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No security compromises with undocumented foreign nationals: PM

Our ultimate aim is to build safer, more peaceful, and prosperous Pakistan; 65 terrorists killed in encounters were identified as Afghans; No responsible government can ignore such concerns. Whenever we raised this with the interim Afghan government, they advised us to "look inwards"

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has said that as Pakistan stood at the crossroads of history, it could no longer continue to compromise its national security by accommodating huge number of undocumented immigrants.

"Our ultimate aim is to build a safer, more peaceful and prosperous Pakistan — with associated benefits for our own people, for the region, and the wider world," the prime minister wrote in an article published in The Telegraph on Sunday.

He said that the governments across the world were adapting to a new era of mass migration linked to

conflict, climate change, and economic opportunism.

He said the UK Government's plan to deport illegal immigrants to Rwanda was a sign of that pressure. The heated debate surrounding the proposal and the many efforts to derail the scheme illustrated the huge challenges for policymakers as they sought to balance human rights with hard realities.

Similarly, he said, France was also struggling, while Italy had expressed fears that it might become "Europe's refugee camp".

After opening its arms to several million refugees in recent years, Germany was

also feeling the strain, prompting the announcement of tough new deportation measures.

The situation in the United States was no easier, he remarked.

"Pakistan's problem is of a different magnitude altogether. Over the last three to four decades, between four and five million migrants (roughly the population of Ireland) have arrived. Many have no right to remain. Despite being a non-signatory to 1951 Convention on Refugees (and its 1967 Protocol), we have generously accommodated the single largest caseload of refugees," the prime minister wrote.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki speaking through video link at the meeting held under chair of caretaker Federal Minister Finance, Shamshad Akhtar on the provincial financial matters in Islamabad

Decisions with consensus unavoidable on provincial related financial matters: CM

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the decisions are unavoidable with consensus on the financial matters related to the provinces.

He said that we would extend every possible cooperation in view of the decisions made at the national level related to the financial matters.

He said that we are well aware of hardships of federation, however, Balochistan is unable to extend extraordinary assistance financially.

The caretaker Chief Minister was speaking through video link at the meeting held under chair of caretaker Federal Minister

Finance, Shamshad Akhtar on the provincial financial matters in Islamabad on Monday.

The meeting was held to review the matters to rationalize the federal expenditures about provinces.

The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Rashid Razaq Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development, Abdul Saboor Khan Kakar, Secretary Planning, Lal Jan Jaffar also participated in the meeting through video link from Quetta.

The caretaker Chief Minister said that we have presented our stance of the province in the meeting of SIFC. We are well aware of the hardships of the federa-

tion, however, Balochistan is unable of the extraordinary financial assistance.

He said Balochistan is facing financial problems, so the province can't afford any such financial sharing that is impracticable.

The Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir told the meeting that the provincial government has taken responsibility of 518 schools and teachers in 2021. As far as the matter of sharing of Balochistan in BISP is concerned, we have to look into that to that extent poverty was reduced and what positive impacts were there.

He said that the formula of financial sharing should be decided keeping in view the results of BISP meant for reduction in the poverty.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakhtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party Mahmood Khan Achakzai meeting with Amir Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

Jan Achakzai says Some miscreants & misguided elements threatening to sabotage general polls

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has stated that some miscreants and misguided elements are threatening to sabotage the upcoming general elections in the country.

However, the Pakistan state and masses are not afraid of such things.

He said that Afghan people are with Pakistan and on the same way, Pakistani people value their Afghan brethren.

Jan Achakzai said that Pakistan hosted Afghan people for several decades like Ansar. But some miscreants are playing in the hands of anti-Pakistan ele-



ments. However, these elements are going to exposed now and Pakistan recognizes all these terrorists.

The Minister Information demanded of the Pakistani government to take action against the terrorists and miscreants and hand over the wanted ones to Pakistan.



Caretaker PM visits Kuwait; conveys deepest sympathies to new Amir

KUWAIT (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar visited Kuwait today to offer condolences over the sad demise of the Amir Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

During his meeting with the new Amir Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the Prime Minister offered his heartfelt condolences on behalf of the leadership, government and people of Pakistan. He said Pakistani nation stands united with our Kuwaiti brothers in this time of sorrow and grief.

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said the State of Kuwait has lost a visionary leader, who transformed Kuwait into a prosperous State.

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will be remembered as well-wisher and friend of Pakistan who made great contributions in advancing bilateral relations between the two brotherly states.

Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Sabah expressed gratitude to the leadership, Government and the people of Pakistan for standing with the people of Kuwait in this time of grief. He expressed full support for Pakistan-Kuwait relations and affirmed his commitment to further augment this relationship.

Nawaz Sharif says: PML-N always abided by law despite excesses

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-N Supremo Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif said on Monday that the country would have been in a much better condition if the development process of his government had not been stopped.

Addressing a PML-N parliamentary board meeting here, he said his government had built motorways, set up power generation plants, dams and many other projects of public welfare whereas in Karachi the drinking water project

could not be completed unfortunately.

He said that when the PML-N was in power the world acknowledged that Pakistan would soon become an economic power. "We do not want inflation in the country but to see a prosperous Pakistan. The PML-N has always abided by the Constitution," he said, adding that he was not facing any accusation of violating law.

He said that his party had tolerated a lot of excesses and fake cases were also registered against him.

Sarfraz Bugti joins PPP

Independent Report
QUETTA: The former caretaker Federal Interior Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti joined the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) just days after he resigned from office.

"Respected leader Asif Ali Zardari came to Turbat and directed me to join PPP," Bugti told the party's workers convention in Turbat in the presence of the PPP co-chairman and other leaders, as he expressed delight to be entering into the general elections with PPP's support.



QUETTA: A delegation of Muslim Hands led by Muhammad Kashif meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

PPP's Workers convention in Turbat: PPP to make Balochistan 10 time better than now after coming in power, pledges Zardari

Independent Report
TURBAT: The President of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians and former President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari has said that the PPP after coming in power following the upcoming general elections will start development projects in the fields of education, health and communication to speed up the development process in Balochistan, as well as will ensure supply of irrigation water to promote agriculture in the province.

He said that in terms of development projects, "Balochistan will be the first" now, and "there is a lot of scope for Balochistan to move forward".

While addressing the party workers' convention here on Monday, Asif Ali Zardari said that Balochistan is the heart of Pakistan. He urged that conflict does not bring prosperity, and added: "We will beautify Balochistan. Balochistan has many resources. I will make

Balochistan 10 times better than now.

He said that during the party's previous government in the province, he provided funds but did not monitor the development projects. "Now I will supervise the development projects myself," he vowed.

Former President pointed out that previous PPP governments in Sindh had build lining canals, as a result of which sugarcane is being cultivated in many uninhabited areas of the province. "Gold can also grow here in Balochistan," he added. President PPP Asif Ali Zardari said that development in Balochistan will be done in cooperation with China, saying: "China will be our partner, we will work together with China." He pointed out that Gwadar was already there, but no one except the PPP government paid attention to the expansion of that port. "We have to improve the economic conditions, we have to give employment to the

youth of Balochistan," he said, adding that Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) will be expanded and educated unemployed youth will be given stipend till they get employment.

The former president said that individuals sitting in Islamabad do not understand Balochistan, they do not understand Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa either, adding that the PPP government formed after the upcoming general elections will build a university in every division of Balochistan, a college in every district and medical colleges and hospitals keeping in mind the population. The former president said that he had endured 14 years of imprisonment, during which he trained himself. Whenever PPP comes to power, it comes to serve the people, he said and added: "I gave identity to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province by giving its name. It's not our fault, it's our pride."

Pak, Iran FMs discuss Gaza situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Jilil Abbas Jilani on Monday held a telephonic conversation with his Iranian counterpart Amir Abdollahian wherein they discussed the dire situation in Gaza as well as the recent terrorist attack that took place in Southeastern Iran.

During the conversation, they discussed matters of bilateral importance and the regional situation, a Foreign Office press release said.

Foreign Minister Jilani expressed Pakistan's deep concern over the dire situation in the Occupied Palestine, especially in Gaza.

No one can exercise ECP powers Can't object to constituencies delimitation after election schedule issued: SC

Mullifies BHC decision for changing delimitation of two constituencies

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has declared null and void Balochistan High Court (BHC) decision on changing delimitation of two constituencies of Balochistan.

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by Justice Sardar Tariq Masood nullified BHC decision on the petition against the delimitation of two provincial constituencies of Quetta, Monday.

SC has said in the decision that objection cannot be raised on constituencies following the issuance of election schedule.

The court accepted commission's appeal.

Justice Athar Minallah said in his remarks it is the biggest test of Election Commission (EC) that general elections are held in transparent manner on February 8.

When election schedule is issued then every thing



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchanging views with Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Pakistan Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi at Naval Headquarter.

Governor Balochistan emphasizes: Correct results can be acquired after making public interest center of policies & projects

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has categorically stated that we can get correct results by making the interest of public center of all policies and development projects.

The local and international non-governmental organizations along with the public and private institutions should not only follow this principle but their performance should also be seen on ground.

In addition to this, the authoritative people and concerned high ups should also need to take review of the matter seriously that why desired positive and constructive results are not being acquired despite spending hefty amounts from the federal and provincial budgets and tiring efforts.

The Governor was speaking to different delegations who called on him here at the Governor House on Monday.

He noted with concern that the government and private institutions prepare several department projects and implement them too, but they lack positive impacts on the masses.

Not only this, big chunk of the budget is also lapsed even, he added.

The Governor said that planning and experts opinion has very key role and importance in the development process, but there is a need to review the needs of common men before start of the projects and any policy. Moreover, the public requirements and modern needs should also be made part of the development projects and policies, adding he stressed.

Foreigners can not stay in Pakistan indefinitely without visa: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Monday said that foreigners including Afghan citizens could not stay in Pakistan indefinitely without a visa.

He said that everyone knew the treatment of illegal immigrants across the world. When illegal immigrants were drowning in Greece, no one came to save them, Murtaza Solangi recalled. Pakistan's record about illegal residents was very good as compared to other countries of the world, Murtaza Solangi opined.

The minister said that the Taliban government was established in Afghanistan on August 15, 2021, but the US and its allies were not yet able to shift these 20 thousand Afghans to their own countries.

He said that everyone knew the treatment of illegal immigrants across the world. When illegal immigrants were drowning in Greece, no one came to save them, Murtaza Solangi recalled. Pakistan's record about illegal residents was very good as compared to other countries of the world, Murtaza Solangi opined.



QUETTA: Additional Chief Secretary Home Zahid Saleem presiding over a meeting regarding Security Plan during general elections

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

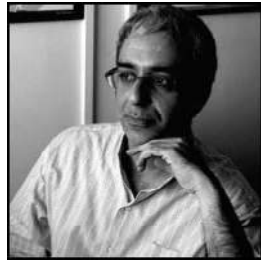
Giant leap

In what can fittingly be described as 'one giant leap for mankind', over 100 countries have agreed to transition away from fossil fuels at the recently concluded COP28 in Dubai.

COP28's success, heralded by environmentalists for finally addressing the 'elephant in the room', is a significant step forward. However, this is but one step in a long journey.

As we look towards the next iteration of the climate change conference in Baku, it is imperative to address these shortcomings. The IEA's emphasis on discussing finance mechanisms for clean energy in developing countries at COP29 should be a top priority.

Songs of slaughter



Zarrar Khuhro

We all have soundtracks to our lives; background music that plays in our heads depending on our mood and situation. We know which songs we like to listen to when we are sad or happy — sometimes to magnify the mood and sometimes to dampen it — because music has the power to unleash and tame emotions.

Recently, one such song topped the Israeli charts. Charbu Darbu (swords and strikes) celebrates Israel's murderous actions with lyrics that call Palestinians "rats and sons of Amalek", and calls upon Israelis to "write names on the bombs, for the children of the Gaza envelope".

In keeping with the psychopathic nature of Israeli society, the song was hugely popular, with Israelis posting videos of themselves dancing to it. Similar songs are favourites of the Israeli occupation forces too, with one group of soldiers dancing to lyrics that go: "We know our slogan: there are no

'uninvolved civilians'." Charming, coming from a military famous for murdering children, women and unarmed men.

This genre of music isn't recent, nor limited to Israel. In recent years, with the rise of the fanatical Sangh Parivar in India, Hindutva hate pop has also secured itself a large, growing audience.

Highly popular in Hindutva circles, these songs are played at Hindu supremacist rallies and marches through Muslim neighbourhoods, events that are almost always followed by violence and hate crimes. They also seem to enjoy official sanction as one of the singers, failed Bollywood singer Prem Krishnavanshi, recently received an award from Yogi Adityanath, the fanatical chief minister of Uttar Pradesh.

Prominent among the hate singers was Simon Bikindi who was indicted in 2005 by the International Criminal Tribunal of Rwanda on six counts for crimes perpetrated during the genocide, including one count of "direct and public incitement to commit genocide".

That this genre of music has deadly consequences is an established fact: in 2012, Wade Michael Page murdered six people at a gurdwara in Wisconsin, before killing himself to avoid capture. It emerged that he had been active in the hatecore scene for over a decade, playing for and listening to bands like Jew Slaughter, Final Solution, and Ethnic Cleansing.

Studying habits



Neda Mulji

We've often heard human beings are creatures of habit and many of us have become habitual complainers. Each working day seems to be a burden, each conversation drags us into the alleyways of despair.

A departure from habits, which become a comfort zone for many, would need some conscious forays into planning, reading, implementation. This brings us back to the question: what is our education system really teaching our children? A school leader sighed helplessly during a conversation: "Let's face it, our children don't read and they won't."

That this genre of music has deadly consequences is an established fact: in 2012, Wade Michael Page murdered six people at a gurdwara in Wisconsin, before killing himself to avoid capture.

We often talk about 21st-century skills but choose to fester in our last century mindsets. There isn't much change in our classic brick-and-mortar schools in the last perhaps 50 years and students are still seen striving for grades, not thriving in their passion to study. If studying habits could be inculcated as

something to be proud of, we would find more students being driven by internal motivation.

Educators, for example, hope that they can teach creativity and critical thinking, and enable students to learn through collaboration and communication. Yet, there is little opportunity or expertise in classrooms to bring these wonderful skills into play.

In a world where students get the immersive experience of being actors and players in their digital video-gaming experiences, we cannot expect them to turn into still and patient auditory learners in class. Not only the curriculum but also teaching practices require a shift towards replicating immersive learning experiences in class where students get an opportunity to lead, learn, argue, play and compete.

Reading can be a motivating, immersive experience just like video games, especially if students are given digital opportunities.

Where that isn't possible, involving children in reading groups, with hands-on projects related to books may be a good starting point to motivate primary-level students. Giving up on reading as a habit isn't an option as it is not only a skill for life, but also critical as a job requirement.

The habit of not reading or studying only for exams may be difficult to break but the investment of time and effort in developing good reading habits can pay dividends for life. For example, many students view reading and studying as a time-consuming, complaint-worthy activity that they have come to resist and resent.

For long-term sustained achievement, studying can be skillfully intertwined in the students' daily habits, especially if they are motivated by an internal drive. Much of that drive comes from enjoying the content, engaging with it beyond the classroom, and learning to experience studying, not as a chore but as necessary building blocks to growth and success.

Excellence is often the result of consistent habits that are contributing to success, not short-term achievement based on a firefighting attempt at getting through exams. It's time to revisit the habits that our students have developed over time.

Commerce News

Belt and Road (Pakistan) Center launched to empower Pak-Changshu cooperation

BEIJING (APP): The Belt and Road (Pakistan) Center was officially launched in Changshu, China. A delegation led by Gohar Ejaz, Minister of Commerce, attended the launching ceremony and had a meeting with Qin Meng, the mayor of Changshu city.

The Belt and Road (Pakistan) Center in Changshu, China, is established with the support of the embassies and consulates of 29 Belt and Road countries, including Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. The center will

provide information and communication channels, organize regular economic and trade forums, and provide offline matchmaking and transaction services for enterprises of China and cooperating countries. Additionally, the center will create an entrepreneurial support platform specifically for overseas students studying in China, offering an excellent entrepreneurial environment and professional services.



SAPM Jawad Sohrab Malik meets with President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at Global Labour Market Conference (GLMC) in Riyadh, KSA.

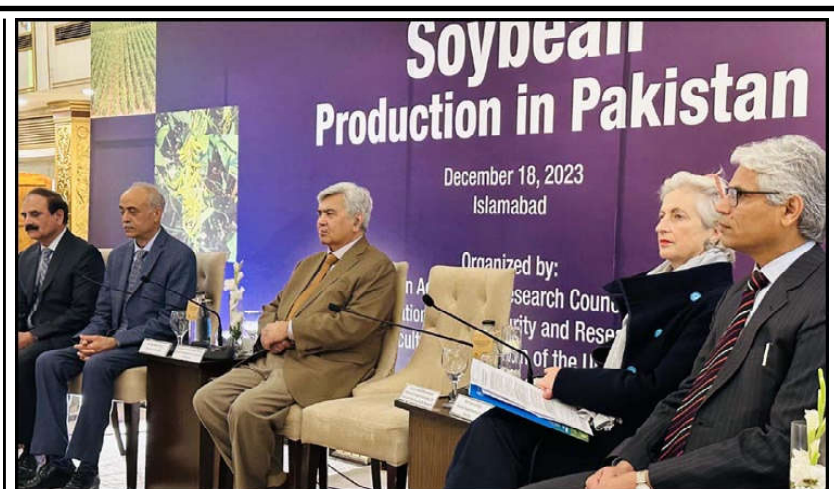
Steel industrialists demand withdrawal of PHL surcharge to boost industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): The steel industrialists on Monday demanded the withdrawal of the Power Holding Limited (PHL) surcharge to boost the industry and for playing a large role in the growth of the country's industry.

Industry (ICCI) to highlight the issues being faced by the large steel producers due to the levy of PHL surcharge and other taxes on the electricity bills and demanded that the NEPRA should withdraw this surcharge to save the steel industry from collapse, said a press release issued here.

Rupee on recovery path; gains 05 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Monday witnessed the 5th consecutive recovery session as it gained 05 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs283.20 against the previous day's closing of Rs283.25. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 283.2 and Rs286 respectively.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security & research Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik sitting on stage during the National Workshop on Soybean Production in Pakistan. Country Representative of FAO Ms. Florence Roll is also present.

Inflow of remittances thru exchange companies rises by 10 to 15 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): General Secretary of the Exchange Companies Association of Pakistan (ECAP), Zafar Paracha, in a statement on Monday, said that the inflow of remittances into the country through exchange companies has seen a rise of 10 to 15% following the recent crackdown.

here on Monday. "We've seen a substantial rise in remittances flowing into the country through exchange companies, whose daily exchange values have been increased to \$50 million after the recent crackdown that helped us recover more than \$900 million in just a couple of months from the culprits dealing in the black market," he added.

into the country through unregulated money operators like hawala and hundi, has caused a massive loss of more than \$4 billion to Pakistan in FY23. Its foreign reserves plummeted from \$12.9 billion to an alarming \$12.6 billion and are even decreasing further due to the black-market flow of remittances. "The ongoing countrywide crackdown against unlawful money operators gives hope to the nation's depleting foreign reserves.

Jawad meets President ECOSOC in Riyadh

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Jawad Sohrab Malik, on Monday engaged in a significant meeting with President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations Ambassador Paula Narvez.

equal opportunities, social responsibility, and the elimination of gender inequalities, a news release said. A specific focus was placed on fostering inclusion and empowerment of women in economic activities, with a special reference to Pakistan.

Gold rates up by Rs.400

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs400 and was sold at Rs 217,200 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs 216,800 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 1,543 to Rs 186,214 from Rs 185,871 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs 170,696 from Rs 170,382, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

SBP Governor calls on CM Punjab

LAHORE: Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Jameel Ahmad called on Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi here on Monday. Prevailing economic situation, matters relating to the Bank of Punjab and the Punjab Provincial Cooperative Bank were discussed during the meeting.

paramount. The anticipated positive outcomes include widespread benefits from enhanced economic activities in the agricultural and other sectors, he noted. The CM also highlighted the significance of achieving record cotton production in Punjab, projecting substantial savings of two billion dollars in foreign exchange. The CM pointed out that the rice export from Punjab has exceeded two billion dollars as the provincial government is following a policy of providing comprehensive facilities to investors and industrialists, foreseeing positive ramifications in the form of a thriving stock exchange.



LAHORE: Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Jameel Ahmad called on Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

Minister says: Punjab govt takes measures to resolve problems of business community

ISLAMABAD (APP): Provincial Minister for Industries, Commerce, Investment, Skills Development/ Energy and Agriculture Punjab SM Tanveer has said that the Punjab government has introduced business-friendly facilities to resolve the problems of business community.

promoted and the wheel of economy will move forward. He expressed these views while addressing the meeting with the officials of different trade associations in Sialkot. SM Tanveer said that the business community has to play its role to get the country out of economic challenges. He said that the business community of Sialkot is a role model for other business communities of the country. He said that Sialkot is earning valuable foreign exchange for the country by exporting 3 billion dollars annually.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the event to celebrate Award Winning Project Green Presidency, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President for improving energy efficiency to curb climate change impacts

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday called for improving energy efficiency, adopting sustainable practices, and changing attitudes and priorities to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change.

“Transitioning to renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency, and reforestation are key to curb the adverse impacts on the planet’s climate and ecosystems,” the president said while addressing an event with respect to a project “Green Presidency of Pakistan” here at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

He said the modern world with changing priorities and attitudes, was becoming dangerous which must be stopped to curb the adverse impacts of climate change. The Green Presidency of Pakistan is a flagship initiative under which a one-megawatt solar PV system was installed, along with effective implementation of energy conservation and efficiency measures.

The president said the initiative would result in a reduction in energy usage by Aiwan-e-Sadr by 42.5%.

This energy savings is equivalent to a reduction of 3,144 tonnes of greenhouse gases or a plantation of 142,090 mature trees. “It is a matter of great pleasure that, out of 129 projects from around the world, the Green Presidency Project of Pakistan has been conferred with the prestigious award of “International Energy Project of the Year 2023”, he added.

He also expressed gratitude to the Association of Energy Engineers USA for recognizing with the esteemed Best International Energy Project of the Year Award for 2023. He also called for promoting peace in the world and discouraging wars that were a big cause of deviating the world’s focus on mitigating global warming.

He said despite contributing less than 1% in carbon emission, Pakistan suffered huge losses in last year’s devastating floods that occurred due to global warming and climate change. He recalled that by mid 20th century, the people were conscious about utilizing the natural resources despite abundant resources, but now the priorities had been changed, the needs and wants had been mixed due to which they started using abundant resources for their ease.

He said the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) had also taught for consuming the natural resources with utmost care by demonstrating the same in his life. The president pointed out that the world was witnessing a much-needed transition towards clean energy in the wake of climate change.

ECP contempt case: LHC declines plea to immediately halt Imran’s jail trial

LAHORE (APP): A full bench of the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday declined a plea to immediately halt the jail trial of Imran Khan, former chairman of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), in the Election Commission contempt case.

The three-member bench, headed by Justice Aalia Neelum, heard Imran Khan’s petition against his jail trial in the contempt case.

At the start of proceedings, Justice Aalia Neelum questioned Imran Khan’s counsel in connection with the office’s objection about missing certified copies in the petition.

In response, the counsel, Ishfaq A. Khan, clarified that they had not received certified copies but had obtained copies from the website.

To which, Justice Aalia Neelum commented that the case could not advance until the office objection was resolved and questioned the court’s jurisdiction to hear the matter.

At this, Imran’s counsel asserted that the LHC possessed the authority to hear this case. He further submitted that the LHC Rawalpindi bench had forwarded an identical case to the principal seat for hearing while replying to the court suggestion for approaching the Islamabad High Court of the LHC Rawalpindi Bench for hearing of the matter.

However, Justice Aalia Neelum explained that the Rawalpindi bench lacked judges for the constitution of the bench, leading the matter to be transferred to the principal seat.

The counsel submitted that issues of federal nature could be challenged in the provincial court, emphasizing that the Election Commission lacked the authority for contempt or jail trials. He further submitted that no notification had been issued for jail trial in response to a court query.

Justice Shehram Sarwar Chaudhry, another member of the bench, questioned the plausibility of a jail trial without notification.

Madad Ali overturns FDE’s restrictions, empowering teachers to seek redressal at ministry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi has stepped in to overturn restrictive measures imposed by the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) that hindered teachers and staff from approaching the offices of the Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training (MOFEPT). The FDE had issued a circular just days ago, asserting that seeking resolution from MOFEPT without prior permission was a violation of conduct rules, potentially leading to disciplinary action.

The circular, which raised concerns among educators, not only restricted staff from accessing the ministry but also warned of consequences if this directive was defied, even after work hours.

Principals were instructed to prevent their staff from approaching the ministry, creating an atmosphere of constraint and limiting avenues for issue resolution. However, responding promptly to the growing concerns, Education Minister Madad Ali Sindhi took to Twitter, asserting that teachers and staff are indeed allowed to visit the Ministry for the submission and redressal of genuine and pressing issues, without compromising their official duties. In a tweet, he went on to emphasize that the FDE should have sought clearance from the ministry before issuing such a restrictive circular, questioning its validity and necessity.

Minister’s intervention is being widely appreciated as a step towards empowering teachers and recognizing their crucial role in educating the young generation. A teacher told APP on the condition of anonymity, hailed the minister’s decision and noted that this move opens a direct channel for teachers to voice their concerns, particularly regarding issues such as time scale and rental ceiling problems.

He expressed optimism that the Minister’s involvement would foster a closer connection between teachers and the ministry, demonstrating that the minister is a public figure committed to addressing the concerns of educators. Dr Rahima Rehman, President of the Federal Government College Teachers Association (FGCTA) welcomed the Minister’s decision as visionary and wise.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information Jan Achakzai at the 5th anniversary of Balochistan Youth Empowerment Society.

Additional Info Secretary visits APP, PBC Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Sayyed Mubashar Tauqir Shah, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, on Monday visited the offices of Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) Quetta Bureau and Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC).

APP Bureau Chief Nazam Muhammad Jamali briefed the Additional Secretary on the functioning of the Bureau. The latter assured that the issues being faced by the APP Bureau would be addressed on priority basis.

Earlier, during his visit to the Radio Pakistan Quetta Station, Sayed Mubashir Tauqir Shah highlighted that the Radio Pakistan had an effective reach even in remote areas of the country, and emphasized to carry out efforts for enhancing PBC programmes.

The Additional Secretary, who took round of different sections of the Radio Pakistan Quetta, assured the ministry’s full assistance for reviving the non-functional transmitters in Balochistan. He also assured that the problems being faced by PBC Quetta would be given priority attention.

Gwadar, Hainan forge stronger bonds as free trade zone partners

BEIJING (APP): Hainan Province and China Overseas Port Holding Company Limited inked an online memorandum of understanding (MoU) which officially includes the Gwadar Free Zone in Pakistan as part of the Global Free Trade Zone (Port) Partnership Initiative.

“Gwadar Free Zone is located adjacent to Gwadar Port, which is Pakistan’s third largest port and a vital deep-water port in South Asia. Its policy advantages and functional orientation are consistent with the Hainan Free Trade Port. Dai Zhen, Director of Hainan Province’s Foreign Affairs Office stated at the signing ceremony.

We aspire for both sides to fully leverage their strengths to deepen economic and trade cooperation, and jointly benefit the people of both regions.”

Since the launch of the Global Free Trade Zone (Port) Partnership Initiative earlier this year in March, the Hainan Free Trade Port has established robust connections with management institutions of prominent overseas free trade zones and ports.

So far, 11 overseas free trade zones and ports have joined this initiative. Yu Bo, Chairman of China Overseas Port Holding Company Limited, which is responsible for the construction and operation of Gwadar Port, conveyed his enthusiasm for further collaboration, local media reported.

“We aim to establish deep cooperation in trade, logistics, industrial services, and talent exchange with Hainan Free Trade Port and other stakeholders of the Global Free Trade Zone (Port) Partnership Initiative.

Court will pass order about delimitations as per SC directives: IHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday declared that it would pass orders on petitions about delimitations keeping in view the directive of the Supreme Court.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the cases pertaining the delimitations in various constituencies.

During the course of proceedings, law officer of the Election Commission of Pakistan Zeghan Anees informed the bench that the top court had declared all the complaints pertaining to delimitations filed after December 14, as ineffective.

The chief justice said that he would do consultation with other judges of the high court, and issue orders keeping in view the directives of the top court.

Training of Returning Officers completes; DROs’ session to be held in Quetta today

Independent Report
QUETTA: The training of Returning Officers (ROs) completed in Balochistan on Monday.

The three-day training of the ROs was conducted at four divisional headquarters including Quetta, Loralai, Sibi and Khuzdar.

In all 67 returning officers from all national and provincial assembly constituencies participated in the training session conducted at all the four venues.

In Quetta, 31 ROs participated in the training session. The participants were trained to conduct the general elections in their respective constituencies. They were also apprised about the rules and regulations of the elections besides their responsibilities with regard to conduct free, fair and transparent elections.

It may be mentioned here that the ROs’ training had resumed on Sunday. Prior to it, they had already participated in the training for one day.

Meanwhile, the one-day training session of District Returning Officers (DROs) is scheduled to be conducted today (Tuesday). The DROs training is being conducted in Quetta only, stated the spokesman of Provincial Election Commissioner.

According to the PEC spokesman, in all 36 DROs would be attending the training session.

QESCO campaign goes on in full swing: Over 2.53b recovered from electricity dues defaulters, pilferers in Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: More than Rs. 2.5 billion have been recovered from the defaulters of electricity arrears and pilferers as the extensive campaign is continued by the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) in Balochistan province.

According to the spokesman of QESCO, the campaign is continued in all operation circles fall under jurisdiction of the QESCO.

During the campaign, a total of Rs. 2.27 billion have been recovered from some 1,26,529 defaulters.

While on the other hand, Rs. 322 million have been recovered on account of the power detection and fine.

The QESCO spokesman informed that 329 more power connections were disconnected during last 24 hours in the province.

Similarly, 58 tempered meters were also removed during 24 hours, the spokesman informed.

NADRA rejects reports of blocking CNICs of PTI leaders

PESHAWAR (INP): National Database Registration Authority (NADRA) has rejected the media reports regarding blocking CNICs of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders.

The spokesman of NADRA said on Monday that neither the authority has taken any such action nor any court has issued directives in this regard.

He made it clear that blocking CNIC was a complete legal procedure.

The NADRA has not taken any action in this connection, neither the interior ministry has issued directives to block CNICs of PTI leaders, therefore, spreading rumours should be avoided, the spokesman urged.

It should be mentioned here that earlier a section of media reported that NADRA has blocked the PTI leaders who were declared absconders in May 9 riots cases.

PTA launches ‘cyber security awareness week to safeguard cyber threats

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General (DG) Cyber Vigilance Pakistan Telecom Authority (PTA) Muhammad Mukaram Khan Monday on Cyber Security awareness week stressed employees and general public for taking proactive steps in safeguarding their digital lives, assets, and sensitive mobile data information.

Talking to PTV news channel said he said that cyber security awareness weeks to share its leading cyber security experience and success stories with the public with its social media awareness drives which would help for maintaining the safety of the digital space and protecting institutions as well as individuals from cyber-crime.

As part of this awareness-raising initiative, PTA is encouraging small to medium-sized businesses, individuals, and families to use strong passwords, to turn on multi-factor authentication, to be wary of unsolicited messages and report them, and to always keep their software updated. He emphasized the importance of including cyber-bullying, phishing, online fraud and safe practices on social media, as well as privacy and personal data protection, in the campaign. Cyber-security awareness week 2023 is a PTA initiative to enhance cyber awareness among consumers related to government and private organizations, he added. The campaign will be executed on PTA’s social media platforms from December 18 to 24 and will feature bilingual content in the form of GIFs.

LHC orders release of Sher Afzal Marwat

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday ordered the release of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senior Vice President Sher Afzal Marwat.

Justice Shehram Sarwar Chaudhry passed the orders on a petition filed by Khalid Lateef Khan, the brother of Marwat, challenging his detention.

During the proceedings, Advocate Khawaja Mohsin Abbas submitted a reply on behalf of the caretaker Punjab government, wherein it was submitted that the Lahore deputy commissioner had issued a notification for detention of Sher Afzal Marwat and the petitioner should have approached the relevant forum first against it.

The reply further requested to dismiss the petition.



QUETTA: Provincial Election Commissioner Ejaz Anwar Chohan meeting with Additional Chief Secretary Home Zahid Saleem.

FTU launches to increase efforts against corruption in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): The Anti-Corruption Establishment Balochistan (ACEB) has launched a Financial Investigation Unit (FIU) established at Quetta under a project funded by the U.S. Embassy’s Office of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), implemented through the Accountability Lab.

The Director of ACEB, Abdul Wahid Kakar emphasized to the media the need for a proactive approach in combating corruption, given the changing patterns and complex nature of financial crimes, said a news release.

As an anti-corruption agency, ACEB faces complex challenges of identifying corrupt transactions, uncovering crime patterns, locating stolen assets, and addressing situations involving multiple jurisdictions.

The introduction of category-wise voting aims to address practical challenges faced by listed companies in election of independent directors and female directors, ultimately promoting diversity.

Technical & vocational training centers being upgraded in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Secretary Labor and Manpower Abdul Khaliq Mandukhel on Monday said that technical and vocational training centers across the province were being upgraded to modern lines for the provision of technical education to students.

He expressed these views while talking on the occasion of awarding the shield to the principal of Technical Training Center (TTC) Quetta, Shoaib Anwar Shirazi.

He appreciated the efforts of the principal and other staff of TTC Quetta, The Secretary of Labor and Manpower said that competent officers and employees were the backbone of any department because the department could perform better only with their efforts.

SSGC kicks off winter safety awareness campaign in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) on Monday launched a winter safety awareness campaign among the public to adopt preventive measures during the use of gas heaters.

On this occasion, Regional General Manager Anwar Baloch while talking to the media said that every year in Balochistan, the awareness campaign was started in winter for public awareness because it has been seen that accidents happen due to people’s carelessness.

Anwar Baloch further said that there would be more programs for awareness among the people of Quetta so that people could follow preventive steps regarding utilizing gas heaters.

He said that the problem of gas pressure has been solved in the central areas of Quetta city including Sabzal Road, Sariab Road, and other areas while demand and supply were equal in the city.

He also urged the media they play their role regarding preventive measures among people to decrease incidents of gas related in the areas of Balochistan during the winter season.



QUETTA: Baloch Student Organization (BSO) Leader, Samand Baloch addressing a Press conference, at Quetta press club.



QUETTA: Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) General Manager, Muhammad Anwar Baloch talking with media persons before sending SSGC teams to different areas in connection with the public awareness campaign for winter season.