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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

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 under-

lined 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 in-

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



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister, Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar and Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, Chief Dawoodi Bohra Jamat inaugurating the New Building of School of Law held at Karachi University

SC seeks comments regarding recruitments in Sindh forest department

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday sought comments from Sindh government in a case pertaining to the recruitment of assistant conservative forest officers in the forest department. The chief justice remarked that the court would summon the chief secretary of the province if a satisfactory answer was not submitted. A three-member bench of the top court presided by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa heard the case pertaining to the recruitment in the forest department of Sindh. During the hearing, the bench ordered the authorities to write the names and designation of officers on official correspondence and notifications. The decision of the Supreme Court should be followed in this regard, it said. The CJP expressed his concern about the recruitment process and observed that age relaxation of 15 years was given in the appointment of Conservative officers in the Forest Department. In the advertisement, an age limit of 30 years was sought for the posts but 45-year-old people were recruited by giving 15-year relaxation. The chief justice said that age relaxation could be given in certain circumstances only, adding that there were many candidates for recruitment here. The chief justice remarked that a recruit of 45 years will retire at the age of 60 then he will be given pension and benefits on retirement. On the occasion, the bench observed that Sindh Advocate General Office has 80 law officers. Such a large number of law officers but no one appears in the court, the CJP said. The chief justice's directive to Advocate General Sindh Hasan Akbar to remove all additional law officers from the posts. When we used to practice, there were two or three law officers, Justice Isa said. The court adjourned further hearing into the case till January 2024.



KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party Sindh President Nisarh Ahmed Khoro addressing a press conference

SU waives off all fees of Palestinian students

HYDERABAD (APP): The University of Sindh has announced waiver off admission, exams and hostel fees of the Palestine students and asked their concerned teachers to extend their all-out cooperation with them. This announcement was made in a high-level meeting held in the Senate Hall of the VC Secretariat, which was chaired by the Vice-Chancellor Professor (Meritorious) Dr. Muhammad Siddique Kalhoro. Dr. Khalilur Rehman Khombhati, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Campus Dadu Prof. Dr. Ghulam Sarwar Gachal, PVC of Mirpurkhas Campus Prof. Dr. Nabi Bakhsh Narejo, PVC of Thatta Campus Prof. Dr. Rafiq Ahmed Memon, Registrar Prof. Dr. Mushtaq Ali Jariko, Controller of Semester Examinations Muhammad Mashooque Siddiqui, Deans of different Faculties and administrative as well as academic heads. Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Meritorious) Dr. Muhammad Siddique Kalhoro spoke about the unique circumstances of foreign students paying fees in dollars.



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

Dr Syedna Mufaddal inaugurates School of Law Building at KU

KARACHI (APP): The 53rd al-Dai al-Mutlaq and the leader of the worldwide Dawoodi Bohra Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin inaugurated the "H. H. Dr Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin Building—School of Law" at the University of Karachi on Monday. The inauguration ceremony was held at the new premises and caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice @ Maqbool Baqar, the Chancellor and the Governor Sindh Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori, ex-CM Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab, Provincial Secretary Boards and Universities Noor Ahmed Samoo, KU Vice Chancellor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi, the members of the Senate and the Syndicate of the University of Karachi, deans and chairpersons, notable dignitaries, members legal fraternity, and representative of Dawoodi Bohra community were also present on this occasion.

The CM expressed that the social services provided by the Dawoodi Bohra community extend beyond borders and nationalities, dedicated solely to human development. "This a valuable gift for the students of Karachi and the entire nation of Pakistan. This state-of-the-art facility not only symbolizes a commitment to academic excellence but also as a catalyst for intellectual growth, societal progress, and continuous harmonious coexistence of tradition and contemporary values in the landscape of Pakistani education." Meanwhile, the Governor mentioned that the Bohra community is one of the most peaceful communities in the country and despite the difficult socio-economic conditions of Pakistan, they have continued their activities, which is not an easy task and they are playing a very important role in the health and education sectors besides other walk of lives.

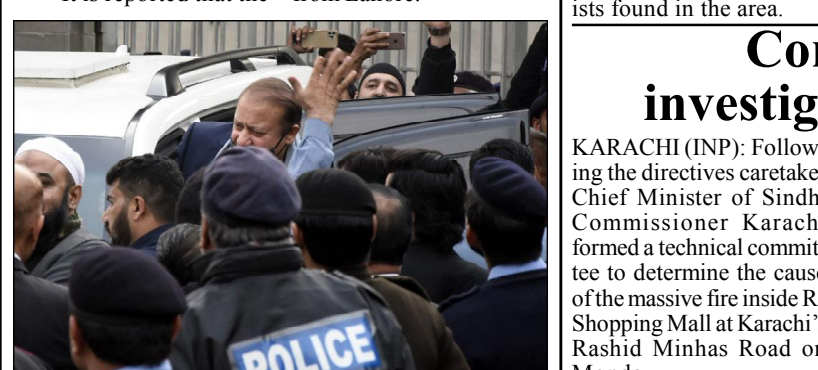
According to spokesperson of Ministry of Religious Affairs, the collection of Hajj application in 15 designated banks under official Hajj scheme will continue till December 12. According to announcement of Ministry of Religious Affairs, almost about 89605 Pakistanis will perform Hajj under government scheme next year. In case of receiving 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.



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.

PML-N and MQM-P complete first round of talks on election, future strategy

KARACHI (INP): The PML-N has completed the initial phase of talks with the MQM-P and other parties in Sindh for a joint strategy to contest the February 8 elections and run the country's affairs afterwards, as the PPP is set to face a strong resistance in its stronghold. These ongoing developments are of great significance for not just the politics of Karachi and Sindh but of also entire Pakistan after the PPP — once the disputed countrywide force — has been witnessing a shrinking vote base which is now mostly, if not entirely, concentrated in rural Sindh. It is reported that the subcommittees formed by the PML-N and the MQM-P to discuss and finalise proposals on different subjects completed their assigned tasks, including the most immediate goal — how to go for seat adjustment in the upcoming polls. In the next stage, the two parties will hold a meeting in Islamabad for giving final shape to the future line of action before the top leadership could give approval to the same. The PML-N has given the task of coordinating the elections affairs in Sindh to Khawaja Saad Raffique and in Balochistan to Sardar Ayaz Sadiq — the seasoned and loyal party leaders from Lahore.



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

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

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

RAWALPINDI (APP): 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. 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. Meanwhile Lieutenant General Fahad Bin Abdullah Muhammad Al Mutair, Commander of the Royal Saudi Land Forces called on General Sahir Shamsah 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.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori administering polio drop to a child to inaugurate anti-polio immunization campaign

Sindh Health Minister inaugurates 7-day anti polio campaign

INDEPENDENT REPORT KARACHI: The 7-day anti-polio campaign was launched across Sindh in which more than 10 million children aged up to five years would be administered anti-polio drops across the province. Caretaker Health Minister Sindh Dr. Saad Khalid Niaz inaugurated the campaign by administering polio drops to the children in Mother and Child Hospital, Sachal Goth District, East. Over 80,000 polio workers and supervisors are participating in the anti-polio campaign, and more than 5,300 police personnel will be deployed in the field for the security of the polio workers while Pakistan Rangers' assistance will also be available. Dr. Saad Khalid Niaz, speaking at the occasion said that this year, five cases of polio have been reported in Pakistan, out of which three cases were reported from District Bannu of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while two cases were reported from District East, Karachi. In the last two months, several positive environmental samples of the polio virus have been reported in Karachi, he said adding that the positive environmental patterns appearing from Karachi were related to different parts of Afghanistan. Since Karachi is the economic hub of the entire region, the repeated appearance of positive environmental patterns is a matter of concern, Dr. Saad Khalid said, adding that the appearance of positive environmental patterns from Karachi raises the fear of endangering the children of the entire region and the world.

Caretaker Health Minister Sindh Dr. Saad Khalid Niaz inaugurated the campaign by administering polio drops to the children in Mother and Child Hospital, Sachal Goth District, East. Over 80,000 polio workers and supervisors are participating in the anti-polio campaign, and more than 5,300 police personnel will be deployed in the field for the security of the polio workers while Pakistan Rangers' assistance will also be available. Dr. Saad Khalid Niaz, speaking at the occasion said that this year, five cases of

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.

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KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Minister for Health, Social Welfare and Public Health Engineering, Dr. Saad Khalid Niaz addresses during the inaugural ceremony of the 8th International Symposium-Cum Training Course on Molecular Medicine and Drug Research organized by Dr. Panjwani Center held at ICCBS in Karachi

Committee forms to investigate Karachi mall fire

KARACHI (INP): Following the directives caretaker Chief Minister of Sindh, Commissioner Karachi formed a technical committee to determine the cause of the massive fire inside RJ Shopping Mall at Karachi's Rashid Minhas Road on Monday. The technical committee established under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner East, Altaf Sheikh, will investigate the possible reasons and factors which erupted the fire in the building and analyse the response time from the rescue department. The committee will determine the responsibility of the negligent officers, departments, as well as private individuals and will suggest measures to prevent these types of incidents in the future. The team will submit the report within seven days. Earlier to this development, the K-Electric (KE), builders and other departments were named in a first information report (FIR) registered after nearly a dozen people were killed in a massive fire inside RJ Shopping Mall at Karachi's Rashid Minhas Road.

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 pol-

lution 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 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 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 percent of the collected tax revenue is either voluntary or withholding; whereas, only 7 percent 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 percent on

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 paisa against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Monday witnessed 27 paisa 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 paisa 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 paisa 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.

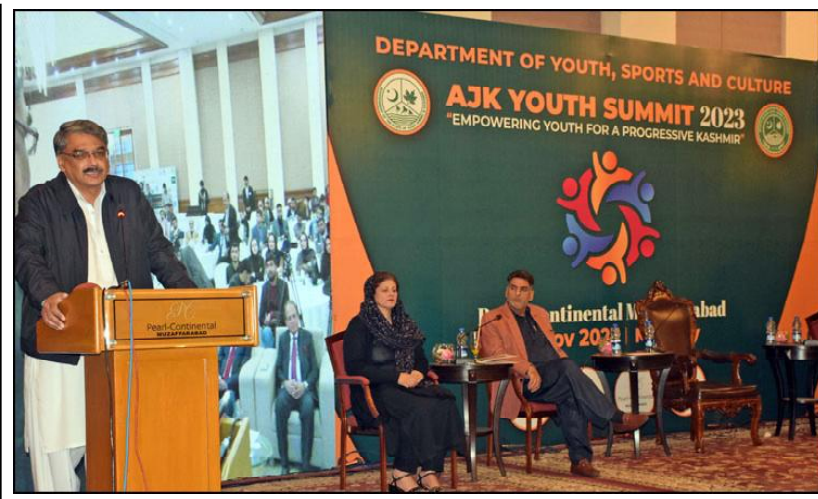
Working group formed for artificial rain in Lahore

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 to 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 of 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.

Senate told Pakistan has sufficient stock of wheat to cater country needs

Administrative measures stabilized rupee's value

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Information, Murtaza Solangi on Monday said Pakistan currently has ample wheat stocks and concrete measures would be initiated to address any flour shortage due to supply chain problems.

Responding to a motion under Rule 218 by Senator Sania Nishtar, focused on addressing gaps in the wheat supply chain that may lead to flour shortage, the minister stated that currently there was no wheat shortage in the country. Senator Nishtar had pointed out the specific lacuna in wheat policy, citing the conversion of green bags to white bags at the retail level. She also hinted at the smuggling as a factor, contributing to wheat shortages in addition to creation of systematic artificial shortages and hoarding.

The minister explained that there was an adequate stock of wheat in the country as public wheat stock included 39,24,367 metric tons in Punjab, 8,17,394 metric tons in Sindh, 2,15,082 metric tons in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and 89,354 metric tons in Balochistan. Pakistan Agricultural Storage & Services Corporation (PASSCO) accounted for 17,18,177 metric tons, he added. Private wheat stock comprises 3,37,270 metric tons in Punjab, 93,165 metric tons in Sindh, 14,918 metric tons in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and 4,157 metric tons in Balochistan.

The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs said that Pakistan had over seven million (7,213,884) metric tons of wheat, with an additional imported stock of 10,33,845 metric tons, ensuring there was no shortage. He said the support price for provinces differed, being Rs 4600 in Punjab and Rs 4700 in Sindh.

During discussions on the motion, Senator Dilawar Khan said that Pakistan should export wheat rather than its import and called for concessions to the agriculture sector.

Meanwhile Caretaker Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday informed the Senate that the value of rupees has stabilized owing to the administrative measures of the incumbent government.

Winding up the discussion on the motion raised by Kamran Murtaza regarding the devaluation of the Pakistan Rupee and shortage of US dollars in the market resulting into high inflation, the minister said that the government controlled the informal channels/hundi business in the country.



KARACHI: Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar presides over the meeting to review law and order situation in the province.

Police confirms arrest of a missing person to Sindh High Court

KARACHI (INP): The police declared arrest of a missing person during the Sindh High Court (SHC) hearing of petitions for recovery of 10 disappeared men on Monday.

The police confirmed arrest of a missing citizen Saddam in its progress in the case. The court dismissed the petition with regard to recovery of Saddam.

Justice Naimatullah Phulpoto directed for action against the people involved in enforced disappearances. "It is responsibility of the state to search a missing citizen," Justice Phulpoto said. "It was said that a missing man Usman has been in Landhi Jail, a letter written to the jail authorities, but they replied that the man was not in the prison," the investigation officer informed the court.

"Record the jail superintendent's statement, if required take action against the jail official," court directed the IO.

The high court bench also directed for proactive steps for recovery of other missing persons.

The bench also instructed for holding JIT session to trace another missing man, Ali Hassan. The court also directed for holding regular sessions of the JIT and the Task Force every month.

Sindh Police in a report in June claimed that allegedly disappeared persons have been involved in crimes and concerned police has arrested them.

"Supposed disappeared person Syed Ahrar has been arrested by Shah Faisal police in two cases," report read.

"Tajdar Ali was arrested by the counter terrorism department and has been in jail," police disclosed. "Danish Soomro was arrested by Hyderabad Police, and he has also been in jail," according to police report. "Another purported disappeared person Sikandar Memon was arrested by the Memon Goth police in a case, while Fazal Ghani was arrested by the CTD from Manghopir".

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.



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.

Seminar on 'Palestine-Israel Dispute' held

KARACHI (APP): A seminar titled 'Palestine-Israel Dispute' was held here on Monday.

The seminar was organized by Rabita Forum International, a strategic think tank, a communique said.

While addressing the Seminar, Chairman of Rabita Forum International Nusrat Mirza said that attacks by Israel on October 7th appeared to be Nine-Eleven II.

He said that Israel had carried out worst atrocities in Gaza.

Mirza said that Israel had already lost the war, no matter how Gaza war ended. He said that Israel did not want Iran to become a nuclear power.

Syed Samiullah, the Research officer of RFI said that the war, which started in the Middle East was not stopping despite the global efforts.

He said that the resolutions presented in the United Nations regarding the ceasefire were vetoed at first and even after being approved by general Assembly, their significant results did not come out.

Jubilee Life Insurance marks 5-year milestone in empowering youth

Independent Report
KARACHI: Jubilee Life Insurance, Pakistan's largest private sector insurance company, proudly celebrated its 5th consecutive year of collaboration with SEED Ventures on the Enterprise Challenge Pakistan (ECP), the country's premier business challenge for school children with an Ayesha, ECP Programme Manager Ms Maha Salman.

ECP is an initiative of Prince's Trust International executed by SEED Ventures since 2016 across Pakistan. It is a national competition for 14-18 year-old students that aims to inspire the entrepreneurial spirit within young people and



event held at the British Deputy High Commission (BDHC) Karachi, Pakistan. The keynote address at the event was delivered by British Deputy High Commissioner Her Excellency Ms Sarah Mooney. Other speakers at the event included MD & CEO Jubilee Life Insurance Mr Javed Ahmed, and Head of Marketing and Brand Management Jubilee Life Insurance Mr Usman Qaiser, along with CEO SEED Ventures Ms Shaista

transform them into the job creators of tomorrow. Jubilee Life's partnership with ECP aligns with its broader vision to alleviate socio-economic challenges by empowering youth and women, focusing on those historically excluded. At the heart of this collaboration is a shared commitment to empowering the next generation of leaders in Pakistan. Jubilee Life Insurance recognizes the significance of investing in young minds.

PBS holds 2nd workshop of data producers, users

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on Monday held 2nd workshop of a series, in collaboration with the United Nations Fund Population (UNFPA), engaging both data producers and users to gather diverse perspectives, identify needs, and bridge any existing gaps in the data dissemination process.

"These workshops will foster collaboration between various data users and producers including Government bodies (like Provincial Bureaus of Statistics and Crop reporting services etc.)," a news release said issued here.

The bureau said the workshops would ensure a more comprehensive understanding of data requirements and consequently enhance the quality and accessibility of statistical information for policymakers and planners.

"This strategy will ensure evidence-based decision-making across different levels of governance."

This initiative will help PBS in crafting a crucial National Data Dissemination Policy to ensure that the statistics produced by it reach and benefit a wide range of users.

The 2nd workshop was attended by data users, researchers, demographers and other stakeholders, besides Dr Naeem uz Zafar, Chief statistician, Member (SS/RM).



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori addressing inaugural ceremony of new building of School of Law held at Karachi University

Fire-affected shopping mall to remain sealed till collection of evidences

KARACHI (INP): SSP Investigation East, Saud Magasi has said that the fire-affected shopping mall at Rashidh Minhas Road will remain sealed till arrival of experts and collection of evidences.

The SSP East who is also member of the investigation team was talking to media persons on Monday during his visit to the fire-affected shopping mall which claimed lives of 11 people.

He said that the builders of shopping mall have been requested to provide the map of the mall.

It would be checked in the map whether an emergency exit was provided and security measures were taken, he added.

Saud Magasi said that an engineer has also been included in the investigation committee.

He said that some evidences have been found regarding shopping mall tragedy but it would be before time to comment over them.

The SSP said that a communiqué has been sent to all concerned departments, engineers and experts would visit the affected shopping mall and those found responsible would have to the consequences.

No haste has been made in registration of case of fire incident and only in information has been provided in the FIR, he added.

Saud Magasi assured the transparent investigation into the shopping mall fire incident to expose the realities. Till visit of experts and collection of evidences, the mall would remain sealed, he concluded.

DC Sukkur pays surprise visit to fruit, vegetable market

SUKKUR (INP): Deputy Commissioner Sukkur, Fayyaz Hussain Mahehar has stated that no relaxation would be given on the fixed rates of essential commodities and strict action would be taken if any shopkeeper was found involved in overcharging and hoarding.

The Deputy Commissioner expressed these views while paying a surprise visit to Sukkur fruit and vegetable market on Monday.

Officers of the revenue, agriculture, food and TMA Sukkur were also present on the occasion. DC checked the quality and official rates of vegetables and fruits and showed his satisfaction. He also checked the attendance of market committee staff and inspected cleanliness arrangements.

DC chairs meeting to review arrangements for upcoming general elections

SANGHAR (APP): Deputy Commissioner Sanghar Dr Imran Khuwaja here on Monday presided over a meeting with relevant officers to review arrangements for upcoming general elections.

Addressing the meeting the DC directed officers of all departments particularly the education works department to visit all polling stations and ensure facilities including water, electricity, boundary wall and ramp for persons with disability as conducting general elections was our national obligation therefore no laxity will be tolerated in this regard.

Election officer Muhammad Umer apprised the meeting that most polling stations were established in School buildings therefore officers of education works should make bound their staff to complete work in stipulated time.

SIUT to host 23rd chapter of APAPU to begin on Nov 29

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT) will be hosting the 23rd chapter of the Asia Pacific Association of Paediatric Urologists, popularly known as APAPU, which will begin in the city on November 29.

Over 300 delegates from within Pakistan and 19 foreign countries are expected to attend a major international congress.

The delegates hail from New Zealand, Asia Pacific, the Sub-Continent, the Middle East, and Europe, besides from all over the host country, including many who were initially trained at SIUT expected to grace the event.

Issues concerning paediatric urological disorders, a vital field in surgical sciences, will be discussed in great depth in the congress.

This Congress will take part in two separate sessions. The first session will consist of two days of live surgical demonstration from three separate operating theatres.

The range of new surgical procedures which will be demonstrated underlines the advances that are being made in every area of paediatric urology and which are being introduced into Pakistan at SIUT. The second part is



LARKANA: Deputy Commissioner Larkana, Javed Ahmed Kumbhar take keen interest at stall during Art, Science and Culture Exhibition held at Government PV School in Larkana

UN Women Pakistan inaugurates 16 Days campaign titled 'Koi Jawaaz Nahi' at Mohen-jo-Daro

LARKANA (APP): The UN Women Pakistan with the support of the Government of Pakistan kicked off the "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence" through its 'Koi Jawaaz Nahi' advocacy campaign at the Indus valley of Civilization, Archaeological site of Mohen-jo-Daro, a World Heritage site of outstanding value to humanity, on Monday.

This campaign aims to leverage Mohenjo-Daro's historical and cultural significance to spotlight the persistent challenge of gender-based violence, fostering collective action for prevention and elimination.

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an international civil society-led annual campaign. It commences on November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and ends on December 10, Human Rights Day, indicating that violence against women is the most pervasive breach of human rights worldwide.

Concurrently, the campaign actively promotes and advocates for this year's theme, "Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women & Girls," aiming to reach the masses.

Speaking on the occasion, Country Representative of UN Women Pakistan, Ms. Sharmaela Rassool, said that "Investing to prevent violence against women is not just a theme; it's a call for tangible action."

She said that by choosing MohenjoDaro as the launching site, we emphasize the resilience of women throughout history and the need to protect their rights in the present day.

Commissioner Larkana Division Abdul Waheed Shaikh, said on the occasion, as Commissioner of



HYDERABAD: Health worker administering polio drop to a child during anti-polio immunization campaign

Custom Agents trapped as victims of draconian laws despite their law-abiding role

Independent Report
KARACHI: Sheikh Muhammad Tariq, Vice Chairman of Custom Agents, has said that in the intricate dynamics of customs procedures, a significant concern surfaces regarding the application of draconian laws against Custom Agents.

The issue revolves around the exercise of power by higher authorities who, in conducting direct inspections and facilitating the release of goods, may inadvertently be engaging in the practice of shifting the onus of responsibility for violations or negligence onto the Custom Agents. This issue underscores the indispensable need for a cautious and assertive approach in addressing and rectifying any potential abuses of power.

Moreover, there is a pressing matter related to the imposition of taxes on goods, where an apparent overreach of authority and a potential disregard for established laws is observed. This prompts a thorough examination of the legitimacy and fairness of the tax imposition practices. It becomes imperative to scrutinize whether these actions align with established legal frameworks, as any deviation raises significant questions about the transparency and adherence to the rule of law within the customs regulatory domain.

Addressing these multifaceted concerns is not only crucial for the equitable treatment of Custom Agents but also for the broader principles of accountability and legal compliance within the customs landscape.

It is imperative to acknowledge that Custom Agents should not be automatically implicated or assumed to have any involvement or awareness of malpractices.



HUB: Residents of Yousaf Goth are blocked road and burn tires as they are holding protest demonstration against prolong electricity and sui gas load shedding in their area, at RCD road in Hub