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PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif addressing party workers in Quetta. Former PM Shehbaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz are also present on the occasion

Development of Balochistan always been dear to us Will take cooperative approach with everyone: Nawaz Sharif

More than 30 electables & other political leaders from Balochistan join PML-N

Independent Report
QUETTA: The central leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and former Prime Minister, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif held detailed meeting with key leaders of different political parties here on Tuesday. Arranged at the local hotel, the meeting was also attended by the President of PML-N and former Prime Minister, Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, party's vice President and Chief Organizer, Ms. Mariyam Nawaz, Perverz Rasheed, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Captain (Retd) Muhammad Safdar, provincial leaders Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, Jamal Shah Kakar, Ms. Rahila Durrani and other leaders from the PML-N side.

Among those who participated in the meeting from different parties were Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, Jan Buledi, Kabir Muhammad Shahi from National Party, Nawabzada Khalid Magsi, Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali, Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq

Sanjrani, Sardar Saleh Bhotani and others from Balochistan Awami Party, Dr. Hamid Khan Achakzai, Abdul Qahar Wadhan and Syed Liaquat Agha from Pashoonkhw Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) and JUI's Maulana Muhammad Sarwar, Mir Usman Badini and others.

During the course of meeting, the matters about the politics as well as general elections and alliance were discussed between the PML-N leaders and other parties leadership.

There was also discussion about the future course for the elections and politics in the country.

"The development of Balochistan has always been dear to us," Sharif said while talking to media after meeting the province's political leadership.

"PML-N laid a network of thousands of kilometers of roads in Balochistan to alleviate poverty and backwardness," he added.

Continued on page 2

Action started for repatriation of illegal immigrants including Afghans: Caretaker CM

Mir Ali Mardan Domki asserts all provinces are bound to make implementation on decision about repatriation of illegal immigrants

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the action has started for repatriation of the illegal immigrants including Afghans to their homeland, and they are being deported with honour and dignity.

He said that no country can not host the citizens of other countries without valid documents for long.

He made it crystal clear that the action is not being

taken against those having legal documents.

The caretaker Chief Minister was speaking to the representative of UNHCR in Pakistan, who called on him here at the CM's secretariat on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister mentioned that Pakistan has hosted Afghan citizens for a long time.

He said that it was the federal government's decision to repatriate illegal immigrants to their countries

PM for visa ease, improved banking channels to boost Pak-Uzbek trade

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday underscored that easy visa procedures, improved banking channels and reciprocal warehousing facilities would further boost trade between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Dr Jamshid Khodjaev Abdulkhakovich along with a delegation, expressed the hope

that the business community of both countries could easily achieve the bilateral trade target of US\$ 1 billion in a short time.

The Uzbek deputy prime minister, along with a seven-member delegation, is on an official visit to Pakistan.

Prime Minister Kakar welcomed the Uzbek deputy prime minister and his delegation to Pakistan and recalled his recent

Continued on page 2

According to teachings of the Holy Quran agreement is written and not verbal: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has rejected the plea to grant relief on verbal agreement.

The Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has remarked verbal agreement has no legal standing. The land agreements are too much lingered on in Punjab. We will have to shut the door of verbal agreements now. The CJP gave these remarks while presiding over a 3-member bench during hearing of the case on Tuesday.

The petitioner Muhammad Rafiq had made agreement of Rs 152 million to purchase 4 acres land. The petitioner could pay only Rs 15 million in two months.

The CJP remarked people have abandoned making agreements in connection with land. People have understood it that lawyers linger on such cases for 20 years. The petitioner makes agreement verbally and then seeks relief from court. Has the verse of the Holy Quran agreement is written and not verbal.

IHC stays hearing of cipher case against Imran in jail

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has stayed the hearing of cipher case against PTI chairman in jail.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb while giving remarks on intra court appeal of Imran Khan against jail trial in cipher case said the way indictment was framed in cipher case it cannot be described as open court proceedings.

In Indira Gandhi case trial was conducted in Tihar jail when decision was challenged on this basis then court was told media was also allowed to go therein. There was too a case of former Prime Minister (PM) and here too is case of former PM.

He gave these remarks while presiding over a two members bench of IHC during the hearing of intra court appeal by chairman PTI against jail trial in cipher case.

The court remarked allowing some members of family to go to court in connection with hearing does not mean open court.

The Attorney General (AG) informed the court about proceedings of trial.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb remarked we want to know what was extraordinary situation that this trial is being run this way.

Jamadi-ul-Awal moon not sighted

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee on Tuesday announced that the moon of Jamadi-ul-Awal 1445 AH had not been sighted in its meeting held at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony.

The 1st Jamadi-ul-Awal 1445 shall commence from Thursday, the 16th November, 2023, said a notification issued here by the ministry.



UTHAL: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar inaugurating solar system of Faculty of Engineering Science at Labella University

Governorship is because of Wadh: Development not possible sans higher and quality education, asserts Governor Balochistan

Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar terms reports of his resignation from slot of Governor as baseless, says not going to tender resignation unless asked by BNP leadership

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has categorically stated that the development is not possible without imparting higher and quality education to the students.

The Governor also stressed the need to promote research and creative education in our educational institutions.

He also said that if he is serving as Governor, it is because of Wadh, and as such he can't imagine about the betrayal to it (Wadh).

However, the reports about his resignation are just baseless, and he is not going to tender resignation from the Governorship, adding he made it clear.

He said that the status of Governor has become like a common person after passage of 18th amendment.

The Governor was addressing the faculty members and students of the Labella University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Sciences (LUAWMS) in

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Balochistan Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over a high level meeting of Health Department

SHC suspends PEMRA's ban on airing Imran speeches

KARACHI (Online): Sindh High Court (SHC) has suspended ban imposed by PEMRA on airing PTI chairman Imran Khan speeches.

Petition filed by PTI worker Tahmas Ali Khan against imposition of ban came up for hearing Tuesday.

The court expressed annoyance over non appearance of state counsel despite repeated calls.

Later the state counsel regretted over late appearing in the court after court's time.

The petitioner took the plea in the court slapping ban on speeches of political leader runs contrary to freedom of expression.

Chairman PEMRA issued notification by ignoring the forum.

According to petitioner approval was not even obtained from council of complaints before imposing ban.

The court suspended PEMRA notification on imposition of ban on broadcasting PTI chairman speeches.

It is pertinent to mention here that PEMRA had imposed ban on airing chairman PTI provocative statements on May 31, 2023.

Pakistan, IMF talks continue

ISLAMABAD (INP): Policy-level talks between Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) review mission continued on Tuesday, with a focus on reforms in government institutions, privatization, revenue, expenditure, dollar inflows, institutional reforms, non-subsidy in the energy sector during the debt program, measures to reduce the budget deficit, power sector and petroleum sector.

According to media reports, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has assured Pakistan of external financing and investment, according to sources who attended an important meeting between the IMF Review Mission and the Ambassador of UAE to Pakistan.

The meeting discussed the assurances to be given by friendly countries on external financing by Pakistan.

Domki expresses displeasure over delay in purchasing medical machinery

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Domki on Tuesday expressed displeasure over the delay in purchasing medical machinery, which has not been purchased for the last six years.

While chairing a high-level meeting to review the matters of the health sector, he ordered that the supply of medicines should be ensured in all districts, including tertiary care hospitals of the province.

The pandemic of Congo virus, supply of anti-gastro medicine, and other issues were discussed in the meeting.

Domki instructed that action should be taken against officers responsible for the delay in procurement of medicines and non-payment to pharmaceutical companies. He added that the delay in purchasing medicines and equipment would not be tolerated despite the availability of funds.

The chief minister said that an inquiry should be initiated against the officers over negligence.

He also directed that the process of procurement of medical equipment and machinery should be started immediately under a transparency-based procedure.

3-member committee constituted to resolve cases of missing persons

ISLAMABAD (Online): Care taker federal cabinet has constituted 3-member committee on the matter of missing persons.

According to sources federal cabinet accorded approval to constitute a 3-member committee of ministers under interior minister Sarfraz Bugti to resolve the cases pertaining to missing persons.

Good to see major political party starting political election drive from Balochistan: Jam Kamal

Independent Report
QUETTA: The former Chief Minister Balochistan, Jam Kamal Khan has stated that it is good to see that the major political party of the country is going to start its political and election campaign from Balochistan.

Jam Kamal Khan stated so while speaking to media persons at a local hotel on Tuesday.

He hoped that the things would be improved regarding province in time to come.

Pakistan, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan discuss ways to improve regional connectivity

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Commerce Ministers of Pakistan and Afghanistan and Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan on Tuesday co-chaired the first trilateral meeting, aimed at strengthening economic ties, regional cooperation and connectivity.

The meeting focused on boosting trade relations among three nations, said a press statement issued by the Commerce Ministry adding, discussions centered around reducing trade barriers, simplifying cus-

tom procedures, and promoting smoother cross-border trade.

The ministers explored investment prospects in various sectors which would open up avenues for joint ventures, public-private partnerships, and increased foreign direct investment. Recognizing the importance of regional connectivity, they discussed ways to enhance transportation networks and promote infrastructure development to facilitate the movement of goods.

Bilawal says PPP never enjoyed level playing field but still ready to play on all kinds of pitch



MITHI (INP): Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhatto Zardari has said that his party after coming into power will connect Thar-Karachi through railway track, will fight poverty and unemployment. Masses are still in the grip of tsunami of inflation, he added.

While addressing a press conference in Mithi on Tuesday, he said the PPP had never enjoyed a level playing field and a



QUETTA: Chief Justice Balochistan High Court Mr. Justice Naem Akhtar Afgan alongwith Mr. Justice Gul Hassan Tareen inaugurating video link facility of Loralai Circuit bench

BTTN holds essay competition on topic "Iqbal's Concept of Individuals' Significance in Nation Building"

Independent Report
QUETTA: In commemoration of Allama Iqbal's 146th Birth Anniversary, Balochistan Think Tank Network (BTTN), Quetta arranged an essay competition on the topic "Iqbal's Concept of Individuals' Significance in Nation Building" for all the private and public sector universities of Pakistan on Tuesday.
The competition was announced on BTTN's social media platforms and website on September 15. The submission deadline was set for October 31. On November 9, the winners of the competition were announced on the website and social media handles. Students from Balochistan enrolled in different universities of Pakistan under all programs were invited to submit their essays and an overwhelming response was received.
The essays were evaluated by BTTN's Institutional Review Board through a blind peer review. The rationale behind the competition was to promote critical thinking and engaging the youth through inclusively and outreach.
Based on the assessment, the top four contributors

were invited to BTTN for the prize distribution ceremony held in BTTN Seminar Hall, BUITEMS, Quetta, November 14, 2023.
The event began with the National Anthem followed by the recitation of the Holy Quran. Research Officer Mr. Muneeb-Ur-Rehman moderated the event.
Brig Agha Ahmad Gul @ delivered the welcome remarks in which he congratulated the winners for their effort and subsequent achievement.
He noted that the individuals' contribution in the fate of nations was the anchor which this competition was based on.
He stressed that Iqbal's thoughts are still relevant till this day and that his concept of "Khudi" transcends far beyond individualism and is more focused on self-actualization.
Following this, BTTN's Director Research Dr. Maria Malik briefly explained the assessment methodology and rationale behind the competition.
Mr Muhammad Ilyas from COMSATS, Islamabad, was awarded the special recognition prize.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo with a delegation of Oxford Alumni, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



BISHKEK: The 4th Session of Kyrgyz-Pakistan Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) on Trade-Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation was held in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic. The IGC was Co-Chaired by Mr. Muhammad Ali, the Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division) of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Mr. Baisalov Edil Zholdubaevich, the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Lecture/interactive session on "Corruption is a hindrance to economy" conducted at WCCI

QUETTA (PR): Under the anti-corruption awareness campaign of NAB Balochistan, a lecture/interactive session on "Corruption is a hindrance to economy" was conducted at Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WCCI), Quetta.
President WCCI, Ms. Sharmeen Younas, Executive Members Ms. Bushra Bibi, Ms. Shehzadi Foza and former Chairman Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mr. Javed Raheem were present. Mr. Khuram Shehzad and Ms. Saleha Zaman Deputy Directors of NAB (B) along with team represented NAB therein. The main objective of the lecture was to interact with

the body to talk about the cause of corruption.
Mr. Khuram Shehzad delivered lecture and highlighted the curse of corruption, its ill effects on economy and solutions to overcome the evil of corruption. Deputy Director NAB explained the working of NAB and its methodology. He also elaborated the complaint filing procedure in NAB (Balochistan).
The guest speaker emphasized that women have always been crucial to the fight against corruption since they have the equal role along with men in all facets of life. It is not viable to achieve positive goals without the help and representation of women.
It was an interactive

session and other participants also shared their thoughts on the topic. It was further emphasized that women have to raise their voices to denounce corruption at every opportunity so that the dream of a successful and corruption-free society can be realized and our country can be prosperous again. At the end of the program, the officials of Women Chamber of Commerce thanked NAB Balochistan for organizing the lecture. Overall, the lecture was an informative platform to unite the masses against corruption.

Salah leads African stars into World Cup qualifying

JOHANNESBURG (INP): Prolific Liverpool scorer and Egypt captain Mohamed Salah will be among the stars in action this week when 2026 World Cup qualifying in Africa kicks off with two matches.
His two Premier League goals against Brentford at the weekend raised his total to 200 in English football, and he is now set to shine against Group A rivals Djibouti and

Sierra Leone.
Salah was the second highest ranked African in the Ballon d'Or last month behind Napoli and Nigeria forward Victor Osimhen, who misses the first matchdays due to an injury.
Omar Marmoush of Eintracht Frankfurt and Mostafa Mohamed of Nantes are other Egyptians who have been scoring regularly in major European leagues this season. Djibouti, who face Egypt in Cairo.

Will take cooperative approach...

Continued from page 1
The development work started for Balochistan, was stopped after the end of the PML-N government, Sharif added.
"We have been discussing the development of Gwadar since 1998. We completely eliminated terrorism and load shedding in Balochistan," he said.
The former prime minister vowed the PML-N will always work together with everyone following its tradition.
Meanwhile more than 30 electables including former parliamentarians belonging to different political parties from Balochistan announced to join the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) here on Tuesday.
They announced their joining during the course of meeting with the central leader, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, party president Shahbaz Sharif, Mariyam



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai and Chairman KKF Naimatullah Zaheer meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Pakistani delegation reaches Tehran to negotiate Pak-Iran gas pipeline

TEHRAN (Online): Pakistani delegation led by caretaker Energy Minister Muhammad Ali has reached Iran for negotiations on the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project.
According to the media report, caretaker energy minister Muhammad Ali will hold talks with the Iranian counterpart along with the delegation, in which Interstate Gas Systems officials will also participate.
While Pakistan will request an extension in the deadline for construction of pipeline on its part.
Pakistan has to build its part of pipeline to the Iranian border by March 2024 and if it is not built by the deadline under the agreement, Iran can file a case in the International Court of Arbitration and demand a fine of up to eighteen billion dollars from Pakistan.

Action started for repatriation of...

Continued from page 1
Chief Minister said that the holding centers have been established for facilitation of those repatriating to their respective countries.
He said that the illegal immigrants are being sent to their country with respect.
He said that all provinces are bound to make

implementation of the decision about repatriation of the illegal immigrants.
He also said that the land of Balochistan has always been custodian of the of the peace, brotherhood and love.
Later, the UNHCR representative presented a commemorative shield to the caretaker Chief Minister.

Development not possible sans...

Continued from page 1
Uthal on Tuesday.
The Governor said that LUAWMS is a higher educational institution regarding knowledge and skills, and we have to promote the quality and research based education for moving ahead. He said that progress is not possible without imparting quality education to the students.
He said that the world is progressing and moving ahead because of the higher and quality education. But, we are lagging behind the world for 50 years, he regretfully noted.
The Governor said that we have to work hard round the clock to bridge the gap and move with the world if not lead it.
Referring the Lasbela University, the Governor noted with contentment that by seeing the performance of students and teachers of the University, he is encouraged that we have the capability and capacity to include in the race of development.
He expressed the hope that the students of Balochistan would brighten the name of the province by competing with the world

soon.
He also said that it is our utmost endeavour to prepare the rules and regulations of all universities of the province same. In this regard, work has already been started, the Governor added.
He vowed that if he finds an opportunity, he would do his best and utilize all available resources to improve quality of education in all universities of the province, he maintained.
He also stressed the need to understand importance and utility of the universities and make investment on them.
He regretfully pointed out that we did never pay much focus on education sector.
He said that we have to stand by our educational institutions and duly support them.
The Vice Chancellor of Lasbela University Professor Dr. Dost Muhammad Baloch, Vice Chancellor Khuzdar Engineering University, Dr. Masood, members of the Senate of Lasbela University and other concerned high ups were also present.

Caretaker PM urges overseas Pakistanis to invest in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday urged the overseas Pakistanis to invest in Pakistan and assured that the government would provide all possible support and facilities to them.
He said protecting the rights of overseas Pakistanis were among the top priorities of the government.
The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of the overseas Pakistanis led by Nouman Mustafa that called on him, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.
The prime minister observed that transfer of remittances of the Pakistanis residing abroad through legal and safe manner was very important for the country's progress and urged them to send their amounts through the Roshan Digital Pakistan Account. He further said that the Roshan Digital Pakistan Account was the safest means for transfer of remittances and its utilization could help in improving the national economy.
Deputy Prime Minis-

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkwa Justice (R) Arshad Hussain called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

PM for visa ease, improved...
Continued from page 1
meeting with President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, on the sidelines of the 16th ECO Summit held in Tashkent from November 8-9.
He expressed satisfaction at the pace of bilateral engagements between the two countries, especially in the areas of trade, defence and connectivity.
He also appreciated the holding of the First Trilateral Meeting of the Commerce Ministers of Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan in Islamabad.
The three sides also established a trilateral working group to discuss customs, logistics, trade promotion, tariffs, TIR procedures, etc.
Showing satisfaction at the outcome of the trilateral meeting, the prime minister hoped that the trilateral mechanism would boost trade relations between the three countries.
Prime Minister Kakar underlined the need to continue momentum of people-to-people exchanges.
Deputy Prime Minis-
ter Khodjaev thanked the prime minister for the warm hospitality extended to him and his delegation.
He briefed the prime minister about fruitful meetings with the business community of Pakistan, including the banking and logistics sectors.
He expressed the hope that both sides would continue active engagement for the timely completion of the Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan Railway Project.
The Uzbekistan delegation included Minister of Transport Ilkhom M a k h k a m o v Rustamovich, Deputy Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade Badridin Abidov, Deputy Foreign Minister Bobur Usmanov, Deputy Chairman of State Security Service Maj. General Farukh Mukhtarov and Ambassador of Uzbekistan in Islamabad Oybek Arif Usmanov. The Pakistan delegation included Minister of Commerce Gohar Ijaz as well as secretaries of commerce and Board of Investment, and other senior officials.



SHIKARPUR: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shikarpur, Dr. Muhammad Imran Khan visiting different police stations in Kacha area of Khanpur district Shikarpur.



QUETTA: Senior Politician Haji Lashkari Khan Raisani addresses during the Taqadus Al-Quds Conference, at Quetta press club.

اطلاع برائے ٹیسٹ و انٹرویو
گورنر ہائیک کی جانب سے مورخہ 26 اکتوبر 2023 کو روزنامہ اخبارات میں شہداء پر PRQ.No. 826/25-10-2023 کے ذریعے دیے گئے تھے جن کا مندرجہ ذیل اور انٹرویو پر عمل پیرا ہونا ضروری ہے۔

نمبر	نام آسانی	تاریخ ٹیسٹ و انٹرویو	مقررہ وقت
1	کیرنگرا سپورٹس (B-11) - ٹیلیفون آپریٹر (B-7) - رجسٹری (B-5)	20-11-2023	صبح 10.00
2	موزن (B-5) - نائب قاضی (B-1) - اسسٹنٹ آفیسر (B-1)	21-11-2023	صبح 10.00
3	غلامی (B-1) - فزیشن (B-1) - سماجی (B-1) - غلامی (fixed) (B-1)	22-11-2023	صبح 10.00

نوٹ: تمام امیدواروں کو ہدایت کی جاتی ہے کہ وہ اپنے اصل شناختی کارڈ، قلمی اسٹائل، اجازت نامہ (اور جیکٹ) اور پوسٹل کارڈ کے ساتھ اپنے ہراولڈ لائسنس سوبال فون ریکارڈ کی اجازت نامہ لائسنس ہونگی۔

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President says: Social, economical mainstreaming of PWDs inevitable for development

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said that the social and economic mainstreaming of the persons with disabilities (PWDs) was inevitable for progress of the country.

The president, in a meeting with a delegation of Chal Foundation headed by Chairman Feroz Ahmed, said the needs of the PWDs

could be overcome by providing assistive technology and artificial limbs.

He also called for steps to ensure indigenous production of quality and affordable assistive technology and artificial limbs for facilitation of the PWDs.

The president also emphasized practical and policy-level measures to make the PWDs produc-

ive citizens of the country.

He lauded the Chal Foundation's role for welfare, rehabilitation and facilitation of the differently-abled persons.

The members of the delegation apprised the president of the steps taken by the Foundation for betterment of the PWDs including the provision of artificial limbs and assistive

technology. Besides, the Foundation was also extending other facilities to the differently-abled persons including rehabilitation, therapy and treatment, it was told.

The delegation also apprised the president of different projects being undertaken by the Foundation as well as the needs of the PWDs.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi being briefed about the role of Chal Foundation in the facilitation of persons with disabilities, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for National Heritage and Culture Syed Jamal Shah called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Peace in SA & ME linked to settlement of Kashmir, Palestine issues: Shabbir

ISLAMABAD (APP): Incarcerated senior APMC leader and Chairman of Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party Shabbir Ahmed Shah while stressing that Peace in South Asia and the Middle East is linked to the settlement of Kashmir and Palestine issues has urged the world leaders to play their much-needed role to halt the Israeli aggression and genocide of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

According to Kashmir Media Service, in his message from New Delhi's Tihar jail, the APMC leader said that the bloodbath of the besieged Palestinians was a great challenge to the world's conscience.

"It is high time that the influential world governments must shun their

policy of indifference towards the Palestinians and come forward in a big way to stop this bloody onslaught and genocide to which hapless Palestinians are being subjected," Shah said, adding that allowing Israel to carry on the slaughter of innocent men, women and children in and around Gaza would be a great human tragedy.

Calling for an immediate intervention to stop the Zionist aggression against the Palestinians, he said, the Muslim countries must take concrete steps to end Israel's bloody siege of Gaza. Shah said that the inaction on the part of the international community would be tantamount to granting a free license to Israel to kill the Palestinians.

Health Ministry launches campaign against sale of unregistered syringes

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Health has decided to launch a campaign against the sale of unregistered and banned conventional syringes.

The initiative was finalized on the direction of Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan who had taken notice of the sale of unregistered banned traditional syringes across the country.

In this regard, a market survey has been started on the instructions of the Minister for Health.

The minister said that the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP)

has issued instructions to its field offices and the provincial health departments in this regard.

He said that repeated use of conventional syringes could lead to the spread of infectious diseases like hepatitis, AIDS, etc.

Dr. Nadeem Jan said that strict action will be taken against criminals involved in the sale, distribution and stocking of banned products.

He said that the ministry has planned an integrated strategy to eliminate fake non-registered medicines across the country.



ISLAMABAD: Students holding placards during an awareness walk regarding Diabetes on the eve to mark World Diabetes Day organized by Pakistan National Heart Association at National Press Club Islamabad.

CTO commended officials for maintaining smooth flow of traffic on roads

ISLAMABAD: Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad commended the dedication and hard work of officers and officials for maintaining smooth flow of traffic on capital roads.

Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the recognition of exemplary performance continues, while stringent measures are taken against officials showing negligence and subpar performance.

Recognizing excellence, commendations, certificates and cash rewards were awarded to 40 police officers and officials of Traffic Police for maintaining smooth flow of traffic on capital roads.

On the occasion, the

CTO said that "The ethos of rewarding excellence will persist, while those displaying incomplete or unsatisfactory performance will face stringent disciplinary actions". He further emphasized the Islamabad Capital Police initiatives to ensure safety and streamline traffic flow, stressing the critical need for adherence to laws to minimize accidents. "Together with our personnel, we are committed to coherence and will enforce stringent legal actions against violators," he added. The police awareness teams stationed at various checkpoints and roads continue to educate citizens on traffic laws and road safety. Moreover, Islamabad Capital Police's radio FM 92.4 aims to enlighten citizens on both road safety.

NHA to take action against overloading vehicles today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Highway Authority (NHA) has announced to take strict action against overloading of vehicles on national highways and motorways from November 15.

This initiative was taken in the wake of a number of accidents caused by overloaded vehicles in recent months, public relations officer said talking to APP on Tuesday.

The NHA has warned that vehicles carrying more than the prescribed limit would be heavily fined and the drivers even would be arrested besides seizing the vehicles.

The NHA said that the axle load control regime would be strictly implemented from tomorrow. This means that all vehicles will be weighed to ensure that they were not carrying more than the allowed weight, he added.

Bushra Bibi filed bail before arrest plea in IHC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Bushra Bibi wife of chairman PTI Imran Khan has resorted to Islamabad High Court (IHC) to avoid possible arrest and filed pre-arrest bail plea in the court.

Bushra Bibi reached IHC along with PTI legal team. She got done biometric verification.

Later Bushra Bibi filed petition in the court seeking details of pending cases against her besides submitting bail before arrest plea.

It has been told that Additional Sessions Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra of District and Sessions Court Islamabad took up for hearing the bail plea of Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi for hearing.

On this occasion neither Imran Khan was presented in the court nor was report regarding his appearance submitted.

However Khalid Yousuf Chaudhry counsel for Bushra Bibi appeared in the court.

AIOU 17 students present synopsis in BASR meeting

ISLAMABAD (APP): A total of 17 students from different departments of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) have presented synopses during the 66th meeting of Board of Advanced Studies and Research (BASR).

The scholars included 5 from the Department of History, 2 from Mass Communication, 3 from Agricultural Sciences, 2 from Education, 2 from Arabic, and 3 scholars from the Department of Business Management. The 66th meeting of the Board of Advanced Studies and Research (BASR) was held at the university. Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, presided over the meeting. The Directorate of BASR organized the meeting and the Director BASR, Prof Dr. Syed Amir Shah, presented a detailed report on the implementation of the decisions made during the previous meeting.

Minister, ambassador emphasize strengthening cultural relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Portugal Ambassador Manual Frederico Pinheiro da Silva and Interim Federal Minister Jamal Shah on Tuesday discussed common interests, particularly improving cultural ties between the two countries.

Both parties mutually agreed to intensify bilateral relations and increase the frequency of cultural exchanges.

They delved into the specifics of collaborating in the cultural sphere, including organizing joint cultural events and promoting the cultural heritage of both Pa-

kistan and Portugal. The minister expressed that there was substantial potential for collaboration between the two nations.

Ambassador Manual Frederico Pinheiro da Silva recognized the opportunity for collaboration in culture and sports. Additionally, he suggested setting up a Portugal book corner at the National Library of Pakistan (NLP).

He also suggested creating a dedicated corner for Portuguese books at the National Library of Pakistan (NLP).

Chairman PRCS says: PRCS benefits 2.7m flood affected people

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has benefited over 2.7 million flood affected people through the provision of tents, food, non-food items, shelter, cash assistance, and essential household items.

This was revealed by Chairman PRCS, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari in a meeting with the Ambassador of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Dilsad Senol.

He highlighted that the organization has benefited flood affected families through its active assistance in 55 districts.

The chairman provided a comprehensive

overview of the society's programs and its initiatives regarding rescue, relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction following the recent floods in Pakistan.

He extended an invitation to Ambassador Dilsad Senol to visit the PRCS National Headquarters.

The ambassador praised the exceptional services of PRCS during natural disasters and emergencies, specifically acknowledging their recent humanitarian assistance to flood-affected families; assured cooperation with the Red Crescent to ensure uninterrupted service to humanity.



ISLAMABAD: A group of students and faculty members of National Law College, Rawalpindi visiting Senate Museum at Parliament House.

Ali Durrani proposes 'National Unity Govt' transcending divisions

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former federal minister and senator, Muhammad Ali Durrani, has proposed an elected 'National Unity Government' to foster national cohesion that transcends divisive political lines.

The proposed plan suggested that the National Unity Government should be formed for five years after the general elections.

"The challenges we face today as a nation are formidable, and the requirement for political unity has never been more critical. Let us rise up to this challenge, forgo the personal interests for the collective, rise above partisanship, and embrace the vision for a stronger, more united nation," Durrani said.

"It is essential that we begin by insulating national interests, democracy, and the sanctity of our institutions from political discord and form a collaborative en-

vironment between the nation's government and institutions to achieve a shared objective, rather than perpetuating a culture of confrontation," he emphasized.

"We are confronted with a pressing need for a renewed approach to governance," Durrani said while underlining the need to draw inspiration from examples in history.

He referenced example from United Kingdom (UK) during World War II, specifically pointing out the formation of national unity government in the UK, as well as instances in 1988 in Northern Ireland and 1994 in South Africa under the leadership of Nelson Mandela.

Durrani argued that these examples of unity governments proved to be successful in steering their respective countries out of the crises and bring an end to divisive politics.



ISLAMABAD: People are walking on the Israeli Flag set by traders on floor outside their shop at Aabpara Market, to show solidarity with oppressed Muslims of Palestine in Federal Capital.

PM, heritage minister discuss promotion of art & culture

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interim Minister for National Heritage and Culture Syed Jamal Shah called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and discussed matters related to his ministry, the PM Office said.

Various steps to promote art and culture in the country also came under discussion.

Hearing of LNG reference against Abbasi adjourns till December 19

ISLAMABAD (Online): The hearing of LNG reference against former Prime Minister (PM) Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has been postponed till December 19. LNG reference case against Shahid Khaqan Abbasi was heard by Judge Mohammad Bashir in the Accountability Court of Islamabad. Former Prime Minister (PM) appeared in the court. Barrister Zafarullah took his stance that Supreme Court has stopped final decision of the restored cases on which Judge Mohammad Bashir inquired that when this case should be kept?

Later, Judge Muhammad Bashir of Accountability Court adjourned further hearing of case till December 19 by issuing summons notices to absent accused.

Islamic Republic of Iran embassy delegation visits CPO; meets ICCPO

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan Reza Amiri-Moghaddam, visited the Central Police Office Islamabad along with a delegation and met with Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, a public relations officer said.

He said that, the Iran embassy delegation discussed various security issues with ICCPO Dr. Akbar

The Iranian Ambassador along with his team visited Safe City Islamabad where they were briefed about various sections of Safe City, Command and Control Centre, Emergency control centre, dispatch control centre and "Pukar-15" helpline.

ICCPO Dr Akbar Nasir said that the safety of foreign dignitaries and delegations in the federal capital is one of the top priorities of Islamabad capital police and every pos-



Nasir Khan and was briefed about the measures taken by the Islamabad capital police to maintain fool-proof security.

sible measure will be taken in this regard. At the end ICCPO also presented a police shield to the Iranian Ambassador.

CDA completes 90% work of installation of new led lights, repair of street lights

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has completed almost 90 percent work of installation of new led lights, repair and maintenance of old street lights along the streets, service roads and main avenues of the federal capital.

"The authority has already allocated funds in this regard last month which will not only help to ensure proper lighting arrangement on these roads and streets but also control the criminal activities in the capital," a CDA official told APP.

The official said the shortage of street lights in different sectors of the federal capital caused a recent increase in street crimes, prompting residents to raise the issue with the relevant authorities.

He said the CDA was also taking concrete steps

to ensure the provision of urban facilities to the city dwellers and maintenance of infrastructure, including the installation of street lights, road carpeting and resolving water-related issues, neglected in the past.

"Special attention is being given to the completion of the remaining development works in the sectors I, G, H and D series, provision of civic facilities, and facilitating the home builders in these sectors in pursuance of the directives of Chairman CDA Capt @ Anwar ul Haq," he said.

Now, he said the work of installation of streetlights in the main roads and within the sectors would ensure proper lighting management in sectors, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10-11, I-10, I-14. Work in sectors I-16, D-12 and others is also in full swing, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Italy to Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese along with his spouse are busy in cooking the Italian Cuisine during the "Week of the Italian Cuisine in the World" at local hotel in Federal Capital.

Refugee Scientists can apply for COMSTECH Fellowships by Dec 15

ISLAMABAD (APP): COMSTECH, the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technical Cooperation, has invited submissions of applications for the first cycle of the "COMSTECH Science in Exile Fellowships Program for Displaced and Refugee Scholars and Scientists" till December 15, 2023.

The fellowships program aims to support displaced and refugee scientists to stay up-to-date in their field, maintain meaningful careers, and be in a position to help rebuild their countries, once conditions allow. Until then, these professionals can be valuable assets for the countries in which they arrive.

The COMSTECH Science in Exile Fellowship Program would provide scholarships to displaced and refugee scholars and scientists who have not yet found a safe and long-term

host country an opportunity to pursue their studies/research, at institutions/universities of the COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence (CCoE).

A total of 10 Research Fellowships and 10 Post-doctoral Research Fellowships are being offered for the year 2024 under the program which would be hosted by COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence Member Universities/Research Institutions.

About the eligible nationality, the official of COMSTECH informed that the displaced/refugee from Afghanistan, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen are eligible to apply for the program.

The maximum age limit for Research Fellowship is 35 years and for Post-Doc Research Fellowship is 45 years. The duration of the fellowship is six months.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Wednesday November 15, 2023

'Hell on earth'

Do Palestinian lives matter? Clearly, in the eyes of the global elite — both in the East and the West — they do not, with the Palestinian body count rising as Israel continues its savage assault on Gaza. A UN official aptly described the forsaken Palestinian region as "hell on earth".

With the Israeli onslaught entering its sixth week, there are no signs that the plight of Gaza's people will ease anytime soon. In particular, the Israeli war on Gaza's hospitals is despicable, as the world over, medical facilities are considered off limits during hostilities.

When health centres are attacked, such as the 2020 terrorist strike on a maternity home in Kabul's Dasht-i-Barchi area, there is universal revulsion. In slaughtering children, the elderly and infirm, Israel is employing the same tactics that some of the world's worst perpetrators of terrorist violence do.

Last month when the Al Ahli Hospital was hit, there was global condemnation of this repulsive act, even though Israel tried to deflect criticism by claiming that an errant Palestinian missile had hit the facility, despite compelling evidence that this was the handiwork of the Israeli Defence Forces. The war on Gazan hospitals continues, as reports indicate that the Al Shifa and Al Quds medical facilities have ceased operations.

At least six premature babies have apparently died due to power shortages at Al Shifa. In total, the UN asserts, half of Gaza's hospitals and a third of its primary health centres have become dysfunctional. The WHO chief has described the situation as "dire and perilous".

This grotesque bloodbath is being carried out in full view of the world. Where are the champions of human rights in Western capitals who never tire of hectoring others on doing the right thing?

Where are the great supporters of the ummah who say that the world's Muslims are one body, and suffering in one part, means suffering for all? Where are the standard-bearers of Arab nationalism, who loudly proclaim that from the Atlantic shores of the Maghreb to the warm waters of the Gulf they are one nation?

The Gazan massacre is a shameful example of the indifference of the global elite, and the impunity of a well-armed bully — supported by the world's greatest economic and military powers — that slaughters the innocent without compunction in the name of vengeance.

Students of history have read about how Attila, Genghis Khan and Hitler committed unspeakable massacres. Israel's bloodthirsty leadership — the 'only democracy in the Middle East' in the eyes of its Western cheerleaders — should be added to this grim list for what it has done to the Palestinian people over the last six weeks.

History will never forget the screams of dying Palestinian children, and should never forgive those who perpetrated and aided this monstrous crime.



Arifa Noor

In a recent interaction, someone commented that none of the political parties had any plans to fix the economy. This is a common refrain; many of us — democratically aligned as well as those who think elections will provide no solution — feel the civilians are simply not prepared or equipped for governance. Idealistic people expect better from the politicians they support but feel the latter never appear serious about governance or have a clue about the economy. So goes the commonly held belief. Not entirely wrong, but it is worth considering what the world or politics looks like from the perspective of the political parties and their leaders.

The election cycle itself is not one dependent

on clear paths forward, policy options and manifestos, as textbooks may argue. Here, in this land, elections are about maqbooliyat (popularity) and qubooliyat (acceptance). Manifestos and policies are part of elections in societies with a degree of normalcy, which is hardly the description of affairs at home.

Here, it seems as if all our main players are deeply flawed characters stuck like Garcia Marquez's patriarch in a state of isolation and paranoia.

Try and walk a few steps in the shoes of Nawaz Sharif or Imran Khan.

For the former, chances are his days and nights might be consumed by what the immediate future may hold for him despite the laadla (favourite) tag. Will he contest the election?

Will the eligibility stand or will the disqualification? What if the powers that be prefer his younger brother, as everyone in the country is whispering? What if he wins the election for the party, only to be deprived of the ma-

slot at the last moment? Does his brother know of this plan, while proclaiming the party's prime minister is Nawaz Sharif? How many of his own party men (and women) are aware of this last-minute switcheroo?

Even if these hushed whispers do not consume him, he is perhaps wondering about the election, the party's weak position in its stronghold of Punjab and what an electoral victory would look like without any external help.

His nemesis, on the other hand, is perhaps struggling similarly, though the challenges appear to be different. A man who has survived an attack and was obsessed with the idea of another one, if the manner in which he appeared in the courts in the months before his arrest is any indication. For him, it was a battle for survival, literally.

And if he has been able to get over the idea of a threat to his life, he would be obsessed with winning the next election, despite heading the most popular party in the country and the crackdown on its people. Would he ever be released? Would his party

be allowed to take part in the election?

Will those who contest the election with his party's ticket stay loyal to him or would they switch sides? Who would be the next to turn on him and blame him for May 9 or corruption?

Asif Ali Zardari would perhaps not be far away. This is the second election in a row where the country is awash with rumours of plans to limit the PPP's victory in Sindh. And despite their assertions to the contrary, the party and its leader are bound to be worried and trying for a deal.

In this battle of desires and survival, plans for economic revival must await the first battle — the battle of being.

Where would the economy find space in this? It is akin to expecting a daily wager to have a savings plan.

In Islamabad, stories of politicians' disinterest in the economy abound. In one such account, excited men went to visit one of these beleaguered men, offered to join hands with him and then asked about the plans for the economy.

He said, he would get back to them, once he makes it to the other side, the side where survival is no longer at stake. They returned disappointed, but in the account of that short interaction there is so much to understand about our politics, if one is interested.

In these mediaeval jousts which pass for politics and democracy in Pakistan, the fighting never ends. Especially for the politicians but neither for the others including the bureaucracy which gets caught up in the maelstrom.

But the battles don't end with the election cycle either. Seldom have those who won an election, difficult or easy, been able to focus on governance. Instead, the time in power is spent simply fighting to stay in power. There is little energy left for the people and their problems.

At times it reminds one of the all-consuming fight the Mughal heirs had to take part in, once the reigning emperor grew old and weak. A fight to death would ensure who would be the victor among the various heirs; and his vic-

tory would not be complete till all his rivals would be killed or rendered useless. Only then would the empire and the rule be secure. But the kingdom in Islamabad is never secure, for no victory here is ever complete and neither is any defeat. The challenges never end. And this consumes all the energies which should have been spent on the people's welfare.

This perhaps is our greatest crisis, rather than assuming it is our politicians' inherently corrupt nature or obsession with accountability of the other. For the civilians, especially, this is once again linked to this constant state of besiegement and battle. And this is a state of affairs inherently contradictory to the demands of running a modern economy. It is not possible to carry both these worlds along. Postscript: Consider that in Pakistan, politics is once again being analysed through phrases once made popular in the times of Bhutto. Our misfortune is that 50 years later, we think our choices are the ones that once faced Bhutto and Zia. -- Courtesy Dawn

Incomplete victories

Where are we on population?



Memoona Qazi

The year 2018 saw a significant moment in the history of population discourse in the country when the then-chief justice of Pakistan took suo-motu notice of the high population growth in the country. The outcome of this was a president's 'task force' which together with the Council of Common Interests' recommendations formulated a national action plan to devise strategies for controlling the rapidly growing population.

Six years down the road, today we stand at a much worse condition on the population front. Pakistan's population was 207.68 million as per the Population Census of 2017 increasing at an annual growth rate of 2.4 per cent, today it has crossed the 240 million mark with a whopping 2.55 per cent growth

rate according to the results of the census held earlier this year.

Keeping aside the concerns on the census results, let us recall for a moment that population projections for the country have been worrisome with experts warning of severe challenges ahead while the concerned stakeholders have been in deep slumber of ignorance around the matter. This begs the question: what then was the priority of the task force and the CCI-approved national action plan when clearly population growth has remained unbridled and has only increased in these six years?

Pakistan is already among the top five most populous countries of the world with a barely staggering economy on the verge of default. With a total fertility rate of 3.6 and women aged 40 and above giving birth to at least five children on average according to the Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey 2017-2018, the growing pressure of an ever-increasing population only adds to the burden.

More specifically, a swelling population size acts as hindrance towards meeting several of our Sustainable Development Goals related to ending poverty (goal 1); ensuring food security (goal 2); reducing maternal, neonatal and under-5 mortality (goal 3); ensuring quality education (goal 4); achieving gender equality (goal 5); ensuring availability of water and sanitation (goal 7); promoting productive employment and decent work (goal 8); and finally it acts as a barrier in the efforts to combat climate change and its impacts (goal 13). Ultimately, the answer to perhaps all our development challenges lies in what is often discarded from the development debate as an exogenous factor — population — which is in reality at the heart of everything.

Population management then serves as the single most important and common area of consideration for the country's progression towards achieving its development goals. With the ideal family size still hovering around 4-3.9 for women and 4.3 among men, it becomes imperative that we understand the guiding motives behind such desires. It is perhaps time we started asking the right questions. To begin with, we must probe where this

desire for additional births is coming from. In order to do this, an understanding of the fertility intentions, behaviours and preferences of individuals is required.

It is high time we think of fertility choices as not just a personal matter as it is indeed these actions by individuals which when looked at from a broader lens have created a cause for national concern. A preference for sons is something we see on a much regular basis with people continuing to have children until their wish to have a son is fulfilled. It is also not uncommon to see people with large family sizes having more daughters as they continue the childbearing process until their desire for a son is fulfilled.

In this context, son preference not only becomes a driver of fertility but also acts as a roadblock in the implementation of family planning programmes as people often oppose or delay the use of contraceptives as they are trying to fulfill the desire of having a certain number of sons. In light of this, fertility behaviours exhibited by individuals no longer remain just a personal mat-

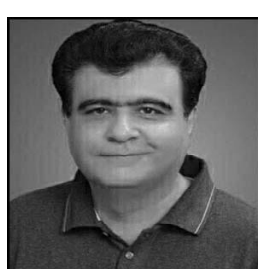
ter when a culture of son preference exists such that the desire for sons is fulfilled at a cost of larger family size which consequently leads to high population growth.

Consequently, this disproportionate preference for boys over girls has a major role to play in our ever-increasing population which has now become a cause for concern at the national level. Therefore, discourses circling around population growth must pay due attention to this strong culture of son preference that exists in our country as it drastically reduces any efforts to slow down population growth. While investing in women's education is of paramount importance as it is one of the golden tickets to almost all our development laggards, educating the male members of our society about the far-reaching impacts of son preferring behaviours is equally if not more important.

We must also realize that couples and individuals often pursue sons due to the economic benefits that are accrued with them in the form of hav-

ing a breadwinner for the family and most importantly for their old age security. Here, the role of the state and its concerned authorities comes into play as it is indeed the responsibility of the state to provide security to its citizens. Investments in all these areas should therefore be a top priority of the state and all stakeholders involved in framing the population and health policies of the country. The recurrent climate challenges we are witnessing in the form of extreme temperatures and heat waves, urban and flash floods and the on-going smog emergency all have their roots embedded in the population management of Pakistan. And just like managing any other problem in order to deal with it we ought to identify the root cause — in this case, the focus must be shifted towards where and why the demand for these additional births is coming? This I believe would not only help direct our efforts and resources towards the right areas of policy intervention but is also likely to bear fruitful results. -- Courtesy TheNews

Valuing migrants



Dr Niaz Murtaza

I was in Afghanistan last week. I have worked in many rebel-held areas globally. But it felt eerie being in a state ruled by a group we aided and that shuns modernity. I felt guilty as my own callous state is evicting poor Afghans cruelly.

Long poor, the decades of war we too stoked, and now foreign economic and internal bans, have hurt Afghanistan more, with nature inflicting drought and quakes. Two-thirds of Afghans need aid, half of them urgently. Food, medicine and water are short. Women and many men face state abuse. Into this crisis, we are pushing innocent people, many of whom have lived in Pakistan for decades. Many were even born here. Images of misery and abuse abound.

Our logic is bad — legally, morally, economically and politically. We say we only evict those who are 'illegal'. This is simply state spin to criminalise and dehumanise them. Refugees globally cross borders without visas. But host states still issue refugee papers.

Afghans coming on foot didn't need visas. Illegality just means some refugees lack or are refused papers. The simple fix is to give them the needed papers. However, we strip them of all empathy, and pin terrorist acts on them.

Which ones, we aren't told. I don't recall Afghans being named right after a recent attack. Even if some were involved in such acts, is it justifiable to collectively punish millions, simi-

lar to how Israel treats the Palestinians? We may push Afghans into the enemy's arms.

Some say the refugees are an economic burden. Global studies, however, show that even 'illegal' migrants boost economies as they have not just mouths to feed but also hands to work, skills to apply, and money to invest.

Since 1980, three million Afghans settled here. However, the increase in our own numbers far outpaced them. Millions of us went abroad. We rightly rue the harm from huge emigration yet see smaller inflows as harmful too. But migrants often fill the gap left behind by emigrants. The UN gives us millions in refugee aid, helping our suppliers and staff too.

Many Sindhis and Baloch fear that migrants — internal or foreign — may make them minorities at home, like the Palestinians and the native American population. Indigenous rights are critical but these two nationalities lag behind others in the army, bureaucracy and business.

Census data shows that the proportion of Sindhi and Balochistan in our total population increased by five per cent and 2.5pc, respectively, from 1951 to 2023. Punjab's fell by 7pc. But Sindh's increase is mainly on account of inflows to Karachi, which went up from 3pc to 8pc nationally and 18pc to 36pc in Sindh. So, the provincial political hold matters.

Sindhis have seen the most change. Their ratio in the Sindh Assembly fell roughly from 90pc in 1947 to 80pc in 1970 and 68pc in 2002 but has been stable since. Controversial state-aided inflows and land awards brought down but did not end this supermajority, given the high rural fertility rates. Inflows allowed some economic gains too.

The big industrial classes are dominated by

some ethnicities due to their state hold, initially of Mohajir and then Punjab elites. Without the inflows into Sindh, most of its industry may have been in Punjab. But the gains ignored poor Sindhis due to the selfish policies of the national and local elites.

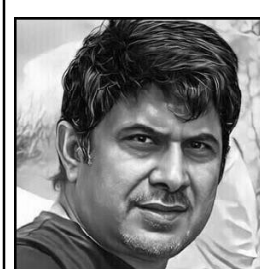
The Baloch won the majority of seats in the last and previous polls in their province. But Baloch militants sadly kill poor migrants though so many Baloch have lived safely in other regions for long.

Most of the very poor districts are the Baloch ones. However, it is the elites who are responsible for Baloch misery, not migrant workers. Victims must not fight each other to help the elites but jointly fight against them. Punjabis won about 75pc of the seats in Punjab and Pakhtuns 87pc in KP (up after the Fata union) in 2018. All majority groups have stable supermajorities and won't see the fate of the native population of the US, etc. Poor migrants don't change things like conquerors or state-aided inflows. KP has 52pc of 1.3m legal Afghans, Balochistan 24pc, Punjab 14pc and Sindh 5pc, according to a new UN survey. The numbers regarding 'illegal' ones are mere guesses.

Even if long-term Afghan and other migrants got citizenship, it will just cut the supermajorities by 2pc to 3pc (Pakhtuns will gain a bit). A high rural fertility rate may soon erase even this cut. Actually, some minority ethnic communities will lose a bit more than majority groups. Even this would not occur if they get only working rights and fake CNICs are nixed.

We must not send migrants to a future full of risks on account of our own unreal and distant fears. Migrant fears must not conservatively create ethnic silos. Instead, there should be win-win ideas for all victims. -- Courtesy Dawn

Out of breath



Masood Lohar

Picture yourself residing in a lavish mansion, boasting a multiple-digit price tag, in the heart of the city's most exclusive neighbourhood. Despite the opulence, the very essence of life for you and your family is being gradually eroded: your lifespan is curtailed by several precious years, and the once pristine quality of life tainted by the persistent spectre of asthma, throat infections, and itchy eyes. Moreover, there is an ever-present apprehension, a gnawing fear that cardiovascular diseases, lung cancer, and respiratory issues may be just around the corner, casting a shadow over your otherwise luxurious abode.

That is how the issue of air quality has hit Pakistan's cities. This paradoxical reality, the contradiction between affluence and the compromised quality of life is the top odd feature of life in Pakistan.

While Lahore and Delhi have been in a fierce competition, not just this week but throughout the past month, to claim the top two spots on the Air Quality Index for the world's worst air quality, Karachi hasn't been far behind. Ironically, the air quality woes extend beyond these cities, as Islamabad and Rawalpindi have also surpassed dangerous levels. Last week, Islamabad recorded an AQI of 154, and Rawalpindi reached 180 — both falling into the 'unhealthy' category (151-200).

The competitive streak persists among other cities as well, with Attock at 143, Jhelum

and Chakwal at 159. Even the usually pristine hill station of Murree saw its AQI rise to 104, surpassing the 'moderate' level.

In response to the escalating air pollution, the Punjab government recently declared a 'health emergency' and implemented a smart lockdown in seven districts: Lahore, Nankana Sahib, Sheikhupura, Kasur, Gujranwala, Hafizabad, and Narowal. These areas had reportedly witnessed the highest recorded AQI levels. The onset of winter exacerbates air pollution, leading to smog that disrupts traffic and work life. Typically, the smog season extends from the beginning of November to the end of February — a third of the year. This adversely affects the 48 million-strong population residing in bustling business and industrial hubs, resulting in economic losses, hindering education, and disrupting travel and transportation.

Rapid urbanisation in the region forecasts that almost half of Pakistan's population will reside in cities by 2025, heightening concerns over air pollution. Failing to address this issue immediately could expose over 120m people to harmful air quality, causing significant economic and social repercussions. The urgency to control air pollution is evident in the dire consequences it poses, emphasising the need for preventive measures to protect the well-being of the projected urban population.

Air quality deterioration results from various sources, including industrial emissions, vehicle exhaust, fossil fuel combustion, deforestation, agricultural practices, waste burning, and natural events. Population density in urban areas exacerbates emissions. In Lahore, external air pollution from

Jalandhar in Indian Punjab contributes, while Karachi faces complex sources, including vehicular emissions and unsafe construction practices. The absence of an efficient public transport system increases vehicle numbers and emissions. Fossil fuel burning produces harmful byproducts like nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide.

Despite being a coastal city with marine ecosystems, Karachi should ideally be free from air pollution due to its potential for 'blue carbon' — carbon sequestration through mangroves. The high carbon sequestration potential of the mangroves highlights their importance not only for the health of the coastal ecosystem but also in the global context of climate change mitigation. Protecting and restoring mangrove ecosystems can contribute significantly to efforts aimed at reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide levels.

Planting mangroves not only purifies the air but also generates carbon credits. An average mature mangrove tree can sequester 22-30 kilograms of carbon dioxide yearly. For example, 600,000 mangroves planted at the Clifton Urban Forest in August 2022 can fetch \$225,000 per year, starting from year 2024. It is time to bring creeks, sub-creeks, and beaches across Karachi under mangrove cover. Apart from the revenue aspect, these mangroves will purify the city's air and create resilience against cyclones and tsunamis in addition to producing food for fish, shrimp and aquatic birds like flamingos. Pakistan stands at a crucial juncture, requiring bold decisions and a paradigm shift from a real estate-based shallow economy to embrace innovative opportunities such as blue carbon and beach tourism. -- Courtesy Dawn

Diabetes and other diseases can be prevented adopting Islamic lifestyle: Governor

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended a ceremony organized by Pakistan Endocrine Society and Pakistan Society of Internal Medicine in connection with World Diabetes Day here at Governor House Lahore as chief guest today. On this occasion, Governor Punjab also led a diabetes awareness walk from Alhambra Arts Council to Governor's House. Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Prof. Dr. Javed Akram also accompanied Governor Punjab.

While addressing the ceremony, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that diabetes and other diseases can be prevented adopting Islamic lifestyle. He said that it is possible to prevent this disease with timely diagnosis. Governor Punjab said that there is a need to

create awareness among the people to prevent diabetes. He said that the number of diabetic patients in Pakistan are increasing to an alarming extent, adding that we have to change our lifestyle to get rid of this disease. Governor He said that fasting is a shield for the prevention of diseases, adding that scientific research has also proved that the intermittent fasting makes the body healthy, and prevents diseases like diabetes and blood pressure. Governor Punjab said that diabetes affects every organ of the body, especially vision, heart, liver and kidneys. Governor Punjab said that Islam is a complete code of life. He said that we should adopt a healthy lifestyle. Governor Punjab said that as chancellor, he would also direct the vice-chancellors of all universities across the



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur-Rehman cutting the ribbon to inaugurate the awareness Walk ceremony on World Diabetes Day.

CM Sindh distributes textbooks, urges teachers to complete course

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (Retd.) Maqbool Baqar speaking at a free textbooks distribution ceremony among the school children at Landhi said that the school education department has printed the last tranche of textbooks for which this ceremony has been organized to distribute them among the students.

The ceremony was organised by Minister of Education Rana Hussain at the warehouse of Sindh Textbook Board, Gaddafi Town Ground, Landhi Industrial Area, Karachi. Chairman of STBB Agha Sohail, education department officers, and parents of students

attended the ceremony. The CM said that he was feeling relieved by distributing textbook sets amongst students and hoped that the teachers would work hard to complete the course which had been delayed due to lack of textbooks. Baqar said: "We, as a nation, have lagged in every sector and are much behind the other developing nations but all these gaps could be stridden over if we succeed in improving our education system for which every segment of society, particularly the teachers, the academicians, the parents and the civil society will have to play their due role." He said that these



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan Chairing over the high level meeting regarding the purchase of Land for the Dasu Dam and hearing the effecties problems.

Governor condemns Israel's continuous bombing of hospitals, refugee camps

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori has condemned Israel's continuous bombing of hospitals and refugee camps and said that the targeting of hospitals and refugee camps by Israeli forces is brutality of the highest level.

He said that innocent Palestinians were being martyred due to the obstinacy of the Israeli Prime Minister. He demanded that the international community should play its role in immediately stopping the Israeli attacks.

PU, NAB arrange painting competition focusing on anti-corruption campaign

LAHORE (APP): Punjab University (PU) Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood has said that providing awareness against corruption through art is a best source.

He was addressing at the 'Wall of Culture Painting Competition' organized by Punjab University, National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and Brighto Paints in connection with the anti-corruption campaign here

on Tuesday. NAB Director Imran Sohail, Additional Director Attia Azmat, Resident Officer-II Muhammad Kashif Nazir, Director Student Affairs Dr Muhammad Ali, faculty members, administrative officers and students were present.

USAID-ERDA's interventions bring hope to flood affected areas of KP

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: In response to the catastrophic 2022 floods that devastated many districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the USAID's Economic Recovery and Development Activity (USAID-ERDA) has made contributions for revitalizing agriculture in the flood-affected districts of Dera Ismail Khan, Tank and Peshawar.

The devastating floods wrought havoc upon Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, leaving a profound impact on the region. A total of 17 percent of cultivable land in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was severely damaged. Notably, in Dera Ismail Khan, three out of seven seed farms, responsible for 10 percent

Husband among three arrested in wife's murder case

MULTAN (APP): Police have arrested three accused including a husband and his two accomplices on charge of killing his wife around 13 days back, police said on Tuesday.

Complainant Ijaz Khurshed told police his daughter Ansa Khan was married to Khawaja Faisal Mahmood in 2011. She had borrowed Rs 4 million and gave it to her husband who used money to buy a plot. However, when she demanded the money back, her husband tortured her and the couple used to quarrel over the issue.

On Nov 2 night, complainant said, his son Ehtasham went to meet his sister but neighbours told him that she has died. He said that they immediately reached Nishtar Hospital where doctors conducted postmodern examination and it emerged she was strangled to death.

Mock terror exercise held

FAISALABAD (APP): The police department in collaboration with Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), Civil Defence, Elite Force, local administration and emergency departments arranged a mock exercise at the office of City Police Officer (CPO) to improve the efficiency and response of security personnel.

A police spokesman said here on Tuesday that mock information regarding the entry of terrorists and a suicide attack at the CPO Office was spread after which teams of police, Civil Defence, CTD and other emergency departments rushed to the spot and encircled the surrounding areas.

Police arrest suspected robber

WAH CANTT (APP): A fleeing robber was arrested in injured condition after a brief encounter with police in Saleemnagar area in the limits of Wah Saddar Police station in the early hours of Tuesday. According to police source details, a police party was on routine patrolling when the cops spotted four suspicious men riding on two motorcycles and signaled them to stop for checking. The suspects opened fired on them while police retaliated and shot and injured one of three suspects.

Farhat Shahzadi sends Rs 5 billions defamation notice to Attaullah Tarar

LAHORE (Online): Farhat Shahzadi, close friend of Bushra Bibi wife of chairman PTI has sent Rs 5 billion defamation notice to PML-N leader Attaullah Tarar.

The legal notice was sent through advocate Azhar Siddique wherein it was stated that Atta Ullah Tarar leveled fabricated allegations through media with reference to assets. According to text of notice Atta Ullah Tarar has not provided any evidence with reference to assets. All the assets of Farhat Shahzadi are declared. Attaullah Tarar tried to

Doctors delegation calls on CM Baqar

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Retd.) Maqbool Baqar met a delegation of doctors from different medical organizations namely PMA, CPSP, Young Doctors Association, Peoples Doctors Forum, Society of Surgeons, CPSP, Vice Chancellor of Dow University Professor Dr. Saeed Qureshi, Executive Director of JPMC Prof Shahid Rasool and others.

ANF seizes 233 kg drugs in 12 operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 12 operations across the country managed to recover over 233 kg of drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday.

Minister for special attention to authenticate land entries in digitization process

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Caretaker Minister for Revenue, Industries and Commerce Muhammad Younas Dagher, Tuesday, directed to pay special attention on verification and authentication of data of land entries during the ongoing process of digitization of revenue records.

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Attacking on police party case Court extends physical remand of Sanam

LAHORE (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) has extended physical remand of PTI social media activist Sanam Javed in the case of attacking police party.

CTD apprehends inter-provincial gang of robbers

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) announced a significant breakthrough on Tuesday, revealing the dismantling of an alleged inter-provincial gang of street criminals from Main University Road.

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Air pollution 30% due to transport: Secretary RTA

SIALKOT (APP): Regional Transport Authority (RTA) Secretary Muzaffar Hayat has said that air pollution is about 30% due to transport. To eliminate smog, every member of the society had to play its role and citizens could send photos of factories, brick kilns, smoke emitting vehicles, garbage heaps and crop residues causing pollution to WhatsApp on 03210980980 by installing "GPS Map Camera Apps" besides

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Pakistan, China can produce high-grade sugar in abundance: PCJCCI

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Moazzam Ghurki said on Tuesday that Pakistan and China can produce high-grade sugar in abundance and export it across the world.

Sharing his views in a think-tank session held here at PCJCCI Secretariat, he remarked that sugarcane cooperation between China and Pakistan will bring sweet revolution, and will literally turn the friendship between the two nations 'sweeter than honey'.

Ghurki said, "Our responsibility is to connect people and experts from China and Pakistan, and provide them a platform. This is what we are doing with zeal and zest. China and Pakistan should join hands to promote sugarcane production and processing to produce high-grade sugar. Believe me two iron friends can export

sugar to the world if they enhance cooperation in this field." He added that "Tissue Culture" can bring revolution in the production of sugarcane; Chinese Academy of Tropical Agriculture Science has been giving training to the scientists across the globe. It has introduced 100 training courses for 4,000 participants from more than 90 countries. More than 40 young scientists from Asia, Africa, and Latin America came to CATAS for medium and long term visits and exchanges, he added.

PCJCCI Senior Vice President Fang Yulong said that Pakistan is a traditional agricultural country, but there is still a lot more to do to modernize its agriculture sector to enable it to meet international. CATAS strongly rejected using conventional seeds. Conventional seeds are not

suitable for planting. Breeding disease free seedlings are perfect for sugarcane production and he made clear that by applying integrated disease-free techniques, the pathogens of viruses and RSD can be removed, and problem of degradation and purification can be solved simultaneously. He added, "As CPEC inches near to completion in Pakistan, we are offering our latest agricultural technology to Pakistan. We are here to modernize Pakistan's agriculture sector."

Hamza Khalid, Vice President PCJCCI said Pakistan's sugarcane industry couldn't prosper until growers get leading sugarcane variety. Pakistan is still far from getting access to leading sugarcane varieties which offer great resistance against diseases. "We must start sugarcane breeding program in Pakistan with the help of China," he added.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, convened a pivotal meeting today with the esteemed Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, H.E. Dr. Jamshid Khodjaev Abdulkhakovovich.

Govt to address key issues of business community: Sualeh

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Secretary Commerce Muhammad Sualeh Ahmed Farooqui said that the business community is the backbone of the economy and the government would take all possible measures to address their key issues.

He made the assurance while talking to a delegation of the United Business Group (UBG) led by its President Zubair Tufail and Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari called on him on Tuesday and discussed with him the matters to improve the country's trade and exports.

The delegation comprised President

Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari Vice President FPCCI Jamal ul Din, Presidential candidate of UBG for FPCCI Atif Akram Sheikh and others.

Addressing the delegation, Muhammad Sualeh Ahmed Farooqui said that the business community would be given representation in foreign delegations to explore new markets for promoting Pakistan's trade and exports. He said that trade and exports policies would be finalized in consultation with the business community to make them result-oriented.

Federal Secretary

Commerce stressed for transparent and fair elections of FPCCI to ensure true representation of the business community in the apex trade body of the country. He lauded the proposals of the delegation to curb smuggling and improve the country's exports and assured that their suggestions would be given due consideration for implementation.

Speaking on the occasion, President United Business Group Zubair Tufail said that the initiatives of the government to curb smuggling are bearing fruits and stressed that this move should be continued on a sustained basis.

Boost in broadband fiber connectivity vital for economic growth: Dr. Umar Saif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif Tuesday said that a boost in broadband fiber connectivity is vital for economic growth.

The meeting chaired by the minister discussed in detail matters related to fiberization, and the Right of Way Policy.

Senior officers of MoITT, and representatives of telecom companies attended the meeting, said a news release.

Addressing the meeting, Dr. Umar Saif said that the provision of quality telecom services to the masses is the topmost

priority. He said that every 10% increase in mobile broadband adoption results in 0.5 - 0.8 percent increase in GDP.

Therefore, to help grow the country's economy, "we must incentivise broadband fiber connectivity in the country."

In the past few weeks, the ministry standardised right-of-way policies for laying of fiber for ISPs and telecom players, he maintained.

He asked IT industry to set its target for fiberization in the country. Ministry of IT & Telecom will fully cooperate with the telecom industry'.



ISLAMABAD: Old man cutting wood into pieces for selling purpose at his workplace.

FCCI to play role in starting trans-shipping facility: Khurram

FAISALABAD (APP): The Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) will take up the issue to start a trans-shipping facility to connect Pakistan with Africa through the shortest and direct route of Oman and Muscat in order to give a quantum jump to its bilateral trade, said Dr. Khurram Tariq President FCCI.

Addressing participants in the 29th Junior Diplomatic Course from the Foreign Service Academy (FSA) Islamabad, he mentioned the "Look Africa" policy of the government and said that Pakistan would have direct access to African countries through this trans-shipping facility. He gave a brief introduction of

Faisalabad and FCCI and said that trade organizations are of two types in Pakistan.

"One is a trade specific association", he said and added that on the other hand, chambers represent the whole trade and industry in a particular area. He said that due to its holistic nature, its voice was considered as more balanced and effective. He said that the platform of the chamber was playing its productive role in tax policy, budget formulation and other policy related matters with the ultimate objective to protect the legitimate interest of the trade and industry in general and its members in particular. He said, "We have access to different committees at federal.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication, Dr. Umar Saif chairing meeting regarding fiberization and Right of Way Policy in Islamabad.

SECP eyes 129% growth in insurance premium by 2028

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) is all set to boost the premium for the insurance sector by around 129.8 per cent from existing Rs 533 billion to Rs 1,221 billion in the next five years (by fiscal year 2028).

Currently out of a total 225 million population only 7.8 million have life insurance, which is just 3.3 per cent while out of total of 30 million registered vehicles, only 0.9 million (just 3 percent) are insured, said SECP Commissioner for Insurance and Information Technology, Aamir Khan while addressing a workshop here.

The workshop titled "Journey to an Insured Pakistan" was organised by SECP with an objective

to develop and regulate the insurance sector by balancing the protection of policymakers with industrial growth through regulatory excellence. Likewise, Amir pointed out that out of a total 32 million registered properties, only 0.5 million are insured.

SECP is also set to host the International Insure-Impact Conference 2023 (IIC 2023), a two-day event in Karachi on December 13 and 14, 2023, with the theme "Journey to an Insured Pakistan".

Through the IIC 2023, the SECP aims to boost the insurance sector by promoting inclusivity, innovation, and resilience through discussions and presentations, highlighting key issues and potential prospects.

SNGPL disconnects more 53 connections

LAHORE (APP): In a relentless pursuit against gas pilferage, the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) disconnected more 53 illicit connections in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), and Islamabad besides imposing fines totaling Rs 5.66 million.

According to a spokesman of the company, the regional team disconnected six connections due to illegal gas use and an additional five for compressor usage, processing 52 under-billing cases. A substantial fine of Rs 2.49 million was levied against gas theft and under-billing offenses, and cases were lodged against offenders. In Bahawalpur, two connections were disconnected with 58 under-billing cases processed while in Multan, one connection was also connected.

SBP allows ASA Microfinance Bank Limited to commence countrywide operations

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Tuesday, allowed ASA Microfinance Bank (Pakistan) Limited to commence microfinance lending business across the country. ASA Microfinance Bank will be the 12th Microfinance Bank (MFB) to operate in the country by commencing nationwide microfinance lending business with effect from November 13, 2023, said a statement issued here.

ASA Microfinance Bank (Pakistan) Limited, licensed by SBP under the

Microfinance Institutions Ordinance 2001, is a wholly owned subsidiary of ASA International Group plc, which is recognized as one of the world's largest international microfinance institutions.

MFBs play an important role to serve a large number of micro-credit borrowers and depositors as they have approximately 3% share of total advances of the banking system, it stated adding that however in terms of number of domestic borrowers.

Rupee sheds 33 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday witnessed a devaluation of 33-paise against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 287.87 against the previous day's closing at Rs 287.54. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 287.5 and Rs 290 respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 79 paise to close at Rs 308.20 against the last day's closing of Rs 307.41, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.89; whereas an increase of Rs 1.95 was witnessed in the exchange rate.

Three new industrial units inaugurated at DIK Economic Zone

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce, Technical Education and Tribal Affairs, Dr. Aamir Abdullah inaugurated three newly established units at D.I. Khan Economic Zone and performed the groundbreaking of two other units on Tuesday.

The inaugurated enterprises were units of food, beverage, chemical and LPG sectors.

The ceremony was hosted by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC). The Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

KP-EZDMC, Javed Iqbal Khattak and other senior management of the company were also present on the occasion.

The inauguration and groundbreaking of food and beverage sector industries would boost the generation of employment opportunities and meet the increasing demand of consumer products in the region. The addition of the LPG industry in D.I. Khan marks a momentous step towards enhancing energy security and self-sufficiency. The chemical industry is set to play a pivotal role in contributing to the chemical and manufacturing sector.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Mr. Jamshid A. Khodjaev regarding bilateral trade in agricultural commodities.

FAO for transforming local Agri-Food system to reduce hidden cost

ISLAMABAD (INP): United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), on Tuesday recommended for transforming the local agri-food system in order to reduce the its hidden cost to ensure quality nutrient-filled food for everyone.

Addressing the launching ceremony of FAO report on the 2023 edition of The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA), Country Representative Ms Florence Rolle said that per capita food consumption in Pakistan was estimated at 15 per day, which was costlier and consuming more resources.

She said that despite an agrarian economy Pakistan was still importing food

commodities worth \$9 billion per-annum.

FAO was striving hard to reduce hidden costs of food with the collaboration of different stakeholders and bringing efficiencies to reduce costs of production, said Assistant FAO Representative Dr. Amer Irshad.

Meanwhile, the FAO unveiled the staggering hidden costs of current agri-food systems, reaching an alarming \$10 trillion annually, nearly 10% of the world's GDP.

This revelation comes from a comprehensive study covering 154 countries, shedding light on the multifaceted impact of hidden costs on health, the environment, and society.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Five ships namely, MSC Aby, Suape Express, Kyparissia, Ayati and Al-Berta, scheduled to load/offload Container, Cement and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, and Bulk Terminal respectively on Monday.

Meanwhile three more ships, CSL Manhattan, Maersk Denver and Milaha Raslaffan also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port during last 24 hours.

A total of nine ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a containership 'Suape Express' is left the Port on today morning, three more ships, MSC Aby.



HYDERABAD: Farmers are spraying pesticides over crop at an agricultural field in Hyderabad.

KATI urges urgent measures for economic recovery

ISLAMABAD (APP): Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) President Farazur-Rahman on Tuesday urged the government to prioritize addressing challenges confronting the export sector.

Talking to media persons on the conclusion of his successful meetings with trade bodies here, he asserted that it would enable the sector to actively contribute to pulling the economy out of its current challenges and set it on a trajectory of sustainable development through a rapid increase in exports.

He pointed out that facilitating exporters with accessible loans could

significantly enhance the export sector.

However, the prevailing 22% interest rate stood as a substantial impediment to business and investment development, he added.

Faraz said this obstacle was evident in the more than 290% decline in private sector loans from July to October this year compared to the same period last year. Pakistan's exports witnessed a 5% decline from July to September this year compared to the previous year, a discouraging trend amid economic recovery efforts, he said stressing the imperative for a significant surge in exports.

Workshop on organic honey farming ends

LAHORE (APP): The 17th National Training Workshop on 'Organic Beekeeping Practices' organized by Punjab University Institute of Zoology concluded here on Tuesday.

Punjab University Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood, Director Institute of Zoology Prof Dr Nabila Roohi, Director ORIC Prof Dr Shakil Ahmed, In-charge Beekeeper Research Garden Dr Abdul Majid Khan, bee farm administrators, researchers, faculty members and students attended the closing ceremony.

In his address, Dr Khalid Mahmood said that the process of learning should always continue. He said that the workshop would help the participants work in the practical field. He said that PU would continue to play a key role in the welfare projects of society despite of its limited resources.

Dr Nabila thanked the VC for cooperation in organizing the workshop. She said that the workshop would promote the trend of entrepreneurship. She said that the aim of organizing the workshop was to enlighten local farmers.

Punjab govt to establish 9 model agri centers

LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, during a meeting at CM's Office on Tuesday, reviewed the establishment of model agricultural centers in Punjab. During the session, a strategic decision was made to establish nine such centers across Punjab. He directed formulating a comprehensive plan to ensure farmers have centralized access to a spectrum of services, emphasizing the implementation of measures aimed at

modernizing the agricultural sector.

The participants were briefed on the Okara-based model agriculture center during the meeting. Stressing the importance of a thorough plan, the CM urged the development of a detailed blueprint for the establishment of these model agri centers.

At the divisional level, these centers are poised to become comprehensive hubs offering essential services to farmers all under one roof. Facilities, including seeds, fertilizers, pesticides.

ACS Saqib Zafar says: Govt committed to combat terrorism

MULTAN (APP): Additional Chief Secretary Capt. Saqib Zafar on Tuesday while chairing a meeting at south Punjab Secretariat emphasized the government's resolute commitment to combating terrorism.

The meeting, aimed at ensuring the maintenance of law and order in the region, was attended by key officials including Additional IG Police South Punjab Maqsood Ul Hasan, Commissioner Engineer

Aamir Khattak, and other prominent figures.

The ACS commended the vigilance of all security agencies, stressing the importance of regular intelligence committee meetings at the divisional and district levels.

These meetings, he noted, play a crucial role in fostering collaboration between administration and security forces, contributing significantly to the preservation of law and order.



KARACHI: Members of Contractors Association Sindh are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, held at Karachi press club.

Biden meets with Indonesia president ahead of Xi summit

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Leaders from the United States and Indonesia held discussions on Monday that will set the stage for U.S. President Joe Biden's first in person meeting in a year with Chinese leader Xi Jinping later this week.
Biden greeted Indonesian President Joko Widodo at the White House as the two leaders prepare for a Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in San Francisco, where Washington hopes to reduce friction with Beijing. Biden is due to meet Xi on Wednesday.
The United States and Indonesia agreed to new cooperation in defense areas including cybersecurity, space, combined exercises and nuclear threats, the White House said. On climate, they agreed on efforts to sup-

port the electrical grid and improve air quality.
Reuters reported on Sunday that the two countries are working to advance a potential minerals partnership focused on the electric vehicle (EV) battery metal nickel, citing three people with direct knowledge of the conversations.
But the Biden administration is still concerned about environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards in Indonesia and is examining how such a deal might work.
Biden and Jokowi, as the Indonesian president is popularly known, agreed to form a work plan towards the establishment of a trade agreement on critical minerals, after which Indonesia will supply minerals for U.S. electric vehicle batteries, Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said in a statement after the meeting.
Retno said both sides also agreed to immediately implement the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP), a \$20 billion funding pledged by the U.S. and other G7 countries last year to help Indonesia clean up its energy sector.
Indonesia also called for the renewal of the Generalized System of Preferences, Retno said, referring to a U.S. trade facility that Indonesian exports had benefited from before it expired at the end of 2020.
Jokowi pressed Biden on steps to end Israel's war with Hamas.
"Indonesia appeals to the U.S. to do more to stop the atrocities in Gaza. Ceasefire is a must for the sake of humanity," Widodo said in the Oval Office at the start of talks with the U.S. president.



Britain's King Charles and Queen Camilla visit FareShare Didcot to launch the Coronation Food Project on his birthday, in Didcot, Britain.

UN observes minute's silence for 101 staffers killed in Gaza

Monitoring Desk
GENEVA: United Nations workers observed a minute's silence and flags flew at half-mast at UN co-mounds across the globe on Monday to honour the more than 100 employees killed since hostilities began in Gaza last month, the largest death toll of workers in the organisation's 78-year history.
In Gaza City, witnesses reported intense overnight air strikes with Israeli tanks and armoured vehicles just metres from the Al Shifa hospital.
Health authorities said hospitals in northern Gaza were no longer functioning amid fuel shortages and raging combat.
The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the organisation for supporting Palestinians, said on Friday that 101 of its employees died in Gaza Strip since Oct 7.
Staff at UN offices in Geneva bowed their heads as a candle was lit in memory of the deceased UNRWA employees.
"This is the highest number of aid workers killed in the history of our organisation in such a short time," said Tatiana Valovaya, Director General of the UN office in Geneva.
In Geneva, the second-largest UN headquarters after New York, the UN flag flew at half-mast and none of the other flags of the 193 member countries were hoisted along the main alley of the compound.
The blue and white UN flag was lowered at offices in Bangkok, Tokyo and Beijing. Events were also held in Kathmandu and Kabul, where the UN secretary general's special representative for Afghanistan led about 250 people in observing the minute's silence.



Belgium's Defense Minister Ludivine Dedonder, right, speaks with Netherland's Defense Minister Kajsa Ollongren, second right, during a meeting of EU foreign and defense ministers at the European Council building in Brussels.

Nikki Haley will launch a \$10M ad campaign to try to overtake Ron DeSantis in the GOP primary

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Nikki Haley's presidential campaign will reserve \$10 million in television, radio and digital advertising across Iowa and New Hampshire beginning in the first week of December, a massive investment designed to give the former United Nations ambassador an advantage over Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis at a critical moment in the GOP nomination fight.
Details of the advertising plans, which represent the Haley campaign's first official advertising reservation, were obtained by The Associated Press ahead of a public announcement expected Monday. Haley's planned investment, as of now, is more than five times larger than DeSantis' current advertising reserves for the same time period, according to the media track-

Greta Thunberg under fire in Germany over pro-Palestinian stance

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: Greta Thunberg came under fire on Monday over her pro-Palestinian stance in Germany, where the local chapter of climate movement Fridays for Future had distanced itself from her views on the Gaza crisis. Thunberg, wearing the Palestinian black and white scarf, had urged "ceasefire now" at a climate protest on Sunday in Amsterdam.
She was interrupted by a man who sought to snatch the microphone from her, saying he had come for a climate protest, not for her other views. After he was removed by security officers, she began chanting, along with the crowd, "no climate justice on occupied land".

EU struggles to produce and send the ammunition it promised to Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: European Union nations acknowledged on Tuesday that they risk failing to provide Ukraine with the ammunition they pledged to help Kyiv stave off the Russian invasion and win back its territory.
Early this year, EU leaders promised to provide 1 million rounds of ammunition to Ukraine's front line by spring next year in what would have amounted to a serious ramp-up of production. But the 27-nation bloc, for over half a century steeped in a "peace, not war" message and sheltering under a U.S. military umbrella, is finding it tough to come up with the goods.
"The 1 million will not be reached, you have to assume that," said German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius, ahead of a meeting of EU defense and foreign affairs ministers in

Israeli strikes hit journalists in south Lebanon

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Journalists in southern Lebanon said they were targeted on Monday in Israeli strikes, which Al Jazeera network said lightly wounded its photographer. A local mayor and Lebanese state media corroborated the journalists' account of the cross-border incident, which came exactly a month after deadly strikes blamed on Israel hit a press group near Alma al-Shaab in southern Lebanon.
Around a dozen journalists from several media outlets were on a tour to inspect damage from Israeli bombardments and had been providing coverage from the border town of Yarun when the strikes hit. Al Jazeera said its photographer Issam Mawasi was "lightly wounded as a result of Israeli bombing". "Al Jazeera's broadcast vehicle was also damaged during the attack. The strike occurred as a group of journalists toured the area," a report on the Qatari broadcaster's website said. Al Jazeera's Lebanon bureau chief Mazen Ibrahim accused Israel of "directly targeting" the group.

US Commerce chief Raimondo to meet Chinese counterpart Wang during APEC

Monitoring Desk
SAN FRANCISCO: The commerce chiefs of the United States and China will meet at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum this week, one of a series of cabinet-level engagements surrounding high-stakes talks between U.S. President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping.
A.U.S. Commerce Department spokesperson confirmed that U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao planned to meet but was not able to provide details and timing.
Raimondo is participating in ministerial meetings for APEC and the Biden administration's Indo-Pacific Economic Framework discussions.
Biden and Xi are expected to meet in the San Francisco Bay area on Wednesday in an effort to calm a tense relationship between the world's two largest economies.
Raimondo first mentioned the meeting with Wang, their third in person in less than six months, in an interview with CNN that aired on Sunday.
She said it was time to "ratchet down the temperature" of the U.S.-China relationship.

Putin approves new restrictions on media coverage ahead of presidential elections

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin has approved changes to the law that governs presidential elections putting new restrictions on media coverage, local news agencies reported on Tuesday.
The changes come ahead of the election to be held in March in which Putin, who has ruled Russia for the last 24 years, is expected to seek a new six-year term. Putin, 71, has not declared whether he will run, saying he will announce that only after the parliament formally sets the election date.



Several volunteers give Spanish classes to migrants outside the Las Raices Camp in La Laguna, Spain.

US moves to break political impasse in Bangladesh

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: The US ambassador to Bangladesh has sought meetings with leaders of the country's three major parties, the embassy said on Monday, as Washington seeks to break a political impasse ahead of elections.
Dhaka is set to hold a general election in January, but the main opposition, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), and its allies have said they will boycott the vote unless Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina quits power and lets a neutral government oversee the polls.
Hasina has launched a major crackdown against the BNP since police broke up a giant opposition rally on October 28. Police have arrested more than 11,000 BNP activists and almost all its top leaders since then, the party said.
The US embassy said ambassador Peter Haas "has requested meetings with senior officials in all three major political parties", as violence gripped the country with the opposition enforcing two weeks of strikes.

Top Iraq court ends parliament speaker Halbousi's term: state media

Monitoring Desk
BAGDAD: The Iraqi Federal Supreme Court decided on Tuesday to end the term of parliament speaker Mohammad al-Halbousi, Iraq's most powerful Sunni Muslim politician, state media reported.
The decision was related to a case brought against Halbousi this year, the report added without going into detail. Halbousi was serving his second term as speaker, a post he first took in 2018 and which, under Iraq's sectarian political system instituted after the 2003 U.S. invasion.

Sri Lanka's top court says ex-president among those who contributed to economic crisis

Monitoring Desk
COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's top court ruled on Tuesday that former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his brother, former Prime Minister Mahinda, were among several government officials whose conduct contributed to the country's worst economic crisis in decades.
The court was ruling on a petition filed against 13 former officials by rights group Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) which said the Rajapaksa brothers and others were responsible for the crisis.
"Their actions, omissions and conduct contributed to the crisis," the ruling said. The court did not order any punishment, according to a statement by TISL.
The two Rajapaksa brothers, two former central bank governors and President Ranil Wickremesinghe were among those named in the landmark TISL petition.
Wickremesinghe was prime minister at the time of the crisis.
"Looking forward, we hope that this acts as a warning to elected representatives and public officials as they make critical decisions that have serious implications on the lives of citizens."

Finland says Russia leads asylum seekers to its border

Monitoring Desk
HELSINKI: Finland on Tuesday accused Russia of funneling asylum-seekers to its border and said it will take the necessary action to prevent a mass inflow of people and protect its national security.
Prime Minister Petteri Orpo told a press conference that Russia had changed its practice by allowing people access to the border without required travel documents.
"It is clear that these people are helped and they are also being escorted or transported to the border by border guards," Orpo, of Finland's conservative National Coalition Party, said.

Russian UN envoys shoot back at Western criticism of its Ukraine war and crackdown on dissidents

Monitoring Desk
GENEVA: Western countries on Monday repeatedly called on Russia to end domestic repression of dissident voices and end its war in Ukraine — and human rights violations related to it — as Russia came under a regular review at the U.N.'s top rights body.
A delegation from Moscow, led by State Secretary and Deputy Justice Minister Andrei Loginov, defended Russia's right to ensure law and order by restricting some forms of protest or voices that might threaten domestic security. He also said Russia's "special military operation" in Ukraine had "no relation to the subject matter" at issue in the review.
Monday's 3 1/2-hour hearing in Geneva was part of an exercise known as the universal periodic review, or UPR, which all U.N. member states face about every four or five years in connection with the U.N.-backed Human Rights Council.
Russia came under widespread international condemnation after President Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion of Ukraine in February last year. Two separate teams of U.N.-backed investigators have been commissioned to look into both rights abuses carried out in Ukraine and domestically in Russia.
Western countries during Monday's session denounced the deportation of Ukrainian children, Russia's crackdown on civil society and the arrest of rights defenders.

Floods kill at least 31 in Somalia. UN warns of a flood event likely to happen once in 100 years

Monitoring Desk
MOGADISHU: Floods caused by torrential rainfall have killed at least 31 people in various parts of Somalia, authorities said Sunday.
Since October, floods have displaced nearly half a million people and disrupted the lives of over 1.2 million people, Minister of Information Daud Aweis told reporters in the capital Mogadishu. They have also caused extensive damage to civilian infrastructure notably in the Gedo region of southern Somalia, he said.
The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, or OCHA, which has given \$25 million to help mitigate the impact of flooding, warned in a statement Thursday of "a flood event of a magnitude statistically likely only once in 100 years, with significant anticipated humanitarian impacts."
"While all possible preparatory measures are being pursued, a flood of this magnitude can only be mitigated and not prevented," OCHA said, recommending "early warning and early action" to save lives as "large-scale displacement, increased humanitarian needs and further destruction of property remain likely."
The lives of some 1.6 million people in Somalia could be disrupted by floods during the rainy season that lasts until December, with 1.5 million hectares of farmland potentially being destroyed, it said.
Mogadishu has been ravaged by downpours that, at times, swept away vulnerable people, including children and the elderly, and disrupted transportation.
Floods are also affecting neighboring Kenya, where the death toll stood at 15 on Monday, according to the Kenya Red Cross.
The port city of Mombasa and the northeastern counties of Mandera and Wajir are the worst affected.

Illegal border crossings into the US drop in October after a 3-month streak of increases

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Illegal border crossings from Mexico fell 14% in October from a month earlier, U.S. authorities said Tuesday, ending a three-month streak of big increases.
U.S. officials highlighted the resumption of deportation flights to Venezuela on Oct. 18, shortly after Venezuelans replaced Mexicans as the largest nationality appearing at the border. Customs and Border Protection said Venezuelans were stopped 65% fewer times in the second half of October compared with the second half of September, though that figure includes Venezuelans who made asylum appointments through a mobile app as well as those who crossed the border illegally.
Arrests for illegal crossings totaled 188,778 for all nationalities in October, down from 218,763 in September, which was the second-highest month on record. Arrests had more than doubled over the previous three months as migrants and smugglers adjusted to new asylum regulations introduced in May.
"We continue to enhance our border security posture and remain vigilant," said Troy Miller, the acting CBP commissioner, who urged Congress to approve President Joe Biden's supplemental budget request for \$13.6 billion in border-related spending.
While crossings remain unusually high, the monthly decline is a rare piece of welcome news for a White House that has been criticized on the right and left flanks for its immigration policies. Panama has yet to release October figures for crossings through the notorious Darien jungle, which totaled more than 400,000 during the first nine months of the year, largely Venezuelans.
Biden, a Democrat, has adopted an approach at the border that combines new legal pathways to enter the country with more restrictions on asylum for those who cross the border illegally.

3 murderers freed in Australia after court ruled out holding migrants indefinitely, minister says

Monitoring Desk
CANBERRA: Three murderers are among 81 foreigners recently released in Australia after the High Court ruled their indefinite detention in migrant centers was unconstitutional, the immigration minister said on Tuesday.
The court hasn't released the reasons behind its ruling last week that overturned a 2004 precedent that stateless people could be detained indefinitely.
The Melbourne-based Human Rights Law Center reported last month that 127 people had been detained more than five years. The average was 709 days.
Australia's center-left government had argued against the release of the foreign and stateless detainees whom Australia does not want to resettle and other countries are reluctant to accept.
Opposition lawmakers called them "hardcore criminals" and accused the government of endangering the public by releasing them.
Immigration Minister Andrew Giles said the released foreigners included three murderers and several sex offenders. He offered to give deputy opposition leader Sussan Ley a breakdown later of how many had been convicted of sex crimes.
"The decision of the High Court which requires release effects very, very serious offenders," Giles told Parliament.
One of those convicted of murder is Sirul Azhar Umar, a former police officer who was sentenced by a Malaysian court in 2015 to be hanged over the death of a Mongolian woman whose body was dismembered with military-grade explosives.
The 50-year-old had fled to Australia before he was sentenced in absentia and had been held in detention for nine years until the High Court decision last week.



AMSTERDAM: A man snatches a microphone from activist Greta Thunberg after she jumped on the stage during her speech at The March for Climate and Justice.

With NAVTTC support Balochistan's technical training centers to be upgraded : CM Domki

QUETTA (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki said on Tuesday Balochistan's technical training centers would be upgraded with the support of NAVTTC.

He expressed these views while talking to Head of National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) and heads of different Vocational Technical Education Institutions of Balochistan.

The CM said the provincial government would establish Center of Excellence in Vocational Technical Education Institutions in Balochistan.

"Five centers will be established in Balochistan for the certification of skilled labor force in Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates," he said, adding that training programs in mining, fisheries, industries and other sectors would also be started in the province.

Technical Training Centers will be activated by utilizing the available structures and building.

The quality of professional training of technical education should be made equal and reliable at the global level, he maintained.

ECP dismisses allegations of cabinet's asset disclosure refusal

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Tuesday firmly refuted reports from the media alleging a refusal to share asset details of the caretaker Prime Minister and cabinet members.

The ECP spokesperson confirmed that the assets of the federal cabinet,



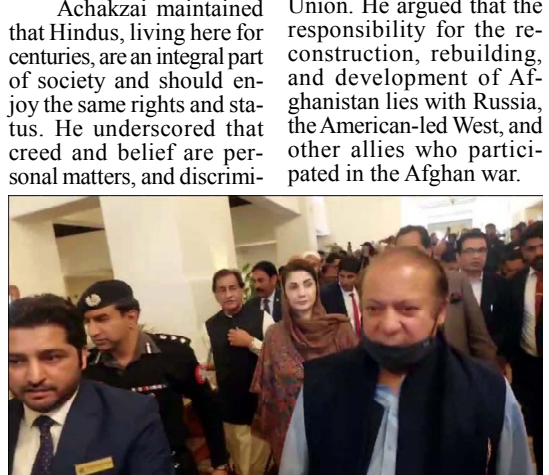
ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairing a meeting regarding the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan.

Mahmood Achakzai says Caste, creed, culture, language are mere facets of life and identification

LORALAI: Chairman Mahmood Khan Achakzai, participating in the Dewali function and visiting Jamia Daruloom Islamia Loralai, stated that caste, creed, culture, and language are mere facets of life and identification.

He emphasized that these should not in any way divide humanity or be used as a means of oppression. The Dewali function, organized by the Hindu community in Chodary Chand Asghar's residence in Loralai, provided Achakzai with an opportunity to greet the Hindu community, stressing that no one, whether Hindu, Christian, or otherwise, should be considered a minority solely based on different beliefs.

Achakzai maintained that Hindus, living here for centuries, are an integral part of society and should enjoy the same rights and status. He underscored that creed and belief are personal matters, and discrimi-



QUETTA: Muslim League (PML-N) Chief, Nawaz Sharif reached Quetta on 2-day visit as part of his party policy to form strategic alliances in all provinces ahead of the Feb 8 general elections. PML-N Chief Organiser, Maryam Nawaz is also present.

Siraj invites political leadership to join efforts for safeguarding Gaza

LAHORE (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Sirajul Haq on Tuesday extended an invitation to the political leadership to join the efforts aimed at safeguarding Gaza.

Addressing a mass gathering at Thoker Niaz Baig, he emphasized that mere statements and resolutions from the Muslim world would not deter Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people.

Sirajul Haq said the JI would continue support for Gaza and hold a historic Palestine solidarity rally in Lahore on November 19.

He expressed disappointment with the OIC Summit in Riyadh, asserting that it fell short of meeting the expectations of the Ummah, particularly in the face of the extraordinary challenges confronting the

people of Palestine. He contended that the reluctance of rulers to take visible action for Palestine was rooted in their apprehension of the United States.

Discussing the prevailing political landscape, the JI chief criticized the caretaker government for unquestioningly following IMF directives, resulting in a significant inflationary burden on the impoverished.

He highlighted the caretakers' lack of decision-making authority on policy matters, citing the soaring prices of essential commodities that have placed them beyond the financial means of the common man. He underscored the difficulty faced by the masses in meeting the costs of both their children's education and basic utilities simultaneously.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of honorary consuls of different friendly countries based in Peshawar call on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

PM calls for bringing higher education in conformity with contemporary needs

ISLAMABAD (APP): HEC Chairman Dr Mukhtar Ahmed, secretary education and other senior officials, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The prime minister was briefed about the higher education, students' scholarships, universities, and other related issues.

He was apprised that a total of 259 higher education institutes in the country were recognized by the HEC whereas in the previous years, the number of universities of global standards had increased in Pakistan.

So far, more than 20,000 scholarships had been awarded for PhD since the inception of HEC, it

was added.

The meeting was also informed about the formulated mechanism to control plagiarism in the educational sector. The caretaker prime minister was also given a briefing about the national and international scholarships.

The prime minister directed for submission of a complete report regarding the outcome of government-funded scholarships, besides asked for removal of hurdles faced by the Pakistani students, studying abroad, in getting the release of scholarships.

He observed that for promotion of human and technical resources, they

would have to extend facility of stipends in the science and engineering subjects.

The caretaker prime minister was also given a briefing on the formulated strategy between the academia and the industry for a joint collaboration.

The prime minister directed the relevant authorities to chalk out a mechanism for getting funding from the IT (information technology) and pharmaceutical industries for carrying out research.

He also asked for holding of a joint meeting of all the provincial authorities to resolve the issues related to education.

Kyrgyz- Pak IGC pivotal to establish stronger economic foundation: Energy Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division) Muhammad Ali has said that the Kyrgyz-Pakistan Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) is pivotal in establishing a stronger economic foundation and fostering enhanced mutual cooperation between the two countries.

He was speaking during the 4th Session of Kyrgyz-Pakistan Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) on Trade-Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation held in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic, on November 10, a Commerce Ministry news release said on Tuesday.

The Co-Chairs for the 4th Session of the IGC were Minister for Energy (Power

Division) of Pakistan and Baicalov Edil Zholdubaevich, the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Energy Minister led the Pakistani delegation, comprising senior officials from the ministries of Economic Affairs, Commerce and Energy (Power Division) at the IGC session.

The minister, referring to the enduring historical and cultural bonds between Pakistan and the Kyrgyz Republic, expressed the readiness of the Pakistani side for an active dialogue and practical actions to further deepen bilateral cooperation.

Underscoring collaboration in the energy sector, he reaffirmed its crucial role in mutual growth.



QUETTA: Executive Director NAVTEC Muhammad Aamir Jan presenting shield to Balochistan Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

WHO head meets CS, commends timely response of GoB to Congo virus in Balochistan

QUETTA: The representative of World Health Organization, Dr. Palitha Mahipala met the Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan here on Tuesday.

During the course of meeting, both discussed the matters about polio eradication, immunization and other related matters.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Secretary appreciated the timely measures taken by the provincial government for prevention of Congo virus in the province. He said that the medical staff set great example of human service by caring the Congo infected patients in the hospitals.

The Chief secretary thanked the WHO head for giving priority to the health department Balochistan.

He said that the provincial government is paying attention on the primary healthcare in the province.

Iqbal Academy Lahore signs MoU with UoB Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Director of Iqbal Academy Lahore, Pakistan Dr. Abdul Rauf Rafiqi on Tuesday visited the University of Balochistan Quetta and met the vice chancellor of the university Prof. Dr. Shafiqur-Rehman.

On this occasion, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the IAC and UoB.

Under the MoU, both institutions will jointly promote research and educational activities keeping in mind each other's interests.

In the memorandum, both institutions will work to include academia in multilateral fields, keeping in mind each other's interests under the mutual agreement. Besides, both institutions will organize seminars and workshops to promote educational, research and training activities including the exchange of experts and awareness.

On this occasion, the vice-chancellor of the University of Balochistan Dr. Shafiqur-Rehman said that the purpose of the agreement is to jointly implement future projects.



QUETTA: A delegation meeting with Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Ameer Muhammad Khan Jozzeai

President cites immense potential to attract investment from friendly countries

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday citing the immense potential and opportunities for investment, said Pakistan desired to strengthen cooperation with friendly countries in the fields of investment, culture and tourism.

in a meeting with the honorary consul generals of different countries in Peshawar, reiterated Pakistan's resolve to enhance trade and investment ties with the friendly countries.

He urged the consul generals to strengthen their linkages with Pakistan's chambers of commerce and industries.

The consul generals who met the president included those of Tunisia, Russia, Turkey, Bulgaria, Bosnia, Tajikistan, Japan, Czech Republic, South Korea and Brazil.

The delegation apprised the president of the role of the honorary consul generals for promoting international ties and mutual trade.

President Alvi also urged the consul generals to play their role to attract investment to Pakistan.

In the meeting, he also reiterated Pakistan's concerns on the prevailing situation in Gaza and stressed the need for immediate ceasefire.



QUETTA: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) representative posted in Pakistan Philippa Kender presenting shield to Balochistan Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

NP delegation calls on Nawaz Sharif; discusses political matters

QUETTA: A delegation of National Party (NP) led by its central President and former Chief Minister Balochistan, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch met the central leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif here in Quetta on Tuesday.

Also included in the NP's delegation were the secretary General, Jan Buledi, Kabir Muhammad Shahi and other leaders.

During the course of meeting, the central President of PML-N, Muhammad Sharif, its Vice President and Chief Organizer, Ms. Mayum Nawaz, Pervez Rasheed as well as the provincial leaders of the party including Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, Jamal Shah Kakar and others.

During the meeting, there was discussion between the PML-N and NP leadership about the political matters as well as alliance in the two parties for next elections.

Shahbaz, Mariyam also accompanied with: Nawaz Sharif arrives in Quetta after six years; gets warm welcome

QUETTA: The central leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday arrived in the provincial metropolis on two-day visit.

Also reached along with him by the special airplane were the President of PML-N and former Prime Minister, Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, party's vice President and Chief Organizer, Ms. Maryam Nawaz and Pervez Rasheed, Captain (Retd) Muhammad Saifdar.

The party's provincial leadership including President, Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail, Jamal Shah Kakar, Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani, Nawab Jangeer Khan Marri, Chaudhary Naeem Karim and others warmly welcomed the party's central leader upon his arrival at the

Quetta airport.

A large number of party workers were also present on the occasion to welcome their leader.

The rose petals were also showered on Nawaz Sharif and other party leaders.

Meanwhile, soon after his arrival in Quetta, Nawaz Sharif and others moved to the Serena Hotel.

At the hotel, Nawaz Sharif remained engaged in meeting with the political stalwarts of different parties and individuals.

Later, the key politicians including former Chief Minister, Jam Kamal Khan and others announced their joining in the party reposing confidence in the leadership of Nawaz Sharif.

The central leader of PML-N is scheduled to address the party's provincial leaders and workers at a gathering today (Wednesday).



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed exchanging views with Director Development British High Commission during meeting held at Ministry of Planning.

Over 1.78bn recovered from defaulters, pilferers as QESCO continues drive

QUETTA: Over 1.78 billion have so far been recovered from the defaulters of the electricity utility bills and arrears and the pilferers during the in the Balochistan province.

According to the spokesman of Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO), the campaign against defaulters and pilferers of electricity is continued all over the province.

The spokesman said that 404 more connections of the defaulters were disconnected on non-payment

in different parts of the province.

Similarly, eight transformers of defaulters were also removed in Loralai, Pishin and Turbat.

According to the spokesman, over Rs. 1.53 billion have been recovered from 80,263 defaulters while over Rs. 53 million recovered on account of the fine charged on power pilferage and detection.

The QESCO's campaign would remain continued without any interruption in future too, the spokesman vowed.