis on Wednesday.

Jawad Sohrab Malik reaffirmed the commitment of the Government of Pakistan to the Global Coalition for Social Justice and Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection along with its dedication to the shared goal of ensuring Decent Work for all.

He emphasized the importance of collaborative

efforts to achieve this objective, highlighting the need for a comprehensive approach.

He commended the ILO's initiatives, particularly its efforts towards the national skills passport, said a press release.

SAPM reiterated his commitment to supporting the scaling of this initiative and emphasized the significance of human capital development and skills training for women to address gender disparities faced by them during work.

During the meeting, Ms. Chihoko Asada-Miyakawa expressed interest in assisting the Government of Pakistan in developing a national roadmap for safe, fair, and inclusive labor migration.

Recognizing the pivotal role of labor migration in today's globalized world, both parties underscored their commitment to creating an environment that protects the rights and well-being of workers.

She praised the Government of Pakistan's dedication and stressed the importance of building robust partnerships to effectively address challenges and capitalize on opportunities in the realm of labour migration. Reflecting the shared vision of the Government of Pakistan and the ILO, this collaborative endeavor marks a pivotal step towards fostering social justice, promoting decent work, and ensuring the well-being of workers in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Jawad Sohrab Malik SAPM on Overseas Pakistanis, Charge d'Affaires of Romania Eduard Preda, Acting Dean of Diplomatic Corps Mohammad Karmoune, Ambassador of Morocco and others cutting cake on the occasion on the National Day of Romania at local hotel.

Mushahid acclaims Indonesian President Soekarno as Pakistan's great friend, 'Third World hero'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman, Senate Standing Committee on Defence, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed Wednesday acclaimed the Indonesian President Soekarno as a great friend of Pakistan and lauded him as hero of the third world at a function organised by Embassy of Indonesia to laud the historical services of their Father of the Nation.

He attended the ceremony as chief guest, a news release said issued here.

The Senator who spent his childhood in Jakarta as his father, Colonel Amjad Hussain Sayed,

was Pakistan's first Military Attaché to Indonesia, talked of Soekarno's solidarity with Pakistan during the 1965 War with India.

He said President Soekarno was not only a great freedom fighter but also the architect of the 1955 Bandung Conference, which laid the basis of Asian resurgence, Afro-Asian Solidarity and Non-Aligned Movement.

The Senator later inaugurated the photo exhibition of historic photos of President Soekarno with world leaders.

Senator Mushahid Hussain's father, Colonel Amjad Hussain Sayed, was

also honoured in the photo exhibition as he is the recipient of the highest Indonesian military award, Bintang Dharma (Star of Merit), conferred on him by President Soekarno in 1963.

Two photographs of Colonel Amjad Hussain Sayed were on prominent display at the exhibition, one of his meeting President Soekarno and the other receiving the Indonesian award.

Later, Mushahid Hussain joined Indonesian students studying at the Islamic University in Islamabad singing an Indonesian song.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Head of National Archive of the Indonesia Imam Gunarto and others visiting the photo-exhibition titled 'Sorkarno's Legacy in Building Stronger Bonds of Indonesia-Pakistan Brotherhood' organized by Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in collaboration with National Archive of Pakistan and National Library of Pakistan at National Library.

IPO-Pakistan, US for improving IP policies, laws in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a bid to promote intellectual property rights in the country, Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan (IPO-Pakistan) and US Intellectual Property Counselor for South Asia Wednesday reaffirm the commitment to carry forward the agenda of improving Intellectual Properties (IP) policies, laws and regulations in Pakistan.

This was discussed during a high level visit of the US delegation to IPO-Pakistan Headquarters here headed by US IP Counselor for South Asia, John Cabecca, and consisted of Ms. Dong Eun, Zach Bailey and Hamza Khan.

While the Pakistani side was led by Chairperson IPO, Farukh Amil, Director General, Ms. Shazia Adnan, and senior management of IPO-Pakistan were also present in the meeting, said a press release issued here.

The chairperson IPO-Pakistan briefed the delegation about the measure-

ments taken by the organization for promoting IPRs.

He said that IPO-Pakistan believed that Patents, Trademarks and Copyrights had an important role in economic growth and development and in that regard it had already taken a number of initiatives to improve the IPR regime in the country.

Regarding the establishment of IP tribunals in the country, the chairperson informed the US delegation that two new IP tribunals had been established in Quetta and Rawalpindi and approval of two more had been granted.

Appreciating the advancement and development of IPRs by the US, Farukh Amil desired that IPO-Pakistan would like to benefit from the US experience and expertise in IP.

To raise IP awareness in Pakistan, it was useful to have high profile engagement such as an MoU that would chart further action.

IU provides data to CJP through letter

ISLAMABAD (Online): Vice president Adnan and Finance of International Islamic University (IU) has provided data to Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) through a letter.

The minutes of meeting of Board of Trustees of university have also been included in the letter addressed to Supreme Court (SC). It has been said in the letter that 3 vice presidents and 4 director generals are appointed in IU. 137 directors, deputy directors, assistant directors and officers are working in IU.

The details of faculty members of different departments of university and budget of previous financial year and current fiscal year have been included in the letter.

According to letter the available resources of university are 6674 million rupees. The overall expenses of university stand at 6870 million. IU is running in loss to the tune of Rs 195 million.

Model CCI students visit Parliament House

ISLAMABAD (APP): A 30-member group from Model Council of Common Interests (CCI), a flagship project of the Hanns Siedel Foundation (HSF) Pakistan, comprising students from 27 universities, participated in a comprehensive visit to the Parliament House on Wednesday.

The students had the opportunity to interact with Senator Sana Jamali, the Convener of the Education Parliamentarians Caucus, and Mir Shae Mazar Baloch, Director General (DG) of Coordination Senate.

Senator Sana Jamali shared insights into the purpose of the Education Parliamentarians Caucus and its various initiatives, emphasizing the crucial role of education in parliamentary affairs.

She also provided an insightful overview of the Senate of Pakistan, delving into its historical significance, composition, and pivotal role in the nation's legislative process.

He appealed 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."

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Counter-terrorism strategy NACTA briefs MCMC participants

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Coordinator NACTA, IGP Muhammad Tahir Rai Hst SI, briefed the participants of the 38th MCMC Course on the security situation in Pakistan on Wednesday.

He said that there are challenges being faced in this field, but the LEAs are bravely fighting this war. The whole nation is behind the LEAs with a strong resolve to eradicate terrorism and extremism from society.

He said terrorist organizations will be dismantled and the terrorists will be brought to justice.

He further briefed that the NACTA has made a holistic Counter Terrorism

Strategy which is based on data and information such as 1) The data is collated and analyzed in NACTA; 2) Actionable intelligence is provided to the LEAs for conducting IBOs (Intelligence Based Operations); 3) Threat Assessment is made and provided to the implementing partners; 4) The implementation of the National Action Plan is monitored and reviewed in NACTA.

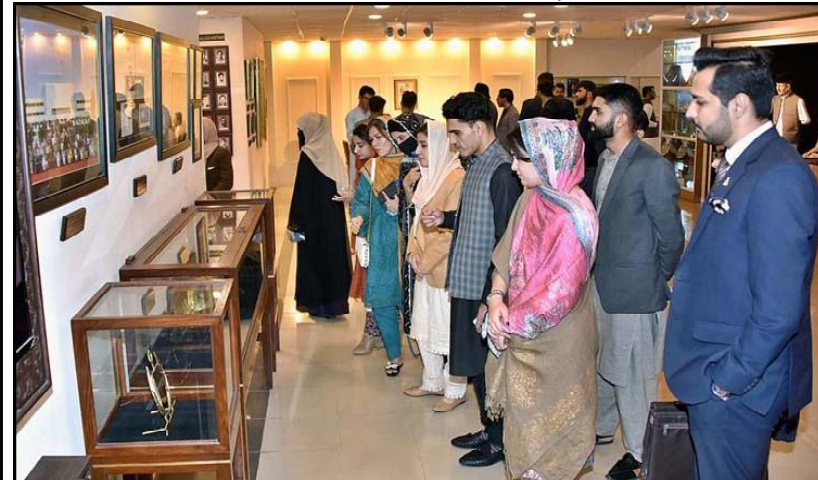
With these above efforts, terrorism will be ended in Pakistan on a sustainable basis. No talks will be held with terrorists. They will be defeated comprehensively this time, he added.

Irfan says: Perhaps noise of delaying election not yet reached Apex Court

ISLAMABAD (Online): Head of PML-N Manifesto Committee Senator Irfan Siddiqui has said in a statement on Twitter that Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, calling the February 8 elections as unwavering, had warned the media not to raise doubts about the elections.

He said that suddenly a media campaign has been set up in the name of delaying the elections.

Irfan Siddiqui said that perhaps this noise not yet reached the court of justice.



ISLAMABAD: A group of students from various universities of Pakistan under model council of common interests (CCI) project of the Hanns Siedel Foundation (HSF) visiting Senate Museum at Parliament House.

About Pak-Indonesia ties Indonesian Embassy holds exhibition to enhance awareness

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Embassy of Indonesia in Pakistan inaugurated a week-long exhibition on Wednesday to enhance awareness among the people of Pakistan about the multi-dimensional relationship between Indonesia and Pakistan.

The exhibition, organized by the embassy in collaboration with the National Library of Pakistan, National Archives of Indonesia, and National Archives of Pakistan, was arranged in the premises of the National Library of Pakistan, a news release said.

The exhibition showcases a compelling collection of photographs, vid-

eos, and letters, providing a portrayal of the interactions between the founding fathers of Indonesia and Pakistan, Soekarno, and Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. It offers a unique glimpse into President Soekarno's visits to Pakistan and his meetings with Pakistani dignitaries, underlining the shared history that binds the two nations.

Speaking on the occasion as chief guest, Head of the National Archives of Indonesia Imam Gunarto appreciated the people of Pakistan for their love and respect for the leaders of Indonesia, especially President Sukarno.

Student service centre inaugurated at NUML

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Rector National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Major General Muhammad Jaffar (Retd.) inaugurated a Student Service Center in the university on Wednesday.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Pro Rectors, Deans, Directors, HoDs and students.

Speaking on the occasion Rector NUML said that the purpose of establishing state of the art Service Centre was to provide all facilities to the students under one roof.

A general/souvenir store, photocopier & composing shop, mobile/laptop repairing shop, stationery shop and a cafe along with a faculty lounge were set up in the Centre.

Information Commission releases bi-annual report

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) on Wednesday published its latest bi-annual report, fulfilling its obligation under the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017.

This comprehensive report outlines the commission's endeavors and accomplishments, reflecting its unwavering commitment to upholding citizens' right of access to information.

The report, mandated by the Act, provides a detailed overview of the PIC's activities, aligning with the Act's preamble. It delves into various aspects, emphasizing the

Commission's initiatives to empower citizens through information access.

The report meticulously details information requests, interactions with public bodies, appeals filed, and their subsequent resolutions.

The Annual Report encompasses statistics from 2018 to June 2023, highlighting the receipt of 3,317 appeals, out of which 1,887 have been successfully resolved, while 1,430 are pending before the Commission.

Notably, the bi-annual report highlights a specific breakdown of appeals received between January 2023 and June 2023.

ICCPO reviews security measures, scrutinized records

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir



Khan visited the Special Branch and Police Khidmat Markaz F-6. During the visit, he reviewed security measures, scrutinized records, and assessed the welfare and public facilities for police officers and staff, a public relations officer

said. He said that, the ICCPO engaged with appointed officers and offi-

cial within the Special Branch, discussing administrative issues and swiftly resolving their concerns. He issued directives to senior officers to ensure immediate solutions and provision of all feasible amenities for their benefit.

China's cooperation on Pak lightning monitoring network acknowledged

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), Mahr Sahibzad Khan Wednesday acknowledged the efforts of the Chinese government in extending cooperation on the Pakistan Lightning Monitoring Network.

In a press briefing held here, the DG PMD said that lightning was a natural weather phenomenon that posed significant threats to life and property.

He said lightning detection sensors are advanced systems designed to monitor and detect lightning activity in a specific area. These sensors play a crucial role in enhancing public safety, providing early warnings, and minimizing the risks associated with lightning strikes.

DG PMD said lightning detection network also provides instant and real-time thunderstorm activities which are usually delayed by the RADAR system.

He said the Institute

of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (IEE), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) offered to support the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) for the establishment of a 3D lightning detection network in Pakistan. In this regard, a test system was sent to PMD, Islamabad in July this year. He said the system was installed in the PMD, Islamabad office in consultation with Chinese engineers and it was successfully tested and data transmission was established to the cloud server.

The system shows real-time lightning data including the location of lightning, its intensity and spatial distribution. Mahr Sahibzad said in order to extend this cooperation, the PMD and the Institute of Electrical Engineering of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (IEECAS) signed a Cooperation Agreement on 22nd September 2023, to improve the lightning warning capability and reduce loss of lives.

Police launch campaign against menace of narcotics; educate youth on drug prevention

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police have initiated a special awareness campaign to eradicate use of narcotics from the fed-



eral capital and ensure the safety of the youth from the curse of drugs. Police teams have conducted special lectures in various educational institutions to educate students about the harms of drugs and preventive measures.

The Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan highlighted that Islamabad Capital Police has launched a special awareness campaign to rid the federal capital of narcotics and safeguard the young generation from the curse of drugs.

During this campaign, police teams have delivered lectures in various educational institutions about the harms of

drugs and preventive measures, emphasizing that drug abuse is detrimental to the health and future of students.

Students are urged to

protect themselves and contribute to saving their surroundings from the curse of drugs. Parents and teachers are encouraged to collaborate in preventing youth from falling victim to drugs. The police teams have appealed to the public to immediately inform the police about any drug-related activities in their vicinity. The cooperation of the public is deemed crucial for the successful eradication of this menace.

Islamabad Capital Police and Anti-Narcotics Force are jointly working to combat drug trafficking, while special teams have been formed to apprehend drug peddlers in educational institutions.