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Pakistan, UAE reaffirm resolve to further strengthen economic, strategic cooperation

PM Kakar expresses profound gratitude for the UAE's firm support to Pakistan in the economic and financial domain; Terms the signing of MoUs as a historic event that will usher in a new era of Pak-UAE economic partnership; Pakistan's support for a just and durable solution to the Palestinian question anchored in international law and in line with relevant United Nations and OIC resolutions.

ABU DHABI (APP): Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates on Monday reaffirmed their resolve to further strengthen economic and strategic cooperation. This reaffirmation was expressed during a meeting between Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and the UAE President, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan here.

Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M) was also present on the occasion.

The two leaders underlined that Pakistan and the UAE had historic and deep-rooted fraternal ties which had stood the test of time.

They also witnessed the signing of Memorandum of Understandings

(MoUs) between Pakistan and the UAE pertaining to investment cooperation in the sectors of energy, port operations, waste water treatment, food security, logistics, minerals, and banking and financial services.

The MoUs will unlock multi-billion dollars of investment from the United Arab Emirates into Pakistan and will help realize various initiatives envisioned under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). The prime minister termed the signing of MoUs as a historic event that will usher in a new era of Pak-UAE economic partnership.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Kakar expressed profound grati-

tude for the UAE's firm support to Pakistan in the economic and financial domain.

The UAE is home to 1.8 million Pakistanis, contributing to the progress, prosperity and economic development of the two brotherly countries.

Regional and global developments were also discussed during the meeting with particular reference to the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in occupied Palestine. The prime minister expressed Pakistan's support for a just and durable solution to the Palestinian question anchored in international law and in line with relevant United Nations and OIC resolutions.

Pakistan, UAE sign MoUs worth multi-billion dollars

ABU DHABI (APP): Pakistan and United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed several multi-billion dollars Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) in a range of areas here on Monday to boost economic and strategic cooperation between the two countries. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said in a video message.

The prime minister, who is on a two-day visit to the UAE, said with the signing of the MoUs, the bilateral economic and strategic relations had entered into a new era of bilateral cooperation.

Congratulating the people of Pakistan and the UAE, he said foundation of friendship with Pakistan that was laid by Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan in the 1970s, had been taken forward by his son Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to a new era.

Pakistan's Army Chief General Asim Munir and the federal ministers were present on the occasion while on the other side, all the important ministers of UAE were also present.

He expressed the hope that the MoUs that were signed by the two countries would turn into tangible projects very soon.



ABU DHABI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meeting with President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Pak deeply values its strategic and brotherly ties with KSA, says COAS

Saudi Commander, Army Chief discuss matters of defence cooperation, military training; lieutenant General Fahd bin Abdullah Al-Mutair appreciates Pakistan Army's role in fighting menace of terrorism

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commander of the Royal Saudi Land Forces (RSLF), Lieutenant General Fahd bin Abdullah Al-Mutair, Monday called on General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) here at GHQ.

During the meeting, they discussed various areas of mutual interest including cooperation in the fields of defence, security, military training as well as regional situation and the ongoing conflict in Middle East, an Inter Services Public

Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan Army's role in fighting the menace of terrorism and paid tributes to the sacrifices made in bringing peace to the region.

The COAS thanked the dignitary and said that, "Pakistan deeply values its strategic and brotherly ties with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

Earlier on arrival at GHQ, a smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan

Army presented the guard of honour to the visiting dignitary.

Meanwhile Lieutenant General Fahd Bin Abdullah Muhammad Al Mutair, Commander of the Royal Saudi Land Forces called on General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi today. During the meeting, both sides deliberated upon various areas of mutual interest, bilateral cooperation including defence and security.



RAWALPINDI: Lieutenant General Fahd bin Abdullah Al-Mutair, Commander of the Royal Saudi Land Forces (RSLF) called on General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ.

IMF technical delegation lands in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Online): International Monetary Fund (IMF) technical delegation has arrived Pakistan to discuss policies with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for the sale of products.

Delegation will dialogue with FBR to tax policy to increase tax net and tax collections for a week; sources.

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

Sources further said that the number of taxpayers will be increased to 60 lakhs by bringing 1 million more people into the tax net, the amendments that will be made in the tax policy along with the technical delegation will be implemented in the next budget.

190m pound scandal: Imran Khan's further physical remand rejected

RAWALPINDI (Online): Judge Muhammad Bashir of the Special Accountability Court of Islamabad rejected request for further physical remand of the chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in the 190 million pound scandal.

Court sent Imran Khan to jail on judicial remand.

After the physical remand ended, the NAB officials requested for more physical remand, which was rejected by the court.

Chairman PTI's lawyer Sardar Latif Khosa, his wife Bushra Bibi, sisters Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan, besides NAB prosecutor were also present at the hearing yesterday (Monday).

On the occasion of the hearing, the situation outside the Adiala Jail became tense when the citizens outside the jail surrounded the

vehicle of Bushra Bibi, (former first lady) and chanted slogans against the PTI Chairman.

On this occasion, the citizens shouted slogans in front of Bushra Bibi's car and demanded immediate action against Bushra Bibi for performing an illegitimate (against Shariah) marriage.

Meanwhile, Chairman PTI's lawyer Sardar Latif Khosa while talking to the media outside the jail said that the court has rejected the physical remand of Chairman PTI on behalf of NAB and has made him judicial. While he had previously opposed the physical remand of Chairman PTI.

He said that the National Crime Agency (NCA) itself has sent money amounting to 35 billion to the account of the Supreme Court.

Petroleum products likely to slide down by Rs.7

ISLAMABAD (Online): The possibility of Petroleum Products becoming cheaper by RS 7 from December 1st in the country has been revealed.

The work regarding exchange in prices of petroleum products by Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has been initiated.

As a result of the decrease in prices in the global market, the summary sent by OGRA to the government is likely to make petroleum products cheaper in Pakistan as well.

The price of petrol is expected to reduce by RS 7 per liter and that of price of diesel is expected to reduce by RS 6 per liter.

However, the final announcement of prices of petroleum products for 15

days after December 1st will be made with the approval of Caretaker Prime Minister (PM).

According to report, further decreased in prices of crude oil has been recorded in the world market.

The price of Russian oil per barrel has fallen below 60 dollars.

The limit of 60 dollars per barrel of Russian oil has been set by European Union (EU) but the price of Russian oil has also gone below the fixed limit in the market.

Likewise, British Brent deal decreased by 1% to \$80.58 per barrel and American West Texas Intermediate deal decreased by 2% to \$75.54 per barrel in the global market.

President for enhanced trade, cultural ties with Nigeria

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday called for further improving trade, economic and cultural cooperation with Nigeria, besides increasing the bilateral trade volume for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

The president expressed these views while talking to Pakistan's High Commissioner-designate to Nigeria, Major General (ret'd) Sohail Ahmad Khan, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

Talking to the high-commissioner designate, the president said that Nigeria was the largest economy in Africa, and Pakistan should explore opportunities for advancing

trade and economic relations with it. He opined that economic diplomacy was the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy and Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Nigeria, especially in the field of economy.

President Alvi asked the newly appointed high commissioner to work for promoting cultural linkages and people-to-people contacts to strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two countries.

He also congratulated Major General (ret'd) Sohail Ahmad Khan on his appointment and expressed the hope that he would work to further enhance bilateral ties with Nigeria in all domains of mutual interest.

Violation to cause forces expulsion No Afghan allowed to support any candidate in next elections: Interior Ministry

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Interior on Monday cautioned the illegal and legal Afghan migrants to avoid supporting or providing funding to any candidate for political and electoral activities in Pakistan whereas violations would lead to deportation despite the latter's legal status.

According to the Ministry of Interior statement, Afghan nationals residing in Pakistan were cautioned that it was illegal to support or provide funding to any candidate for political and electoral activities in Pakistan. "Any Afghan citizen

involved in such activities will be deported regardless of his or her legal status in Pakistan."

It said that Pakistani masses were cautioned not to provide employment to illegal aliens or assist such individuals in obtaining employment. "Information about any such illegal alien or the person providing employment to him should be provided to the Ministry of Interior for legal action on the website of the Ministry (UAN 051 111-367-226, HOTLINE 051-9211685)," the Ministry statement added.

Pakistan, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwaiti joint military exercise concluded: ISPR

RAWALPINDI (Online): Two weeks long multinational joint counter terrorism exercise Fajar Al Sharq-V was conducted at National Counter Terrorism Centre, Pabbi with participation of Special Forces contingents from the brotherly countries.

Exercise Fajar Al Sharq-V is a multinational

joint exercise in Counter Terrorism domain among the Special Forces of Pakistan, Bahrain, Iraq and Kuwait. The exercise is aimed at nurturing of joint employment and interoperability besides, harnessing the historic military to military relations among the brotherly countries.



ISLAMABAD: Relatives of missing persons holds protest rally from National Press Club to Super Market, for the recovery of their relatives.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's High Commissioner-designate to Nigeria, Major General (ret'd) Sohail Ahmad Khan, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Avenfield, Al-Azizia reference case hearing adjourned till Nov 29

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice Islamabad High Court (IHC) Amir Farooq remarked that the charge was not properly framed and NAB did not know what the evidence was.

Did National Accountability Court (NAB) try to prove that Maryam Nawaz is the beneficial owner?

The hearing of former prime minister and PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif's appeals against conviction in the Avenfield and Al-Azizia references has been adjourned till November 29.

Justice Mian Gul Hasan said during the hearing that show the portion of the judgment where the reference was ordered to be filed, they want to see what the Supreme Court (SC) had ordered to NAB.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice IHC

Justice Aamir Farooq and Justice Mian Gul Hasan Aurangzeb heard the appeals against Nawaz Sharif's sentence.

Nawaz Sharif appeared in court along with his legal team.

PML-N leader's lawyers Azam Nazir Tarar and Amjad Parvez were present on the rostrum.

Lawyer Amjad Parvez started the arguments in the Avenfield reference, the court inquired whether these facts were given before the filing of the reference. On which Amjad Parvez said that 3 facts are before the reference and the rest are after.

Justice Mian Gul Aurangzeb inquired that the facts before the references are very important. Where are the TORs of the JIT? Advocate Amjad Parvez said that a full investigation is needed on the said matter.

Countrywide anti-polio drive kicks off

ISLAMABAD (APP): A countrywide anti-polio campaign of varied durations to administer drops to children under five years of age started on Monday (today).

According to details, thousands of teams have been formed in the drive against the crippling disease with hopes to eliminate the virus this year.

Polio teams will go door-to-door and administer oral polio vaccine drops to children under the age of five, private news channels reported.

Health ministry officials urged people to cooperate with polio teams to administer drops to their children against this crippling disease.

In Punjab, anti-polio teams have been constituted to administer the Polio vaccine to 22 million children.

In Sindh, more than eighty thousand polio workers will go door to door to administer vaccines to over ten million children.

Likewise, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, more than seven point four million children up to five years of age will be administered Polio vaccine drops. In Balochistan, more than 2.5 million children up to five years of age would be administered anti-polio drops.

Suicide bomber hits security forces' convoy in Bannu

RAWALPINDI (APP): Two innocent civilians have embraced martyrdom while three soldiers of Pakistan Army along with seven civilians got injured after a motorbike-borne suicide bomber hit the security forces convoy in Bakka Khel area of Bannu District.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, on November 26, a motorcycle borne suicide bomber, affiliated with Hafiz Gul Bahadur Group and later identified as an Afghan national, exploded himself on a security forces' convoy in general area Bakka Khel, Bannu District.

Sanitization operation was being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.



ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister and leader of PML-N Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif leaving after his hearing at Islamabad High Court in Federal Capital.

Dec 12 last date for applications for Hajj 2024

ISLAMABAD (Online): The application process for Hajj 2024 under government scheme has been started. According to spokesperson of Ministry of Religious Affairs, the collection of Hajj application in 15 designated banks under official Hajj scheme will continue till December 12.

According to announcement of Ministry of Religious Affairs, almost about 89605 Pakistanis will perform Hajj under government scheme next year.

more than prescribed number of applications, lucky draw will be held. Women will be able to perform Hajj without Maharram for the first time.

According to spokesperson, applications can be submitted on valid Pakistani passport till December 16, 2024. Hajj applications can also be processed on passport apply token.

Spokesperson of Ministry of Religious Affairs said that quota of 25000 has been allocated under sponsorship scheme.

In case of receiving

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Unite against VAW

November 25 marked the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The day also marks the start of the 'UNITE' campaign: 16 days of activism against gender-based violence. According to the UN, an estimated one in every three women across the world has been subject to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence or both at least once in their lifetime, making violence against women and girls (VAW) one of the most prevalent human rights violations in the world. One must also reckon with the fact that violence against women is chronically under-reported, with many women who experience violence often not seeking help due to legal, social or cultural constraints. And yet, the behaviour of governments across the world would lead one unacquainted with the facts of gender-based violence to believe that it is not such a big deal after all. Only 0.2 per cent of government aid is focused on preventing violence against women and girls while 86 per cent of women and girls live in countries that lack legal protections against gender-based violence.

While there are several laws criminalizing violence, harassment and other forms of abuse against women in Pakistan, they have not had the impact in terms of reducing the crimes they seek to prevent that one would desire. Reports reveal that around 40 per cent of Pakistani women have experienced physical or emotional violence in their lifetime, with around 63,000 cases of gender-based violence reported over the last three years alone.

Laws alone can only do so much. If women who experience physical or sexual violence at home or elsewhere fear being ostracized by their family, friends or community for speaking out or somehow being blamed for their situation, cases of gender-based violence will never reach the stage where the law can take action. A first step towards getting the most out of the laws that seek to protect women is to then challenge and change the culture that seeks to disempower women by legitimizing or rationalizing gender-based violence. This is not solely a gender-based violence issue but one of social justice as well, with poorer women less likely to be able to afford the costs that come with filing a case and hiring the legal help needed to prosecute it, highlighting the need to provide legal and financial resources to victims of gender-based violence.



By Umair Javed

Large parts of Pakistan are currently engulfed by toxic air, amounting to nothing short of a public health catastrophe. The onset of 'smog season', Pakistan and north India's substitute for autumn and early winter, seems to be worsening with each passing year, and cities in the region regularly top the charts for the worst air quality anywhere in the world.

For the first few smog seasons, public authorities chose not to pay much attention, instead highlighting their own 'data' that showed the air wasn't actually as poisonous as environmentalists were making it out to be. Once this make-believe data was thoroughly debunked, authorities gradually stepped into action with a range of seemingly haphazard measures.

Clampdown on stubble burning during the Kharif season has reportedly produced some results. Data shared by environmental policy specialist Dawar Butt shows that till Nov 20, crop fires in Pakistani Punjab were down by nearly 60 per cent compared to the average for this period between 2016 and 2020.

Some of the punitive and administrative measures taken by local officials have induced behavioural change in farming populations, thus contributing to lower frequency of crop burning.

However, clamping down on crop burning addresses a relatively small segment of the problem, given the widespread and multifaceted nature of poor air quality. The fact

Smog season

of the matter is that crop fires only emerge ahead of winter sowing, while air quality is poor pretty much the year round. It becomes more visible during the last quarter of the calendar year because of changes in climatic and meteorological conditions.

To date, all existing work on toxic air quality in Pakistan has shown that vehicular emissions are a central part of the problem. Even when smog is not functionally visible, air quality indicators continuously show high levels of particulate matter and toxicity. This means that any interventions designed to clean up the air will also have to address these year-round causes, rather than just tackling time-bound issues.

A recent article by Pakistani scientists Abdullah Bajwa and Hassan Sheikh, based at Oxford and Cambridge respectively, in the journal Air does a comprehensive job of summarising the literature and evaluating the contribution of road transport to urban air pollution.

Their analysis of existing source apportionment studies shows that vehicular emissions are responsible for anywhere between a third to more than half of poor air quality, depending on the parameters of evaluation.

While existing research may be insufficient to provide more precise estimates, there is a general consensus among environmentalists that a) vehicle emissions are a major part of the problem, and b) within emitting vehicles, two- and three-wheelers are likely responsible for most of the issue.

As per the authors mentioned, "The emissions profile presented for Pakistan's urban automotive fleet identifies two- and three-wheelers, almost all of which are carburetted and a significant fraction are powered by 2SC engines, as the largest (36-64 per cent) vehicular pollution source."

High sulphur content in fuel (especially diesel) and lube oil, poorly tuned and maintained engines that burn rich, and lack of exhaust after-treatment systems are recognised as reasons for Pakistan's disproportionately high vehicular emissions.

Given what needs to be done to clean up Pakistan's air, the scale of the task is daunting for several political and institutional reasons. It is true that many cities around the world have cleaned up their air, contributing to better public health outcomes for their citizens.

London, Chicago, Los Angeles, and a host of other Western cities have all done remarkably well on this front. Closer to home, the example of Chinese cities and their ability to improve domestic environmental conditions over the preceding three decades is frequently cited as an example worthy of emulation.

The issue of using China as a model for environmental policies is a complex one. Recent analyses by environmental economist Dr Sanval Nasim identifies exactly why: China is a high-capacity, well-resourced state, with a bureaucracy and local governance apparatus that can take a range of difficult, often very costly, steps to control local populations.

Given the political system in China, administrators have the capacity to absorb political and social blowback with little consequences. Simply put, they have a centralised, disciplined governance apparatus that can successfully ban old vehicles, sanction polluters, impose heavy fines etc.

While no system is entirely free from leakages, the Chinese have the ability to coordinate across multiple governing tiers and departments to produce desired outcomes. — Courtesy Dawn

Invisible women



By Dr Farzana Bari

The recently released UNDP 2023 Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) reveals the shocking persistence of gender biases globally. The index tracks people's attitudes towards women across four dimensions — political, education, economic and physical integrity in both lower and higher HDI countries.

Covering 85 per cent of the world's population, the GSNI reveals that a staggering nine out of 10 men and women still hold gender biases against women, indicating that 90 per cent of the world's population holds at least one bias against women. Twenty-five percent of the population believe it is justified for a man to physically harm his wife.

Nearly half of the respondents believe men are better suited for political leadership, and 43 per cent hold the belief that men make better business executives compared to women. Furthermore, 28 per cent people think that higher education is more important for men than for women. Despite the global and national-level commitments to gender equality, there is not a single country in today's world that can truly claim itself as a gender-just society. The GSNI claims that women spend twice as much time on average on domestic and care work as compared to men. Women's time spent on unpaid care work accounts for most of the recent variation in the gender gap in income. Women account for 28 per cent of managers and 31 per cent of top leaders in public ad-

ministration globally. Women hold just over a quarter of parliament seats and 22 per cent of ministerial positions. Heads of states or women in government have remained around 10 per cent since 1995.

The global presence of gender biases demands a more profound analysis of the underlying causes that perpetuate these biases and reinforce gender stereotypes, hindering the equal access to opportunities and resources for women to fully develop their human capital.

The woman question is intertwined with the broader global systems of social and economic production processes that are historically based on exploitation and oppression along the lines of class, gender and race and other social divisions. Patriarchy as a pre-historic phenomenon has been changing with the mode of production and relations of production from primitive to slave, feudal, capitalist and socialist formations in human society. It is indeed not surprising that in the patriarchal neo-liberal capitalist world of the 21st century, progress towards achieving gender equality promised in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is frustratingly slow. As gender inequality is one of the organizing principles of capitalist production, it is impossible to achieve gender equality in class-based societies.

Political rights and civil liberties have been in decline worldwide. Global space for freedom is shrinking, and militarization, fundamentalism, extremism is on the rise. Increasing poverty and high unemployment accompanied by conservative backlash is putting democratic practices under stress in general and women's rights for equal participation in economic, politics and civic spaces in particular.

Gendered social norms are deeply rooted in the ideology of sexual division of labour (SDL), which assigns distinct roles to men and women in society. Men are expected to be the primary breadwinners, occupying positions in the public sphere, while women are assigned the primary role within the private arena of homes as mother, wives and caretakers. The public-private divide forms the basis for investing less resources to build women's human capital as they are not expected to be economically independent.

The gender role ideology serves as a smokescreen to not only invisibilize women's role in the public sphere but also undermine the economic value of women's reproductive labour within the domestic sphere. Reproductive labour is essential for the productive sphere. The unpaid domestic labour of women keeps the living wages of productive labour low for the capitalist class and contributes to increased profit margin and capital accumulation. Within this socio-economic formation, gender equality is no more than a rhetoric at the domestic and global levels. The trajectory to gender equality proposed in the GSNI is education, recognition and representation. The index proposes two key blocs of action. The first block aims to shape gender-sensitive policy interventions and institutional reforms and the second block focuses on the significant role of the social context in shaping attitudes and behaviors. While there is nothing wrong with this proposed way, it cannot be achieved through reformist interventions within systems of exploitation and oppression. Gender social norms are embedded in institutional arrangements and social practices. —Courtesy The News

Commerce News

Fawad stresses for revamping taxation system, privatizing SOEs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatization, Fawad Hasan Fawad on Monday highlighted the flaws in the country's taxation system by informing that around 93 per cent of the collected tax revenue is either voluntary or withholding; whereas, only 7 per cent is actually collected by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

Mr. Fawad Hasan Fawad informed the audience that the current state of the public sector is unsustainable and

contributes to the deterioration in the business environment in the country, according to a press release issued here.

Federal Minister for Privatization, Fawad Hasan Fawad, said this while speaking at the 3rd "Pakistan Prosperity Forum" organized by the Policy Research Institute of Market Economy (PRIME).

In 3 years from 2018-2021, the government spent Rs. 2.54 trillion in terms of subsidies, grants,

and loans to keep commercial SOEs operational, he said.

He informed that the size of the government has increased by more than three times in the last couple of decades.

Fawad said that moreover, FBR sends recovery notices to individuals worth billions of rupees while the actual collection is a mere few hundred million.

Since 2016, the tax burden on corporate taxpayers has increased by more than 40 per cent

average, he said.

Such a burden has contributed to encouraging people to stay out of the tax system and corporatization.

The public sector reforms should include bureaucratic reforms and taxation system reforms. These two areas are crucial for improving the performance of the state.

He stressed that the reform should not increase in the size of the federal and provincial governments, and the power of state functionaries.



Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan, chaired a strategic meeting to discuss the prospective trajectory of Economic Development within a robust policy framework.



KARACHI: Chief Statistician Pakistan Bureau of Statistics Dr. Naeem-uz-Zafar gives shield to Head of Office Sindh (UNFA), Ms. Bayramgul Garabayeva at a workshop on data users and data producer's dialogue organized by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics in collaboration with United Nations Population Funds (UNFPA).

PRMI for modernization of local business to enhance FDI

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Regulatory Modernization Initiatives (PRMI) was a major plan of the Board of investment (BOI) for the modernization and regulation of local business to enhance the foreign direct investment in the country.

Implementation of these reforms, initiated by BOI, was part of the broader strategy of the government aimed at improving productivity and enhancing exports to achieve the objective of sustainable economic growth in the country, Federal Secretary, Board of Investment (BOI),

Muhammad Sohail Rajput told APP here.

The Secretary BOI said the main objective of PRMI reforms strategy was to improve the entry and operation environment for business, focusing on the simplification and automation of the regulatory framework at all three government levels including federal, provincial and district level. He said the vital success indicator of the initiative would be increase in the overall private sector and foreign direct investment level without compromising the effectiveness of the various regulatory regimes.

Rupee shed 27 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Monday witnessed 27 paise devaluation against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 285.64 against the previous day's closing at Rs285.37.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 285.2 and Rs 288.8 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs 1.41 to close at Rs312.72 against the last day's closing of Rs311.31, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen gained one paise to close at Rs1.91; whereas an increase of Rs2.06 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs360.25 as compared to the last closing of Rs358.19.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 07 and 08 paise to close at Rs77.77 and Rs76.16 respectively.

VEON wins award for crisis response

ISLAMABAD (APP): VEON, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and online services has won the Crisis Response Award for its group-wide emergency response initiatives.

The World Communications Awards, presented in Amsterdam and hosted after the conclusion of the Total Telecoms Congress, is adjudicated by over 90 independent industry experts, academics, and CTOs; and is widely recognized as one of the most prestigious awards in the telecommunications industry, said a news release issued here on Monday. VEON was recognized for its "comprehensive approach to some of the most difficult operating

environments on Earth, both due to natural disasters and man-made conflicts" including a focus on network resilience, early disaster-warning apps, and humanitarian aid."

During the past two years, VEON's digital operators have prioritized putting technology to the use of the most vulnerable people and communities who fell victim to the war in Ukraine, devastating floods in Pakistan, and cyclone Mocha in Bangladesh.

While no humanitarian situation is comparable in terms of devastation, these disasters have all affected and continue to affect millions of people, exposing them to disease, hunger, and displacement, with women and children being the most vulnerable.



KARACHI: People are buying woolen clothes from vendors after increasing coldness.

Pakistan, China hold meeting to promote agri-forestry economy

BEIJING (APP): The third Science and Technology Exchange Conference on China-Pakistan Tropical Arid Non-wood Forest is being held both online and offline from November 26 to 28 in Zhengzhou, China, and Gwadar, Pakistan simultaneously.

The exchange conference aims to showcase achievements and research progress of both nations in the field of economic forestry. It also seeks to facilitate academic exchanges of woody medicinal herbs and active substances between China and Pakistan.

The event, co-hosted

by the Chinese Society of Forestry (CSF) and Central South University of Forestry and Technology (CSUFT), drew over 220 officials, scholars, students and business representatives from both countries, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

In 2021, to enhance the economic and ecological development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), CSUFT, China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC), and Yulin Holdings collaborated to establish an Engineering Research Center for Tropical Arid

Non-wood Forest.

The center aims to showcase a green and sustainable development approach, focusing on the non-wood forest industry and its compatibility with ecological, economic, and social benefits in Gwadar.

During the review and discussion of the progress made over the past years, Zhang Baozhong, chairman of COPHC, introduced the impact of eco-economic forest construction on the business environment in Gwadar. Focusing on the collection and utilization of germplasm resources of arid- and salt-tolerant and non-wood barren forests.

All Pakistan Kisan Ittehad delegation meets S.M Tanveer

Independent Report

LAHORE: A delegation of All Pakistan Kisan Ittehad here on Monday met Caretaker Punjab Minister for Agriculture S.M Tanveer and apprised him about the problems of farmers.

Speaking on the occasion the minister said, "Agriculture sector has a key position in the national economy and its development can help in overcoming the country's economic crisis." New investment of billions of dollars was underway in the agricultural sector and in order to address black marketing of fertilizers the crackdown in this regard had been intensified, he added. He further said that canal water theft was also being addressed with the support of irrigation and other allied departments.

The government of Punjab had raised its voice before the federal government regarding the purchase of cotton at a fixed price, he added.

SM Tanveer said that effective measures were being taken to increase per acre production of wheat.

Hard work imperative for attaining glory in education: Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali on Monday said that hard work and professional dedication were imperative to achieve glory in all sectors including education.

Despite payment of about Rs 97 Billion to government schools under the head of salaries in the last four months, he said the children did not achieve the desired education results and many failed.

He was addressing students and teachers at University of Chitral. "It was very heartening for me when an M.Phil passed student asked for a Class-IV job," he said, adding

every effort including the construction of universities and investment in the education sector would be a futile exercise if quality education was not provided to students.

The governor said there was no dearth in talent in our students and we need to focus on their professional education training and career counseling. He questioned the reasons behind 100 per cent results of private educational institutions and poor results of public sector schools.

The Governor said funds for educational institutions showing poor results would be stopped. He said funds of

universities with no ranking would also be stopped. Haji Ghulam Ali said the education standard of Govt College Peshawar was very low in Peshawar in the past. The Governor said when he took over as district Nazim Peshawar, he was surprised after seeing in the newspaper that three students of Government College Peshawar had topped the examination in the province and became very pleased.

The governor said the students were the future of Pakistan and great responsibility rested on their teachers and parents to focus on their studies so that they could effectively shoulder the future responsibilities.



CHITRAL: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali performed ground breaking ceremony of the University of Chitral main campus during his visit to district Chitral.

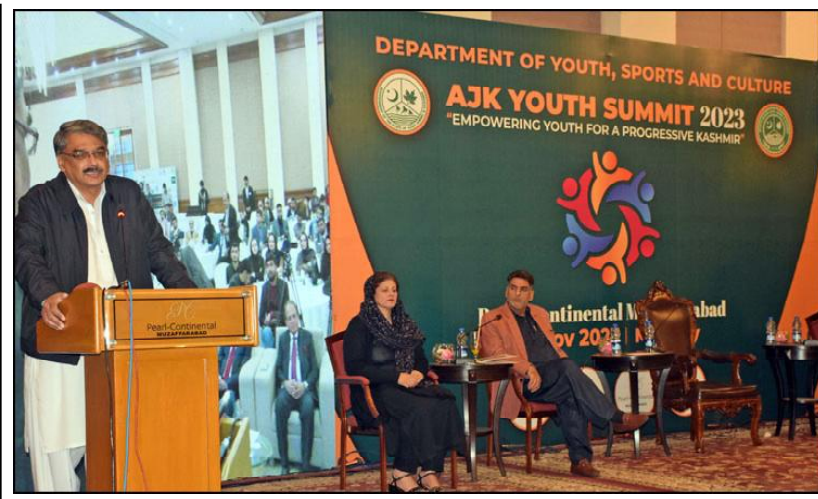
Working group formed for artificial rain in Lahore

LAHORE (APP): As part of efforts to control smog, the Punjab government has formed a working group comprising representatives of relevant federal, provincial departments and military organizations to execute the project of artificial rain in Lahore.

The decision to establish the working group was made in a meeting held at the Civil Secretariat under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman here on Monday.

The meeting reviewed progress on the projects of artificial rain and installation of smog reduction towers in Lahore. The administrative secretaries of various departments including environment protection, agriculture, finance and officers concerned attended the meeting. Addressing the meeting, Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman said that the Punjab government was taking practical steps to prevent smog, adding that joint efforts were needed to control environmental pollution. He said that the cooperation of federal and military institutions in efforts to prevent smog in Punjab was commendable.

Officials of the Environmental Protection Department gave a briefing on cloud seeding and cloud ionization methods for artificial rain. They said that the first trial for cloud seeding was expected in four to six weeks. They mentioned that the cloud seeding through a chemical process using aircraft was highly dependent on weather conditions and cloud formation.



MUZAFFERABAD: Prime Minister AJK Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq addressing during the "Kashmir Youth Summit 2023" in the Capital.

Ministers attend central event of Baba Guru Nanak's birth anniversary

Independent Report

LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Information Minister Amir Mir and Auqaf Minister Barrister Azfar Ali Nasir participated in the central event commemorating the 554th birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak, the revered spiritual leader of the Sikh community, held at Gurudwara Janam Asthan Nankana Sahib.

The ministers engaged with thousands of Sikh pilgrims hailing from across the globe, including the UK, Australia, USA, Canada, and India, said a press release issued here on Monday.

Minister Amir Mir meticulously inspected the arrangements at Gurudwara Janamasthan, focusing on cleanliness, security, and overall logistics. Both caretaker ministers actively participated in the

Nagarkirtan procession and other festivities.

Expressing a warm welcome to pilgrims from around the world at Nankana Sahib, Minister Amir Mir extended congratulations on Baba Guru Nanak Dev's birthday. He emphasized that Pakistan is a bouquet of diverse religions, where Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus, Christians, and Parsis bloom as its vibrant flowers. Amir Mir highlighted the beauty of religious diversity in the country and underscored that followers of all faiths enjoy absolute freedom in Pakistan. "The provision of essential facilities to both local and international pilgrims ranks as the top priority for the Punjab government," he stated. He urged the continuation of Baba Guru Nanak's message of peace, love, harmony, and goodness.

ANF recovers 420 kg drugs in seven operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations across the country managed to recover over 420 kg of drugs and arrested five accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that in

an operation, ANF recovered 800 grams of Ice drug from a parcel booked for Bahrain at a courier office in Rawalpindi.

100 intoxicated tablets (ecstasy) were recovered from an accused netted from Bhara Khau in Islamabad.

Meeting to review AIP ongoing projects in NMDs held

Independent Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Industries, Commerce, and Technical Education, Dr. Aamer Abdullah, chaired a meeting at his office here on Monday to review the funding status for ongoing projects under the Accelerated Implementation Program (AIP) in Newly Merged Districts.

During the meeting, discussions centered on the allocation of funds for ongoing development projects across various departments, including Communications and Work, Irrigation, Agriculture, Livestock Fisheries, Forestry and Environment, Food, Primary and Secondary and Higher Education, Public Health Engineering, Sports and Youth Affairs, and the Board of Revenue.

The meeting involved a comprehensive review of each project's status and the necessary funds essential for their timely completion. Secretary Communication and Works Idris Khan Marwat, Secretary Livestock and Fisheries Dr. Muhammad Asrar, Secretary Food Zariul-Maani, Special Secretaries from the Interior and Tribal Affairs Department Muhammad Zubair.

LHC accepts petition about cases registered in May 09 incident for hearing

RAWALPINDI (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) Rawalpindi Bench Justice Chaudhry Abdul Aziz has accepted the petition filed for hearing regarding the details of the cases filed on May 9 incident.

While issuing a notice to the parties, Inspector General (IG) Punjab and Regional Police Officer (RPO) Rawalpindi have been asked for a report within two weeks.

Former Member of National Assembly Sheikh Rashid Shafiq, through Abdul Raziq Advocate, made the IG Punjab and RPO Rawalpindi a party and took a stand in the petition filed that 6 months after the May 9 incident, the petitioner is being involved in various cases through the by-laws. Whereas the petitioner has nothing to do with any incident anywhere, nor is there any evidence of the petitioner's presence, nor is he named in any case other than the City Police

Station case. The police is maliciously nominating on the basis of supplementary statements after 6 months, although the Supreme Court has also made it clear that delayed supplementary statements have no status nor can they be considered as admissible evidence, so the petitioner is merely anonymous.

Thus far, the petitioner's name has been mentioned in 13 cases and now it has been found that the petitioner is being implicated in more cases at different places.

It has been requested in the petition that the court should seek the details of the cases against the petitioner and also seek an explanation as to which case petitioner is being implicated in and on what basis.

After the preliminary hearing of the petition, the court has asked the IG Punjab and RPO Rawalpindi to respond within two weeks.

CM takes notice of girl killing incident in Kohistan

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Chief Minister, Justice (Retd) Arshad Hussain Shah here Monday took strict notice of killing of a girl allegedly on order of a local jirga in Kohistan and directed the authorities concerned for immediate inquiry of the incident.

He contacted Additional Chief Secretary Home and directed for taking all necessary measures for conducting of an immediate inquiry of the incident and submission of report at earliest, says an official statement here.

The chief minister also directed KPK Inspector General of Police for immediate arrest of all the culprits involved in the gory incident.



LAHORE: People are taking interest in paintings during exhibition regarding the "Ghaza" at Khana-e-Farhang (Iran) in Provincial Capital.

International News

Negotiators close to agreeing extension of Gaza truce, say Egyptian security sources

News Desk

GAZA/JERUSALEM: Egyptian, Qatari and US negotiators closed in on an extension of a four-day truce in Gaza that expires on Monday, Egyptian security sources said, amid rising international pressure to roll over a deal which has paused seven weeks of fighting.

Palestinian group Hamas is seeking a four-day extension while Israel wants day-by-day extensions, with negotiations continuing over which Palestinian prisoners would be freed, the sources said.

An Israeli official earlier reiterated Israel's position that it would agree to an extra day of truce for each additional 10 hostages freed and to release three times the number of Palestinians each time. The number of additional days is capped at five, the official added.

A Palestinian official, familiar with the truce talks, said both Hamas and Israel had shown a positive attitude to requests to extend the pause in fighting, but added that "a final decision hasn't yet been reached".

On Sunday, Hamas freed 17 people, including a 4-year-old Israeli-American girl, bringing the total number the militant group has released since Friday to 58, including foreigners. Israel freed 39 teenage Palestinian prisoners on Sunday, taking the total number of Palestinians freed under the truce to 117.

Under the terms of the current deal, Hamas is due to

release in total 50 Israeli women and children held hostage in Gaza, which means that 11 remained to be freed on Monday. There is no limit in the deal on the number of foreigners it can release.

An Israeli government spokesperson said on Monday that the total number of hostages still held in Gaza was now 184, including 14 foreigners and 80 Israelis with dual nationality.

Both Israel and Hamas raised concerns over Monday's lists and Qatari mediators were working with them to resolve the issues and avoid delays, an official briefed on the matter told Reuters.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said it was reviewing the list of Palestinian prisoners it had received from Hamas for release on Monday and would provide further information when possible.

Hamas spokesperson Osama Hamdan, speaking to Lebanon's LBC broadcaster, said the group would try to find more hostages to release and thus prolong the truce. Hamas has previously said it is not holding all the hostages who were brought to Gaza.

Once the truce ends, Netanyahu said at the weekend, "we will return with full force to achieve our goals: the elimination of Hamas; ensuring that Gaza does not return to what it was; and of course the release of all our hostages."



Palestinians eat outside amid the destruction caused by Israeli strikes in the village of Khuzaa, east of Khan Yunis near the border fence between Israel and the southern Gaza Strip



WELLINGTON: Former airline boss Christopher Luxon formally took office as New Zealand's prime minister vowing to tame inflation and bring down interest rates

Luxon sworn in as New Zealand PM

WELLINGTON (AFP/APP): Former airline boss Christopher Luxon formally took office as New Zealand's prime minister on Monday, vowing to tame inflation and bring down interest rates.

Luxon took over six weeks after his conservative National Party won national elections, ending a six-year Labour Party reign ushered in by Jacinda Ardern.

Luxon, 53, once chief executive of Air New Zealand, was sworn in as head of a new coalition government by New Zealand's governor-general in a ceremony in the capital Wellington.

"It is an honour and an awesome responsibility," Luxon told reporters. "The number one job is to fix the economy. We have to reduce the cost of living and get inflation under control so we can lower interest rates and make food more affordable."

Luxon said his new government would also focus in its first few months on restoring law and order and improving public services.

"We need to go to work," he said. The former Labour government struggled to control the rising cost of living, a global issue blamed in part on pandemic-related supply issues and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Satirical Putin play stirs emotions in Bulgaria

SOFIA (AFP/APP): A highly acclaimed satirical play about President Vladimir Putin and his allies facing a war crimes tribunal is making waves in Bulgaria, a country historically close to Russia.

Titled "The Hague", the play by Ukrainian author Sasha Denisova recounts the story of an orphaned teenager from Mariupol who imagines how Russia's top brass is brought to justice over its devastating war in Ukraine.

After premiering in Poland and the United States earlier this year, celebrated guest director Galin Stoev adapted the play for a Bulgarian audience, seeking to challenge the Balkan country's pro-Kremlin sentiment.

In the drama currently staged at Sofia's National Theatre, Putin is portrayed by a woman—Bulgarian actor Radena Valkanova—donning a sleek black suit and red shoes.

"If we can't watch the Hague trial in real life, let's watch it in the theatre," Denisova said of the scene she penned before the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for

Putin over the alleged unlawful deportation of Ukrainian children.

In the same way, as Charlie Chaplin mocked Nazi leader Adolf Hitler on screen, "Putin must be laughed at without mercy," she told AFP, stressing the power of satire.

Historically close to Russia, EU and NATO member Bulgaria still has many citizens nostalgic for what they see as the glory days of the Russian empire and the Soviet Union.

The nostalgia also refers to Russia as a protector for the Slavic people of Bulgaria from Ottoman rule.

Studies suggesting that 30 percent of Bulgarians are pro-Putin—despite Moscow's relentless war on Ukraine—encouraged Stoev in his determination to stage an "eye-opening" adaptation of the play in Sofia.

And he seems to have hit a mark.

"The audience is deeply moved and asks questions," Stoev told AFP, after the actors received another round of standing ovations from the crowd.

China's top diplomat to visit UN for Israel-Hamas talks

BEIJING (AFP/APP): China's top diplomat Wang Yi will visit New York this week to hold a United Nations Security Council meeting on the Israel-Hamas conflict, Beijing's foreign ministry said on Monday.

"As it holds the rotating presidency of the United Nations Security Council this month, China will hold a high-level meeting on the Palestinian-Israeli issue on November 29," spokesman Wang Wenbin said.

Wang Yi will preside over the meeting, he added. Hamas poured across

the border on October 7, killing 1,200 people, according to Israeli officials.

In response, Israel launched a military campaign to destroy Hamas, killing nearly 15,000 people, mostly civilians and including thousands of children, according to Gaza's Hamas government.

China said last week it welcomed a truce between Israel-Hamas, which began Friday and led to dozens of hostages being freed and the release of more than 100 Palestinian prisoners.

The deal entered its fi-

nal 24 hours on Monday.

Beijing hoped this week's UN talks would achieve "a ceasefire and an end to the fighting" and make "contributions to alleviating the humanitarian crisis in Gaza", Wang Wenbin said.

China has historically been sympathetic to the Palestinian cause and supportive of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has called for an "international peace conference" to resolve the fighting.

US President Biden to miss COP28 climate summit

WASHINGTON (INP): President Joe Biden will miss the latest UN climate summit in Dubai, after two years of attending the talks in hopes of highlighting US leadership, a US official said.

Some 70,000 people including national leaders and Pope Francis are expected at COP28 as it opens on Thursday, in what could

be the largest United Nations climate summit ever. Schedules released by the White House for Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris showed neither heading to Dubai this week.

Biden's engagements include a trip to Colorado to highlight US investment in wind energy, a meeting with the president of Angola and the lighting of the na-

tional Christmas tree. A US official confirmed that Biden was not planning to attend COP28 this week or during a second window close to the end of the talks on December 12.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Biden administration was still discussing whether to send a top-level official to Dubai.

Education minister honors 30 students with NEF awards

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindh on Monday honoured 30 exceptional students with National Education Foundation (NEF) merit-based awards.

Emphasizing the critical role of quality and skill-based education in navigating the country through financial challenges, the minister underscored the importance of well-prepared educators in shaping a brighter future for children.

Addressing the award distribution ceremony as the chief guest, Minister Sindh commended the outstanding achievements of 30 students, each of whom was presented with a Merit Award of Rs 100,000.

The event drew the participation of heads of departments from the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, parents, students (children of Federal Government teachers), and members of the media fraternity.

Minister Madad Ali Sindh reiterated that education is the fundamental

right of every child and a cornerstone for national progress.

In the contemporary era, no nation can thrive without a commitment to quality education. Human Resource Development, central to government policy, relies on education as a fundamental force in shaping human social capital.

He expressed confidence that the initiatives of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training will elevate the state of education in the country, fostering holistic development and economic growth.

Commending the National Education Foundation for its commendable efforts in providing free basic and skill-based education to the Khawajasara Community, Minister Sindh also praised the foundation and the Ministry for their impactful awareness and enrollment campaigns for out-of-school children (OOSC) in the ICT region.

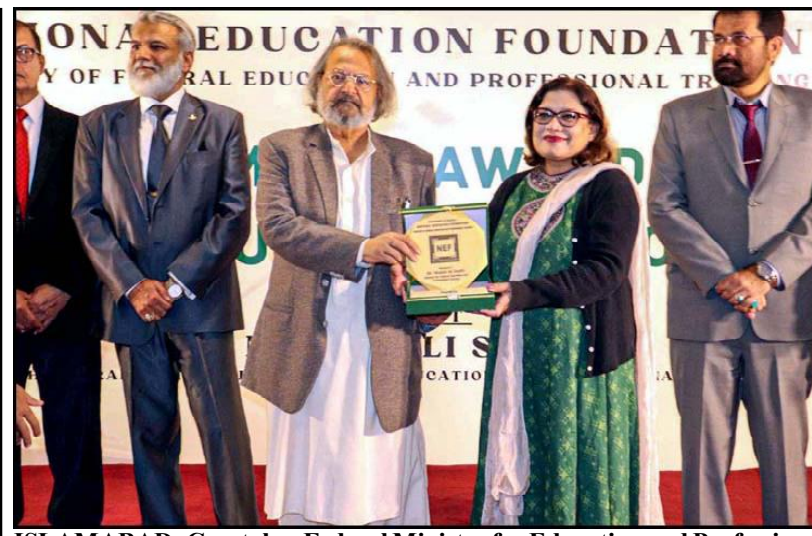
During the ceremony, Managing Director Ms. Tahira S. Shaikh shared

that the National Education Foundation has awarded scholarships to over 6000 children of Federal Government teachers (ICT) since 1998.

The Merit Award is bestowed upon children of F.G. Teachers who have secured a minimum of 80% marks in their intermediate examinations and gained fresh admission into any degree program in public sector Medical and Engineering institutions or any public university recognized by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) on a merit basis.

Ms. Shaikh highlighted that this award serves as recognition for students who excel academically, securing admissions through fierce competition and merit.

The Merit Award Ceremony stands as a testament to the commitment of the Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindh, and the National Education Foundation to nurturing excellence in education and fostering the academic growth of the nation's youth.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Mr. Madad Ali Sindh, graced the prestigious National Education Foundation (NEF) Merit Award Ceremony.

No substitute of mother's milk for babies: Murtaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi, stressing the need to create awareness about breastfeeding, on Monday said that there was no substitute of mother's milk for ensuring the overall health of infant babies. Winding up debate on a motion by Samina Mumtaz Zehri about the regulation of production and sale of baby formula milk and related products and awareness among young mothers, he said Pakistan Standard and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA), a subsidiary of the Ministry of Science and Technology,

monitored the quality and standard of imported milk.

He explained that formula milk was rarely produced in the country.

The minister said that Pakistan had to spend \$ 30.5 million on the import of around 15000 tons of formula milk every year. Pakistan ranked fourth in milk production in the world, he added. He said the Senators discussed the important features of the formula milk and added the mother might not be able to breastfeed the baby in the specific situation.

He said in case of mother's death, a baby had to be fed by formula milk so it could not be completely banned.

Earlier moving the motion, Samina Mumtaz Zehri called for promoting minimum six-month breastfeeding to enhance the immune system of babies. She suggested that formula milk should be banned and discouraged in the country. Some 16 companies were manufacturing formula milk and none was unfortunately a Pakistani company. She said that formula milk companies always managed doctors and paramedics with monetary benefits, to eventually suggest their products for infant babies.

Quality of medical education to be enhanced: SAPM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Medical Education and Patient Care and Minister of State Prof. Dr. Aamir Bilal said on Monday the quality of medical and dental education will be enhanced at par with international standards, considering local needs and ground realities. He was chairing a high-level meeting at the Pakistan Medical 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.

Dr Bilal 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.

ICCPO visits Police Community Center orders to expedite the furnishing

ISLAMABAD: According to details, Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir



sued directives to expedite the decoration and furnishing of the Police Community Center.

During his visit, he emphasized the welfare initiatives undertaken for officers, officials, and their families within the Islamabad Capital Police. He highlighted that the construction of the Police Community Center aimed to benefit not only the police officers and officials but also their families in the future.

National media should amplify sufferings of flood-impacted communities at COP-28

ISLAMABAD (APP): The national media should amplify the sufferings of flood-affected communities during the upcoming International Climate Conference (COP-28) in Dubai, from 30th November to 12 December 2023.

This was discussed in an online training session on COP28 and the Role of National Media, organized by Resilient Future International - an Islamabad-based research and training company. Journalists and university students participated in the training session, a news release said.

Aftab Alam Khan, the lead trainer, has pointed out that while more than 5000 journalists are expected to attend COP28, many journalists from poor countries may not be able to attend due to financial constraints. He has emphasized the need for media houses and donors to support Pakistani journalists in attending such climate conferences.

Aftab Alam Khan noted that national media can play three roles during COP28, a) reminding the world about the continuous sufferings of flood-affected people, especially women, children, transgenders, elderly and disabled b) supporting the demands of meaningful Loss and Damage Fund and drastic cuts in greenhouse gases (GHGs) and c) to keep the nation aware of the proceedings of the climate conference.

Aftab Alam Khan emphasized that the International Conference of Parties (COP-28) on climate change was scheduled in Dubai, but the sufferings of flood-affected communities in Pakistan. COP28 presents an exceptional opportunity for Pakistani media to amplify the miseries of the climate victims.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Dr. Nadeem Jan chaired an Inter Ministerial meeting on health and population participated by all provinces Ministers and their representatives.

Dr Saqib outlines strategy to make BISP an exemplary institution

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib has said that serving 9.3 million needy families is a form of worship, highlighting the moral imperative of addressing poverty as a collective responsibility.

While addressing a gathering of BISP employees at Usmania Masjid Muzaffarabad, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib outlined a comprehensive strategy aimed at making BISP an exemplary institution in the fight against poverty.

Dr. Amjad Saqib emphasized the importance of linking children from needy families to technical skill areas, providing them with avenues for a brighter future.

Dr. Amjad Saqib stressed that BISP employees to establish an endowment fund dedicated to the welfare of needy families.

This innovative initiative seeks to create a sustainable mechanism for long-term support, showcasing BISP's commitment to transformative solutions.

During his visit to the BISP office in Muzaffarabad, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib personally engaged with needy women, listening to their concerns and experiences.

Entire occupied Jammu and Kashmir turned into open-air prison: APHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has said that India has illegally and unconstitutionally turned entire occupied Jammu and Kashmir into an open-air prison since August 5, 2019.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC in a statement issued in Srinagar said that BJP regime is using its military and police establishment to wage a war on the oppressed people of Kashmir to intimidate them into submission.

The APHC said the life, property, honour and dignity of Kashmiri people are not safe due to the presence of hundreds of thousands of Indian troops and in the territory.

It said the Indian government has deprived the people of Jammu and Kashmir of all their fundamental rights.

The statement said human rights violations by the troops have been going on for the last several decades but after 05 August 2019 the Indian state terrorism and atrocities have witnessed an alarming surge in the territory.

4 crore rupees of abroad scholarships revealed to be missing

ISLAMABAD (Online): Under Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Education Foundation, it has been revealed that crores of rupees of scholarships abroad have gone missing. According to documents, scholarship money of students studying at China University was transferred to private accounts. Degrees and language certificates of hundreds of students were trapped due to the scandal. Education Foundation has started an investigation into the disappearance of 4 crores.

Senate Power Committee Meeting: Abro, Behramand Tangi exchange bitter words

ISLAMABAD (Online): In the meeting of Senate Power Committee, Chairman Committee Saifullah Abro and Sr. Behramand Tangi had bitter words.

Saifullah Abro said that your lawyer is faster, you are trying to save corruption.

Senator Behramand Tangi said that I am a senator, I am not anybody's lawyer, I am walking out of the committee on your remarks.

Bahramand Tangi walked out of the meeting.

National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) board members in the committee apologized for the letter written to the committee.

The committee directed action against the NTDC secretary for not providing the recording and materials of the meeting

day. The meeting of the committee was held under the chairmanship of the chairman of the committee, Saifullah Abro. Has any senator ever asked for his own work? The committee has directed to submit an evaluation report on the bunting conductor project of Dahaso Dam. Senator Dilawar Khan said that if something has gone wrong, how will it be treated.

The committee has directed MDNTDC and NES-Pak to look into the matter and take a decision.

Senator Haji Fida Muhammad said that why the Minister of Energy and the Secretary are absent from the Energy Committee, the officials of the Ministry of Energy said that the Minister of Energy is out of the country and the Secretary is in an online meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gul Bar Khan is presiding over the important meeting regarding Diامر Bhasha Dam Chairman WAPDA Lt-General (r) Sajjad Ghani provisional Minister and other Officers also present.

HEC calls for applications from private sector institutions to recognise their BICs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has called for application for recognition of Business Incubation Centers (BICs) aims to facilitate young and budding entrepreneurs through administrative, consulting, and networking services with provision of in-expensive startup spaces.

According to HEC official sources, the applications are invited from higher education institutions (private sector) to recognise their BICs.

As per details, the institution should have an operational BIC in line with the minimum requirements as per HEC BIC Policy 2021. They also have an HEC-recognised/funded BIC under the consortia model.

Furthermore, the institutions must have proven and tangible research commercialization and entrepreneurial ecosystem.

It is worth mention here that recognition of BICs does not involve any funding and financial commitment from the commission.

The official sources added that HEC encouraged development of innovative companies, startups, and spin-offs to stimulate and support economic growth through rigorous incubation process.

The BICs are active players for creation of new jobs, and revival of innovative communities.

The commission is offering two routes for interested universities to establish their BICs.

The proposals for establishment of BIC at Public Sector HEIs are invited through Call for proposals.

The public sector HEIs having HEC recognized and fully functional ORIC interested in establishment of Business Incubation Center can apply of establishment of BIC.

USAID-Funded Municipal Services Prog. in KP completed

By Haroon Siraj PESHAWAR: U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Donald A. Blome visited the Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP) office in Hayatabad, Peshawar, to celebrate the successful completion of the USAID-funded Municipal Services Program in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), a 12-

water supply in 21 Union Councils.

Rehabilitated sewerage and drainage lines, which improve sanitation for 1.7 million people.

More efficient solid waste collection and disposal.

Improved municipal waste management services, including 575



year, \$44.6 million effort.

Thanks to the project, today hundreds of thousands of residents of KP have better more reliable access to safe, clean, drinking water, waste management, and improved sanitation.

The project's accomplishments include: The rehabilitation of 140 clean drinking water facilities serving 448,000 people.

Replacement of 25,700 meters of old and rusted water mains, ensuring clean, reliable

vehicles and the establishment of a repair and maintenance workshop for waste management equipment.

"We should all be proud of the profound impact the Municipal Services Project has had on the lives of approximately 1.9 million residents in Peshawar's urban areas - improved hygiene conditions, reduced risk of urban flooding, and better environmental protection," Ambassador Blome said.



A group of Students and Faculty Members of National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Islamabad visiting Senate Museum at Parliament House, Islamabad.

CTO Islamabad visited Poly Clinic Hospital Islamabad; inquired about injured Cop

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: According to details, the Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Islamabad Muhammad Sarfraz Virk, visited Poly Clinic Hospital to see Constable Abdul Waheed, who was undergoing treatment, a public relations officer said.

He said that Constable Abdul Waheed was deployed on duty, during which he was hit by a motorcyclist, due to which his leg bone was broken. During the visit, CTO Islamabad presented a bouquet of flowers to the injured constable and inquired about his health and treatment progress.

The CTO Islamabad said that officers and officials are valuable assets of the police department, highlighting a sense of camaraderie and unity within the department.

CTO Islamabad asserted that everyone within the department is like a family, ensuring that no officer or official would ever feel alone during challenging times.

This sentiment aims to foster a supportive and caring environment within the police department.

Solangi grieved over demise of sister of ED Pakistan Daily

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Monday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of famous poet and writer Syeda Qamar Sultana, sister of Executive Editor of Pakistan Daily, Nawabzada Khurshid.

In his condolence message, the minister, while expressing his heartfelt condolences to the family of the deceased, said he was deeply saddened to hear about Syeda Qamar Sultana's demise.