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25 soldiers martyred, 27 terrorists killed in separate incidents in Dera Ismail Khan: ISPR

Security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country," military's media wing says; Delivers strong demarche to Afghan govt; seeks action against perpetrators of DI Khan attack: FO

ISLAMABAD (APP): The security forces on Tuesday killed twenty-seven terrorists in various intelligence-based operations, conducted to contain the increased activities of terrorists in Dera Ismail Khan District, while successfully thwarting insurgents' attacks at a military post in Daraban area.

According to Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release: "The night of 11 and 12 December 2023, witnessed heightened activities in Dera Ismail Khan District, wherein a total of twenty-seven terrorists were sent to hell during various operations."

The Security Forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in the general area Darazinda on the reported presence of terrorists.

During the conduct of operation, terrorists' hide-out was busted and seventeen terrorists were sent to hell.

In another intelligence-based operation in the general area Kulachi, the Army troops effectively engaged terrorists' location as a result of which four terrorists were sent to hell.

However, after the intense exchange of fire, two brave sons of the soil, having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat (martyrdom).

The killed terrorists were actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces as well as the killing of innocent civilians. The forces recovered weapons, ammunition and explosives during the operations.

However, in the early hours of December 12, a

Fight against terrorism to continue till its complete eradication: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday vowed to continue the fight against terrorism till its complete elimination from country's soil.

"We will fight back till the menace of terrorism is eliminated from our motherland," he posted on the social media platform, X.

The prime minister paid tribute to the valiant security forces for their successful operations in the Darazanda, Daraban, and Kolachi areas of district Dera Ismail Khan in which 27 terrorists were killed.

"The soldiers' dedication, sacrifice, and valour in the face of terror is unparalleled and a beacon of hope for our nation," he said.

He expressed his deepest sympathies with the families of the martyrs.

group of six terrorists attacked a security forces' post in the general area Daraban.

The attempt to enter the post was effectively

thwarted which forced the terrorists to ram an explosive-laden vehicle into the post, followed by a suicide bombing attack.

The resulting blasts led

to the collapse of the building, causing multiple casualties; twenty three brave soldiers embraced Shahadat, while all six terrorists were effectively engaged and sent to hell.

"Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist present in the area, as security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," the ISPR said.

Meanwhile Following the deadly attack that took place in Dera Ismail Khan on Tuesday and claimed by a terrorist group affiliated with the TTP, Pakistan delivered a strong demarche to the Afghan Interim Government calling for the investigation and strict action against the perpetrators.



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addresses the 12th National Balochistan Workshop.

Clears another legal hurdle in way of elections Nawaz Sharif acquitted in Al-Azizia reference

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court on Tuesday acquitted former prime minister Nawaz Sharif in the Al-Azizia reference.

The court also rejected the National Accountability Bureau's plea to send the case back to the trial court and heard the case on merits.

Earlier, the IHC reserved its verdict on the appeal filed by Nawaz Sharif against his conviction in the Al-Azizia reference.

A division bench, led by IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, conducted the hearing of the case, with Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb as the other judge on the bench. The PML-N supreme appeared before the court in person.

During the proceedings, a National Accountability Bureau prosecutor presented arguments in the court.

An IHC divisional bench consisting of Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb pronounced the verdict a few minutes after it was reserved.

AG started reading reference. AG put up the questions before the court raised in the reference and opened arguments.

The CJP said which president had sent reference. AG said the reference was sent by former president Asif Ali Zardari.

The CJP remarked how many presidents came after him. AG said two presidents have come.

The CJP remarked no president withdrew this reference. I regret over not fixing the reference for hearing by SC earlier.

Counsel Farooq H Naik said Justice Nasim Hassan Shah had admitted in a TV interview that there was pressure on him. In the second interview Nasim Hassan Shah had said the directive of martial law wala has to be accepted. This interview was given to Iftikhar Ahmad in a private TV program.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi chaired the 37th Inter-Provincial Education Ministers' Conference (IPEMC) in Islamabad.

Sindhi urges provinces to work with fed govt in resolving education sector problems

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Mr Madad Ali Sindhi Tuesday said that all the provinces need to work together with the federal government to resolve all education-related problems.

He was chairing the 37th Inter-Provincial Education Ministers' Conference (IPEMC) held here yesterday. The Meeting has been specially called on by the Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Mr Madad Ali

Sindhi to deliberate on the "Formulation of Uniform National Strategy to Cater the issue of Out of School Children (OOSC)"

Speaking on the occasion, Madad Ali Sindhi said that Out of out-of-school children is the biggest challenge we face in addition to quality of education. Madad said that these issues have been given top priority.

He said that the quality of education needs to be improved at all levels including schools, colleges and universities. Madad



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi signing the Instrument of Accession to the Marrakesh Treaty for the Visually Impaired Persons in a ceremony, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Pakistan joins Marrakesh Treaty to facilitate access of visually impaired persons to published work

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Tuesday became a signatory to the Marrakesh Treaty aimed at providing access to published work for visually impaired persons.

President Dr Arif Alvi inked the instrument of accession to the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) administered Marrakesh Treaty, at a special ceremony held here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The Marrakesh Treaty aims to help the visually impaired or otherwise print-disabled people have access to books and literary works in accessible formats.

Signed in Morocco on June 27, 2013, and joined by a large number of countries in the world, the Treaty enables the reproduction of published materials into accessible formats,

such as braille, large print, and audio editions.

By acceding to the Treaty, Pakistan has become able to provide its estimated 10 million visually impaired persons easy access to published work. The facility otherwise has been restricted due to the Copyright Ordinance of 1962 which does not provide necessary provisions for compulsory printing and reproduction of braille and audio versions.

President Alvi termed the accession to the Marrakesh Treaty a "great moment of pride" and said Pakistan had embarked upon a new pathway to empower its visually impaired people.

He said the Marrakesh Treaty would act as an equalizer of opportunity to provide visually challenged persons equitable access.



ISLAMABAD: Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) President, Asif Ali Zardari and PPP Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari attend live streaming of proceedings on a presidential reference seeking to revisit the controversial death sentence awarded to former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, at the Supreme Court building in Islamabad.

CJP calls SJC meeting on December 14

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has called meeting of Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) on December 14 (Thursday) in connection with proceedings against Justice Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi.

As per sources meeting will take place on Thursday in Judges block conference room.

Secretary SJC has sent notice to all the five members.

It is pertinent to men-

US denies any role in choosing Pakistani leaders

WASHINGTON (INP): The United States (US) does not play any role in choosing the leaders of Pakistan, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said.

In a daily briefing, Matthew Miller said, "We engage with the leadership shown by - or the leadership decided by the Pakistani people, and we will continue to engage with the Government of Pakistan on all these issues." Upon Pakistan-Afghanistan ties, Matthew Miller said the US is concerned about the situation.

"Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan, obviously we support a diplomatic resolution to all of the various issues between those two countries. It's something that we have been engaged on." Miller said that the US has initiated a process to name former Afghanistan Parliament members to the corrupt leaders list that will bar them from entering the United States.

Earlier on November 22, the United States said it would allocate millions of dollars to enhance Pakistan's counterterrorism capabilities.

ZAB Presidential Reference is test for Judiciary: Bilawal Bhutto

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Presidential Reference is a test for Judiciary.

Some forces still do not want justice for Bhutto.

The court should correct the history and rectify the blunder. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's killers should be exposed.

While talking to media after hearing on Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Presidential Reference in Supreme Court (SC), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that reference was heard after 12 years.

Petition was filed in 2018 that reference should be heard immediately. We want justice for leader of nation Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

He said that we believe that we will get justice. This matter should come before people that Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was innocent. We want answers of those questions which were raised in Reference.

Bilawal Bhutto said that I and this nation should be told that Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was not murderer. The man accused of murder is still alive. He is holding press conference. We want to restore the trust of the people in this institution. We want to keep the current system in front of the people.

PM Kakar says Only plebiscite, not any country's court to decide future of Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday said that as per the United Nations Security Council's resolutions, the sole method to determine the future of Kashmir and its people was through a plebiscite and no country's high court or supreme court possessed the authority to decide on the matter.

The prime minister, in an interaction with the participants of the 12th National Balochistan Workshop, said that he would be attending the special session of the AJK Legislative Assembly the day after tomorrow from where he would lead the movement against the Indian Supreme Court's decision to uphold the revocation of Article 370.

He said the laws could not help make colonies, though they could help establish occupation for a limited period. The prime minister reiterated that Pakistan would continue extending moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiris and would raise the issue at the European Union and other multilateral forums.

To a question, he said taxation was one of the biggest challenges for the country as 80% of the economy was undocumented with the informal private sector being a non-contributor but beneficiary of the government's initiatives and facilities. Besides, the formal private sector feels resentful of undue taxation, he added

Govt gave 24-hour deadline to hoarders to end shortage of Fertilizers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interim federal minister for interior Sarfraz Bugti on Tuesday gave twenty-four hours deadline to the cartels involved in creating artificial shortage of fertilizers to end the shortage or ready to face the music.

Addressing a press conference flanked with the minister for information and minister for petroleum, the interior minister said that all Chief Secretaries and Inspector General of Police (IGPs) were directed to take administrative measures against cartels involved in creating artificial shortages of fertilizers. He said the government observed abnormal price hike of fertilizers due to self-created shortage in the market upon which the Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Kakar took notice.

He said the no one would be spared and they will be arrested under 16 MPO or 13 MPO to ensure to end the artificial shortage of fertilizer.

He said that the government intends to ensure that the fertilizer is delivered to the grower/farmer at his doorstep. The minister said that the government provides subsidy to facilitate the general public or the farmer and not to encourage the middle to make money out of the subsidy.

He said the government is trying to create a mechanism to end the shortage permanently while the ministry is responsible for taking administrative measures.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

A grave injustice

The Indian supreme court has validated the great injustice committed by New Delhi against the people of held Kashmir in August 2019. Hearing a number of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 of the Indian constitution over four years ago, the court on Monday ruled that the said article "was an interim arrangement", and that the BJP-led government's dubious decision to scrap the disputed territory's limited autonomy was the "culmination of the process of integration". Pouring salt on the Kashmiris' wounds, one of the justices observed that a 'truth and reconciliation commission' should be set up in the occupied region to probe rights' violations. The learned judge should know that successive Indian governments have systematically denied the Kashmiri people their fundamental rights, and no one believes that an administration that treats Kashmir as conquered territory will seriously look into the abuses perpetrated by its own troops.

Amongst the petitioners were parties that have always been loyal to New Delhi; the Indian state rewarded them for their 'loyalty' by reportedly putting Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah under house arrest before the verdict was announced. The decision is likely to give the BJP's Hindutva juggernaut a further boost in next year's elections, while it is also an attempt to rewrite history. The world recognises Kashmir as a disputed territory, even though India is trying to create new facts on the ground.

The abrogation of Article 370 has allowed India to change held Kashmir's demographics, and effectively turn Kashmiris into a minority in their ancestral land. In a related development, Indian Home Minister Amit Shah recently told the Lok Sabha that "Nehruvian blunders" had hurt New Delhi's case vis-à-vis Kashmir. The 'blunders' he was referring to were Jawaharlal Nehru's acceptance of the ceasefire during the 1947-48 Pakistan-India war, and taking the dispute to the UN. He added that if these 'mistakes' had not been made, Azad Kashmir would today be part of India. Again, these are reflections of the Sangh's revisionist, revanchist thought, as other Indian ministers have also made irresponsible statements about 'taking back' Gilgit-Baltistan.

The court's decision may strengthen India's stranglehold over Kashmir, but it cannot extinguish the Kashmiris' strong desire for freedom and dignity. No amount of Indian legal subterfuge, or brute force, can stop the Kashmiris from demanding their legitimate rights.

Though Pakistan has rejected the Indian court's decision, unfortunately, successive administrations here have failed to adequately highlight the Kashmir issue diplomatically on the global stage, which has added to India's brazenness.

Sadly, not all occupations are deemed equal by the 'international community', as evident in the fact that the occupation of Kashmir and Palestine is conveniently brushed aside, whilst the occupation of Ukraine is cast as an existential battle between democracy and authoritarianism.



Masood Lohar

Contrary to initial doubts, apprehensions, and explicit criticism from activists and environmentalists, COP28, set to conclude today, seems to have proved itself productive and on point.

Before the start of COP28, there was intel-lectual chaos across sectors and regions. Some organisations even boycotted the event, protesting the appointment of Dr Sultan Al Jaber, the CEO of UAE's national oil company ADNOC as the president of COP28. Critics were sceptical about holding the summit in one of the world's top 10 oil-producing countries, fearing bias towards the fossil fuel industry. Controversy escalated when Dr Al Jaber was quoted as saying that there was "no science" indicating that a phase-out of fossil fuels is needed to stop global warming, later clarifying that he was misquoted.

Despite the early scepticism, progress and commitments at the event have made it unique. COP28 has seen unprecedented momentum, inclusivity, and a willingness to adapt. There was optimism for groundbreaking developments, with early consensus reached on the loss and damage issue, setting a positive tone for the remaining agenda items.

Furthermore, the summit has given rise to uncommon occurrences in the UAE, such as protests. Despite the country being seen as an autocracy where political parties and labour unions are prohibited, COP28 has compelled the rulers to allow the entry of hu-

Climate action

man rights researchers from organisations normally frowned upon by the state. Activists argue that the UAE government's motive is to enhance its international image, but they emphasise that only limited protests are permitted, subject to prior approval.

One notable instance involved protesters gathering in solidarity with the Palestinianians. Another noteworthy procession took place a few days ago, demanding the release of pro-democracy activists imprisoned in the UAE and Egypt. Described as "historic" by Saudi and UAE human rights researchers, this protest stood out for its audacity and significance.

Almost near to the conclusion of the summit, Dr Al Jaber talked about the historic progress made at the summit, emphasising its uniqueness. He said, "We can all agree COP28 has been different, and I am sure we will agree that COP28 has already made history." The COP28 president has actively engaged with all participating parties, stakeholders, NGOs, civil society, observers, businesses, and industry to advocate for unprecedented ambition in COP history.

This approach challenges the conventional belief that climate diplomacy and environmental conservation should solely rely on traditional UN bureaucracy and less action-oriented NGOs and government departments. Some argue that, for-profit and innovative tech companies can handle climate challenges more efficiently.

The COP leadership, historically held by government officials and diplomats, is now witnessing a shift.

Amid COP28, significant progress has been achieved, including

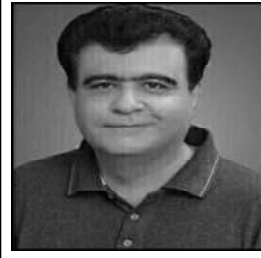
the establishment of a Loss and Damage Fund, launching a \$30 billion private market climate vehicle, and commitments from 51 oil companies and 119 countries to decarbonise and triple renewable energy, respectively. This progress raises questions about whether climate diplomacy is increasingly led by the polluting industry and for-profit tech businesses.

The UAE is positioning itself as a frontrunner in climate innovation by making substantial investments in decarbonisation. In September, a significant carbon capture and storage project was introduced, designed to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those produced annually by half a million petrol-powered cars. ADNOC accelerated its net-zero greenhouse gas target for operational activities, now aiming to achieve this goal by 2045, five years earlier than initially planned. The company has ceased routine methane venting and flaring, seen as a demonstration of a commitment to emissions reduction ahead of its industry counterparts.

Dubai is striving to attain 75 per cent of its total power generation from clean energy sources by 2050 — a potentially transformative move. How did this massive green initiative come about in a region abundant with oil wealth? And that also nearly two decades ago, back in 2006? An approach, predating the widespread adoption of solar technology and climate innovation has the potential to reshape the climate discourse and translate into concrete actions on the ground.

This paradigm shift in the climate narrative brings to mind the expression 'Moses in the house of pharaoh', symbolising a transformative force emerging from an unexpected place. — Courtesy Dawn

Pakistan regionally



Dr Niaz Murtaza

We lag economically even in South Asia. This lag is well-known but not its huge scale. To display that, I compare Saarc economies using World Bank data which runs up to 2022 and thus excludes our poor 2023 data. I focus on the state we left (India) and the one that left us (Bangladesh) to show our lag even against ones with similar DNAs.

GDP: South Asia (mean), Bangladesh and India's GDP per capita in 2022 were about \$2,200, \$2,700 and \$2,300, but ours was only \$1,600. Their 10-year mean GDP growths were about six per cent but ours only 4.4pc and inflation was 5.3pc, 6.2pc and 5.6pc. Ours was 8pc (and 30pc inflation in 2023).

The investment-GDP ratio of the other three is 30pc but ours only 15pc. Only high investment and productivity ensure long-term high GDP growth. Our low ratio shows that our brief growth spurts under Musharraf, the PML-N and PTI came from high fiscal and external deficits and money supply growth and caused economic crises in 2008, 2018 and 2023.

External balance: We do worse here. Since 2000, we have had seven economic crises that led us to IMF against three for Bangladesh and none for India. This mainly reflects our poor exports, foreign investment and reserves flows. South Asia, Bangladesh and India's 10-year mean export-GDP ratios were about 19pc, 14pc and 21pc; ours only 10pc. Foreign reserves-external debt ratios were 69pc, 60pc and 82pc but

ours only 20pc. Our current account deficit and foreign investment-GDP ratios are also the worst.

Public finance and debt: The regional data here is patchy. India's recent tax-to-GDP ratio is about 20pc, ours 13pc and Bangladesh's 8pc. Yet its debt-GDP ratio was about 40pc in 2021 against 70pc for us, 80pc for India and 86pc for South Asia. But our 10-year debt service-exports ratio is 23pc vs only 12pc, 8pc and 11pc for South Asia, Bangladesh and India. Our education and health outlay ratios were the lowest but the defence outlay ratio the highest over 10 years. Thus, on almost all key social and economic axes, we lag regionally. Even tiny Maldives (\$11,000), Sri Lanka and Bhutan (both \$3,000-plus) beat us on per capita GDP and Nepal on the human development index, leaving us ahead of only the Afghans. Why has the proud 'ideological' fortress created with so much hype and hope done so much worse than less pretentious states?

We think we were on the way to being an economic star under dictators but got waylaid under civilians. This is humbug. All our regimes used non-durable local or foreign stimuli to achieve transient growth that bust soon. People argue that mean GDP growth under Ayub was 5.8pc but 4.8pc under Bhutto.

Even this is not a big fall. But take Ayub's first five years only to fairly match Bhutto's term, and his falls to 4.9pc. Ayub gained from a booming global economy (capitalism's golden age), huge US aid and unfair milking of the Bengalis. Bhutto had oil shocks, global stagflation and big floods but not aid.

Yet Bhutto did better than Ayub on most key axes: poverty rose under Ayub but fell under Bhutto; our export-GDP ratio was only about

7pc under Ayub but 12pc under Bhutto (it being highest in the civilian 1990s at 16pc); the trade-deficit-GDP ratio was about -7pc under Ayub but only -4pc under Bhutto and investment growth only 12pc under Ayub but highest ever at 35pc under Bhutto.

His public investment fuelled high growth even under Zia initially before US aid became a transient stimulus. But there were big issues with Bhutto's autocratic era too. For example, nationalisation was overdone and state units badly run by a harassed and deskilled bureaucracy.

Later regimes, too, all used non-durable local and/or external stimuli to provide transient growth. But civilians faced the worst external shocks (2008 and Covid-19 global crises) and legacies from eras where the establishment dominated. The result is an unproductive, elitist and patronage-led economy run on transient stimuli and thus crisis-prone. How can change come?

In India and Bangladesh, civilians run the economy and politics. So, the establishment's hold in both realms must end. Civilians must then turn a patronage-led economy into a merit-led one. But our civilian leaders are more elitist than middle-class ones in the other two states.

Even our main middle-class ones offer empty populism. The best they may do if facing collapse is to turn a rapacious economy run by the Ishaq Dars and Shaukat Tarin into only a slightly better neoliberal one run by the Miftah Ismail and Shamshad Akhtar that is less crisis-prone yet more anti-poor and thus more conflict-prone. So, a fair and productive economy remains a distant prospect. The forces that can create it are still too weak. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

SBP maintains policy rate at 22% owing to inflation outlook

KARACHI (INP): State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Tuesday, decided to maintain the policy rate at 22% while taking into account higher than expected impact of the recent gas price hike on inflation outlook.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) in its meeting assessed that the real interest rate continues to be positive on a 12-month forward looking basis and inflation was expected to remain on a downward path, said a statement issued here.

The MPC viewed that hike in gas prices may have implications for the inflation outlook, albeit in the presence of some

offsetting developments, particularly the recent decrease in international oil prices and improved availability of agriculture produce.

The MPC noted that the successful completion of the staff-level agreement of the first review under the IMF SBA program would unlock financial inflows and improve the SBP's FX reserves.

The quarterly GDP growth outcome for the first quarter FY24 remained in line with the MPC's expectation of a moderate economic recovery while recent consumer and business confidence surveys show improvement in

sentiments, the committee observed adding that core inflation was still at an elevated level and was coming down only gradually.

Taking stock of the developments, the Committee assessed the current monetary policy stance as appropriate to achieve the inflation target of 5-7 percent by end-FY25 and reiterated that this assessment was also contingent upon continued targeted fiscal consolidation and timely realization of planned external inflows.

The recovery in real GDP during FY24 is expected to remain moderate as real GDP grew

by 2.1% on year on year basis in Q1-FY24 in comparison to 1.0 percent in the same quarter last year, the MPC noted. Recovery in the agriculture sector was the major driver of the growth while the manufacturing sector also recorded a moderate recovery, with growth in large-scale manufacturing becoming positive after contracting in the preceding four quarters, the committee viewed adding that, unlike the commodity-producing sector, growth in the services sector remained subdued. The MPC observed a significant improvement in the current account balance.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatisation, Fawad Hassan Fawad chairing a meeting of the Privatisation Commission Board.

Fawad chairs meeting of Privatisation Commission Board

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hassan Fawad on Tuesday chaired a meeting of Privatisation Commission Board.

The Board approved draft Privatisation Commission (Government to Government Agreement Mode-Manner and Procedure) Rules, 2023, according to a press release. The Board also granted approval for a six months extension to the contract of audit firm with

no additional fee for completion of Privatisation Commission audits for the period July 2013 to June, 2022.

Furthermore, the Board referred the decision for transfer of ten percent shares of the OGDCL in the name of Petroleum Division to the Cabinet Committee on Privatisation (CCoP) as the investment of shares had not been allowed by the CCOP/Cabinet earlier in 2021.

ICCI calls for slaughter house and a separate market for poultry sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Tuesday said that a new slaughterhouse is a longstanding demand of the business community of the meat sector for enhancing their trade and ensuring the supply of fresh meat to their customers. He urged the

Capital Development Authority in consultation with the stakeholders to establish a state-of-the-art slaughterhouse in the vicinity of the federal capital to promote trade and exports of meat products, besides establishing a separate market for the poultry sector to boost its business activities.

Ethiopia seeks financial sector collaboration with Pak for attracting Pakistani investors

ISLAMABAD (online): The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) on Tuesday sought collaboration with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in the Financial Sector for attracting investment from Pakistani investors in its flourishing economy.

Jemal Beker Abdula, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the FDR Ethiopia to Pakistan, expressed the desire for the collaboration in a meeting

with Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs H.E. Dr. Shamshad Akhtar.

During the meeting, both sides discussed matters of mutual interests including different initiatives to deepening the already flourishing bilateral ties between the two countries.

H.E. Ambassador Jemal Beker briefed the minister about the home grown economic reforms carried out by H.E. Dr.

Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, in five major sectors including agriculture, agro-processing, manufacturing, mining, technology and tourism.

He also highlighted the initiatives taken by the Embassy of the FDR Ethiopia in Islamabad during its first year for strengthening the bilateral relations between the two countries through strong bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation.

PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 414 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 414.46 points, a positive change of 0.63 percent, closing at 66,426.78 points against 66,012.33 points the previous trading day. A total of 969,630,378 shares valuing Rs.26,931 billion were traded during the day.

Dubai DET unveils plans to welcome more Pakistani visitors in 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism (DET) is making significant strides to increase tourist arrivals from Pakistan, with an ambitious plan for continued growth in 2024.

With Dubai welcomed 13.90 million international visitors from January to October 2023, surpassing the pre-pandemic performance of attracting 13.50 million visitors for the same period in 2019. Pakistan currently stands among Dubai's top 10 source markets, delivering a noteworthy year-to-date visitation of 254,000 overnight visitors from January to October, said a news release here on Tuesday.



ISLAMABAD: Jemal Beker Abdula, Ambassador of Federal Republic of Ethiopia to Pakistan, in a meeting with Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs Dr. Shamshad Akhtar at Finance Division, Islamabad.

Dr Gohar presents investment friendly policies at interaction with Chinese business leaders

BEIJING (APP): Federal Commerce Minister, Dr Gohar Ejaz presented Pakistan's investment-friendly policies at an interaction with prominent Chinese business and investment leaders here and invited them to invest in sectors such as textiles, food, agriculture, livestock, technology, infrastructure and energy.

In an initiative to boost economic and

investment ties between business communities of Pakistan and China, the commerce minister engaged in constructive interaction with prominent Chinese business and investment leaders at the Business networking dinner at a local hotel in Beijing.

Dr Gohar Ejaz along with the top 20 business executives from Pakistan interacted with Chinese business leaders

representing over 150 Chinese enterprises and presented Pakistan's investment-friendly policies, highlighting the country's strategic location, special economic zones, skilled workforce, and potential for business growth.

He emphasized Pakistan's dedication to providing a favourable business environment and facilitation.

CM Naqvi visits PIC, reviews upgradation project

Urges everyone, including himself, to fulfill their duty hours

Independent Report

LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC) here on Tuesday and assessed the ongoing construction activities.

He reviewed the quality of work in the emergency block, which is currently under completion. He directed the authorities to finish the emergency block upgrade project by the end of December and instructed the upgrade of the Punjab Institute of Cardiology's OPD. He stated that the PIC OPD upgrade project would commence next week.

Present at the visit were Provincial Ministers Amir Mir, Dr Javed Akram, Secretary Communication and Works, Secretary Health, CCPO, Commissioner Lahore Division, and other relevant officials.

Talking to the media, the CM mentioned that the PIC's design, developed through consultation, is scheduled for completion by December 30. Addressing the shortage of beds, he announced the addition of 108 more beds post-upgrade. To alleviate patient waiting times for tests, satellite clinics have been initiated in Kot Khawaja Saeed and Shahdara, with

consideration for a clinic at Mian Munshi Hospital.

The chief minister highlighted that the renovation of the OPD would commence next week.

He commended the dedicated team working tirelessly on the ongoing hospital upgrades, including the progress on PIC Third Floor, Ground Floor, and Irfan Block. Additionally, heart clinics are under development in Sahiwal, and work on the incomplete Heart Hospital in Dera Ghazi Khan is underway.

The focus on cardiology facilities extends to Multan and Sialkot as well.



FAISALABAD: Chief Minister Punjab, Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi is visiting the Allied Hospital Faisalabad to inspect ongoing upgradation projects of Surgical Emergency and OPD Wards.

India's apex court has no legal standing in matters of Kashmir: AJK minister

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir Finance Minister and spokesman of the State government Majid Khan said that the Supreme Court of India has no legal standing in the matters of Kashmir as New Delhi had occupied the territory illegally against the will of the Kashmiri people.

Terminating the court order as unfair and politically motivated, Khan said in a statement issued on Tuesday that the verdict

was tantamount to deprive Kashmiris of their basic political and human rights guaranteed to them under the UNSC resolutions and other rights treaties.

Describing Kashmiris as masters of their destiny, Khan made it clear that neither the Indian Parliament nor the Supreme Court of India has any right or authority to determine the political future of Kashmir. Referring to the UNSC resolutions, he said, that under these covenants

only Kashmiris have the right to decide their future. "Jammu and Kashmir stretched over eighty-four thousand square miles is an indivisible entity", he said.

The state of Jammu and Kashmir, he said, has never been a part of the Indian Union. "Kashmir has had a distinct identity even at the time when the entire subcontinent was divided into more than five hundred small states known as Rajwads", the minister added.

KP govt provides mobile hospitals to remote tribal areas

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has provided facilities of mobile hospitals for the basic health facilities in the needed remote areas of the merged districts. Ten vehicles were provided to the health department officials in the merged districts for use as mobile hospitals in areas where basic health facilities are not available.

As a result of this facility, minor operations, laboratory examinations, X-rays, dental treatment and maternity needs can be fulfilled. The said vehicles were donated by the German Development Bank KFW under the Mobile Hospital Centralized Programme for Tribal Areas in 2013 but were lying dysfunctional due to required repairs.

Similarly, seventeen more vehicles will be repaired and provided to these districts for health facilities.

In this regard, a ceremony was held at Civil Secretariat Peshawar on Tuesday wherein the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Industries Commerce and Technical Education Dr. Aamer Abdullah, Advisor to Caretaker Chief Minister on Health Dr. Riaz Anwar, Secretary Health Mahmood Aslam Wazir, Special Secretary Health Habibullah, Senior Planning Officer of the Department, District Health Officers of the merged districts and other relevant officials participated.



HYDERABAD: Participants are holding awareness walk on the eve of International Human Rights Day organized by Directorate of Human Rights Hyderabad, in Hyderabad.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan, Haji Gulbar Khan addressing during the 5th sitting of the 27th session of Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly under the chair of Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Nazir Ahmad Advocate.

UNDP commemorates Intl human rights day with local community

FAISALABAD (Online): Christian and Muslim community members, Faisalabad Catholic Church, National Commission for Human Rights, Government of Punjab's Human Rights & Minority Affairs Department, civil society organisations along with local businesses, and UNDP Pakistan, jointly marked the International Human Rights Day voicing a shared message

of solidarity, respect, equality, peace, non-discrimination, dignity for all and a core commitment to building a strong, inclusive and rights-based society in Pakistan.

The event organized by UNDP with the support of the Embassy of Norway in Pakistan, aimed at emphasizing and reinforcing the values of inter-faith harmony, equality, inclusion, the right to work.

ANF seizes over 320 kg drugs in three operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting three operations across the country managed to recover 320 kg of drugs and arrested three accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday.

He informed that in an operation conducted in Gali Jalal Khak of the Qila Abdullah area and recovered over 271 kg of hashish hidden in a house was recovered. 48 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted near Motorway Toll Plaza Charsadda while two accused were arrested during the operation. 1.2 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle near Chungi No. 26, Islamabad and an accused was arrested.

Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act were registered against the arrested accused while further investigations are under process and companies, providing valuable opportunities for students while meeting the talent needs of companies.

WDD launches gender parity report

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Women Development Department has launched the "Punjab Gender Parity Report 2022," a comprehensive annual publication aimed at fostering gender equality and women empowerment here on Tuesday.

Compiled by the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women, a dedicated institute under the Women Development Department, with collaboration of UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund), the

report provides a detailed analysis of gender-disaggregated data across seven thematic areas, including demographics, governance, education, health, economic participation and opportunities, justice, and special initiatives.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by Javid Akram, Provincial Caretaker Minister for Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education, Social Welfare, and Baitul-Mal, who served as the chief guest.

Speakers call for consistent role of education institutions to eradicate corruption

PESHAWAR (APP): Speakers at a seminar here on Tuesday said that corruption was a social evil and proactive role of educational institutions was imperative to eradicate it completely from the society.

The speakers were including Director, National Accountability Bureau, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mian Muhammad Waqar, Director NAB KP said that corruption was like a cancer and its

eradication was inevitable for sustainable economic growth, supremacy of merit and fostering prosperity of Pakistan.

In addition to weakening the social fabric of the society, he said corruption leads to poverty, unemployment and undermined merit. He said there were different types of corruption in developing countries including Pakistan and cooperation of all stakeholders including educational institutions.

International News

Nuclear warnings serve Putin's 3 purpose as he bids for new term



A Palestinian looks on at the site of Israeli strikes on houses amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

Monitoring Desk

LONDON: The prospect of six more years in power for Russian President Vladimir Putin is likely to mean no let-up in nuclear tensions with the United States, as time runs out on the last remaining treaty that limits the number of warheads each side can deploy. Putin has boasted since launching his 2022 invasion

of Ukraine that Russia has the world's most advanced nuclear arms and said it could wipe out any aggressor.

On Monday, three days after announcing he would stand for re-election in March, he presided at a flag-raising ceremony for two new submarines including the Emperor Alexander III, which last month tested

a nuclear-capable Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile.

While denying that Moscow is "brandishing" nuclear weapons and resisting calls to adopt a more aggressive doctrine on their possible use, he has placed his nuclear forces on raised alert and announced the deployment of tactical nuclear missiles in Belarus, his

neighbour and ally.

Last month he signed a law revoking Russia's ratification of the global treaty that bans nuclear testing, although Moscow says it will not carry out a test - which would be its first since the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union - unless the United States does so.

Some security analysts say nuclear weapons have assumed greater importance in Putin's thinking and rhetoric as his conventional forces have struggled in Ukraine and as Western countries have weaned themselves off Russian energy, weakening his ability to exert pressure by cutting off oil and gas.

EU gives Mahsa Amini rights prize as Iran blocks family attendance

STRASBOURG: EU lawmakers on Tuesday present a top rights prize to Mahsa Amini, whose death in Iranian custody sparked mass protests, but her family won't attend after being blocked by Tehran.

The award—also for the broader "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement—is the latest international recognition for the women challenging Iran's religious government after jailed activist Narges Mohammadi was given the Nobel Peace Prize.

Amini's mother, father and brother will miss the ceremony at the Euro-

pean Parliament in the French city of Strasbourg as Iran's authorities confiscated their passports and barred them from flying to collect the EU's Sakharov Prize.

Iranian Kurd Amini died on September 16, 2022 at the age of 22 while being held by Iran's religious police for allegedly breaching the Islamic republic's strict dress code for women.

Her death triggered major protests in Iran and a global movement known as "Woman, Life, Freedom", calling for the end of the Muslim cleric-led government in Tehran.

Brazil's first lady X account hacked, authorities open investigation

SAO PAULO: Brazilian First Lady Rosangela "Janja" Silva had her account on social media platform X hacked on Monday, prompting local authorities to launch an investigation and request that the Elon Musk-owned company freeze her profile. The alleged hacker posted several messages on Janja's account, including insults against the first lady and President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

Gazans say hunger is growing, fuelling fears of exodus into Egypt

Monitoring Desk GAZA: Fighting between Israel and Hamas intensified across Gaza on Monday, fuelling fears of a breakdown in public order and a mass exodus of Palestinians into Egypt.

The narrow coastal strip has been under a full Israeli blockade since the start of the conflict more than two months ago and the border with Egypt is the only other way out. Most of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been driven from their homes.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy walks next to U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and U.S. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) as he arrives for a meeting with all U.S. senators at the Capitol in Washington, U.S.

In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad

ZTBL Abbottabad Branch (Plaintiff) Versus (1) Qazi Daud-ur-Rehman S/o Maqbool-ur-Rehman R/o Banda Ghazan P/o Jhangi Tehsil & District Abbottabad (Defendant)

Whereas the ZTBL Abbottabad Branch has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 694969/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial Institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (21-11-2023). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.

Next date of hearing is 22-12-2023
sd/ JUDGE Banking Court Hazara Division, Abbottabad.

In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad

ZTBL Abbottabad Branch (Plaintiff) Versus (1) Zaraq Khan S/o Aziz Khan R/o Akhora Bandi Dhoondan Tehsil & District Abbottabad (Defendant)

Whereas the ZTBL Abbottabad Branch has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 543687/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial Institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (21-11-2023). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.

Next date of hearing is 22-12-2023
sd/ JUDGE Banking Court Hazara Division, Abbottabad.

In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad

ZTBL Balakot Branch Manshehra (Plaintiff) Versus (1) Muhammad Anwar S/o Wali-ur-Rehman R/o Village Jaba Muhnoor P/o Banda Muhnoor Tehsil Balakot District Manshehra (Defendant)

Whereas the ZTBL Manshehra Branch has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 94519/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial Institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (21-11-2023). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.

Next date of hearing is 22-12-2023
sd/ JUDGE Banking Court Hazara Division, Abbottabad.

In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad

ZTBL Abbottabad Branch (Plaintiff) Versus (1) Sabir Khan S/o Dilawar Khan R/o Rashbehn Tehsil & District Abbottabad presently residing at House No. 111 Street 5 Mohalla Ferozabad Nazimabad # 1 Karachi West. (Defendant)

Whereas the ZTBL Abbottabad Branch has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 561707/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial Institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (21-11-2023). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.

Next date of hearing is 22-12-2023
sd/ JUDGE Banking Court Hazara Division, Abbottabad.

In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad

ZTBL Manshehra Branch (Plaintiff) Versus (1) Syed Munir Hussain Shah S/o Syed Roshan Shah R/o Hari Mera Neeloor P/o Lamp No. 5 Tehsil & District Manshehra (Defendant)

Whereas the ZTBL Manshehra Branch has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 454451/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial Institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (21-11-2023). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.

Next date of hearing is 22-12-2023
sd/ JUDGE Banking Court Hazara Division, Abbottabad.

SAPM Malik urges CWAs to boost overseas employment opportunities for Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD), Jawad Sohrab Malik held a pivotal meeting with the Community Welfare Attaches (CWAs) stationed abroad to strategically enhance job opportunities for Pakistanis on the international stage.

Currently, there are 21 CWAs posted abroad by the Government of Pakistan, according to a press release issued here.

The primary focus of the meeting was to evaluate and improve the progress of CWAs in identifying and exploring targeted demand for employment prospects for Pakistani nationals through engagements with foreign employers. This involved the formulation, signing and execution of Letters of Intent (LOIs) and agreements with foreign companies, critical in amplifying the export of Pakistani manpower.

The SAPM emphasized the crucial need for close collaboration between CWAs and the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, particularly in sharing information related to employment demands abroad and the necessary skills required for those jobs. This step will facilitate the design of training programs specifically tailored to the skills demanded by foreign companies, ensuring that Pakistani workers are well-equipped and aligned with global standards.

Jawad Sohrab Malik, while underscoring the significance of this initiative, highlighted its dual impact, not only in enhancing employment opportunities for Pakistanis abroad but also in contributing to the economic growth of the nation.

Furthermore, he stressed the essential role of CWAs in catering to the needs and resolving issues faced by overseas Pakistanis during their stay abroad.

This comprehensive approach is designed to ensure the well-being and seamless integration of Pakistani expatriates in their respective host countries.

"The Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development reiterates its commitment to spearheading initiatives that fortify global employment prospects for Pakistanis. This strategic meeting signifies a significant stride towards realizing this vision and underscores the Ministry's dedication to the welfare and prosperity of overseas Pakistanis," remarked SAPM Jawad Sohrab Malik after the meeting.



Special Representative to the Prime Minister for Religious Harmony & Islamic Countries and Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi addressing a press conference with the representatives of Hajj Operative Association of Pakistan (HOAP) at Islamabad.

Cybersecurity, AI and 5G advancement Huawei, COMSTECH forms strategic partnership

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministerial Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) and Huawei Technologies Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding to raise awareness of national cybersecurity and build the capabilities of OIC member states in cybersecurity.

Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General of COMSTECH, signed the MoU on behalf of the Ministerial Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the OIC.

OIC can extend its support to Huawei to reach out to universities not just in Pakistan but in all OIC member countries, by using the OIC platform Huawei can be introduced to all the OIC member countries where there is a fast pace of technological advancements with great potential.

As the ink dries on the signed MoU, the journey toward a future defined by robust cybersecurity, cutting-edge AI applications, and the seamless integration of 5G technologies takes a significant step forward. This collaboration stands as a testament to the power of partnerships in shaping the trajectory of technological progress and ensuring a brighter, digitally empowered future for all.

Huawei and COMSTECH will cooperate on ICT talent. Young people in OIC member countries can get new ICT technology training and enhance their skills for the future.

With the rapid transformation of industries and sectors into online or digital solutions providers, cybersecurity is integral to the continuity, stability, and growth of the economy. Cybersecurity expertise is needed across all industries, most urgently in government, financial services, and health care said a news release.

COMSTECH and Huawei would concentrate on the enhancement of OIC's cybersecurity professional capability, such as security management, security incident response, vulnerability management, and insight into external new security technologies and oversight security requirements; Huawei is a leader in digital transformation, networking, and communication technologies in Pakistan and across the world.

The digital economy globally is the engine of economic growth and a driver for sustainable development.

As more and more essential services make use of digital transformation, science and technology will determine the economic future of countries.



The Head Office of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal in Islamabad, in collaboration with the Paraplegic center Peshawar, conducted specialized training on customized and standard wheelchairs. The Managing Director of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Amir Fida Paracha, and the CEO of Paraplegic center, Muhammad Alias are present in the picture.

Anti drug awareness campaign on full swing in Islamabad

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police have initiated a special awareness campaign to eradicate use of narcotics from the federal capital and ensure the safety of the youth from the curse of drugs. Police teams have conducted special lectures in various educational institutions to educate students about the harms of drugs and preventive measures.

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

During this campaign, the police teams have delivered lectures in various educational institutes about the harms of drugs and preventive measures, emphasizing that drug abuse is detrimental to the health and future of students.

Students are urged to protect themselves and contribute to saving their surroundings from the curse of drugs. Parents and teachers are encouraged to collaborate in preventing youth from falling victim to drugs.

The police teams have appealed to the public to immediately inform the police about any drug-related activities in their vicinity.

The cooperation of the public is deemed crucial for the successful eradication of this menace.

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



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatisation, Mr. Fawad Hassan Fawad called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

PTDC, UoB sign MoU to establish Center of Excellence for Mountain Tourism

ISLAMABAD (APP): A historic Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) and the University of Balistan, Skardu, solidifying their commitment to establishing a Center of Excellence for Mountain Tourism.

The event was graced by Minister of State for Tourism and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Youth Affairs, Wasi Shah.

Speaking at the occasion, the minister affirmed the government's dedication to the welfare of porters, vowing to allocate resources and modern facilities for their benefit.

He emphasized the significance of prioritizing human life and expressed gratitude for the realization of his dream—the establishment of this Center of Excellence. The initiative, credited to the collaborative efforts of Vice Chancellor Balistan University and PTDC's Managing Director, Aftab ur Rehman Rana, holds the promise of boosting global confidence in Pakistani climbers.

The minister highlighted the center's pivotal role in initiating the certification of porters, aligning with broader goals of enhancing workplace safety and promoting sustainable tourism. Plans for incorporating skiing facilities were also unveiled, showcasing the government's multifaceted approach to mountain tourism. Ten accomplished mountaineers, who scaled 8,000-meter peaks, proudly participated in the event, contributing to the celebration of Pakistan's mountaineering prowess.

Managing Director PTDC, Aftab ur Rehman Rana, Vice Chancellor Balistan University, Dr. Naem Khan, and Chairman Islamabad Wildlife Management Board, Rania Saeed, spoke on the occasion.

The festivities concluded with an eco-hike at Margalla Hills, symbolizing the commitment to environmental conservation.

NPMC reviews prices, supply situation of essential commodities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC). The meeting discussed prices and supply of essential commodities, margin between wholesale and retail prices, and availability of essential items, a news release said.

The Chief Statistician of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) presented the price movement of 51 essential items collected from the markets of 17 cities. Minister Sami Saeed urged participants to ensure prices' stability across provinces, seeking their oversight of the supply of essential items, available stock levels and the monitoring of pricing mechanisms. He also urged Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners to strictly employ the Decision Support System (DSS) App developed by the PBS for price monitoring. He emphasized the critical role of administrative oversight and monitoring for maintaining price stability.

Moreover, the meeting delved into the prospective utilization by the provinces of remote sensing technology facilitated by SUPARCO for better monitoring of cropped areas and the likely supply situation of essential food items.

The minister encouraged the exploration and implementation of remote sensing capabilities to bolster the monitoring and oversight capacities. Sami Saeed emphasized the need for continued vigilance and proactive measures for smoothing supply to address fluctuations in commodity prices.



ISLAMABAD: Deserving people gathers outside Benazir Income Support Programme at Sector G-7 as such people are suffering due to lack of any kind of shelter or sitting facility, which is the insult of humanity, needs the attention of concern authority.

Capital's air quality unhealthy as PM2.5 ratio beyond permissible limits

ISLAMABAD (APP): The air quality of the federal capital was recorded as unhealthy on Tuesday as the air pollutants ratio in the atmosphere was beyond the permissible limits of the national environmental quality standards of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency as dry and cloudy weather clouded the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) daily air quality report indicated an increased ratio of air pollutants, recorded below permissible limits, and the air quality was unhealthy.

The Agency is responsible for ensuring the protection of the environment under the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act 1997.

The hazardous air pollutant particulate matter of 2.5 microns (PM2.5), which was a hazardous atmospheric contaminant, remained at 61.4 microgrammes per cubic meter on average which was higher than the national environmental quality standards (NEQS) of 35 microgrammes per cubic meter and denoted the air quality unhealthy.

PM2.5 is generated through the combustion of an engine, industrial emissions, burning garbage or inflammable material, and dust blown up by fast-moving cars plying on non-cemented patches of the roads.

The ratio of nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide (NO2&SO2 respectively) also remained below the NEQS that were mostly produced during the industrial emissions from the factories involving complex and extraordinary chemicals' use in production processes. The NO2 remained 5.73 microgrammes per cubic meter and SO2 was 14.96 microgrammes per cubic meter.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Muhammad Tahir Bizinjo, Chairman Senate Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

Malik urges world forums to stop India over demographic changes in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women's Empowerment Mashaal Hussain Malik on Tuesday urged the international community, including the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and human rights organizations, to address new "demographic changes" in the IIOJK.

Indian government must be stopped from any further illegal activity in the occupied territory, she appealed while talking to a private news channel.

India was changing the population ratio in the IIOJK and Kashmiris were being robbed of their land to make them financially weak, she added.

Mushaal said to occupy the lands of Kashmir India was issuing millions of domiciles to Indian in Kashmir valley.

Mushaal said India was going to commit the biggest robbery of the century in Kashmir by displacing Kashmiris from their own homes and throwing into the streets.

Indian hegemonic policies are posing serious threats to South Asia, she said, adding, that India is repeatedly using negative tactics to gain political mileage because elections are due in India next year, she added.

The international community should stop appeasing India and should contain India's fundamentalism and extremism because it will affect the peace and stability of the entire world, she urged.

Pakistan is continuing to expose India at international forums to refrain India from state-sponsored terrorism, particularly in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, she added.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister of State for Tourism and Chairman of PTDC, Wasi Shah, addressing media during MoU signing ceremony between PTDC and University of Balistan, Skardu to Establish Center of Excellence for Mountain Tourism at Skardu at Trail-5 Margalla Hills Park.

Implementation Committee reviews progress on Diamer Basha, Mohmand Dams

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Implementation Committee on Diamer Basha and Mohmand Dams (ICDBMD), constituted by the Supreme Court of Pakistan reviewed progress on both projects in its meeting held here Tuesday at ICDBMD Secretariat.

The meeting which met with Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA)/ ICDBMD Chairman Engr Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd) in the Chair, was also attended by Chief Secretary Gilgit Baltistan, Additional Secretary (Budget) Finance Division and Secretary/Senior Member Board of Revenue Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) via Zoom, said a press release.

Additional Chief Secretary (Development) KP, Joint Secretary PM Office, ICDBMD Secretary/Joint Secretary Ministry of Water Resources, Representative of Chief (Water) Planning, Development and Reforms Division and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

The Chairman said that the Dams Committee has been contributing towards the implementation of both vital projects. He thanked the participants and expressed that the ICDBMD forum can play a pivotal and effective role in overseeing and resolving the issues being faced during the execution of both projects.

Member (Finance) WAPDA later briefed the meeting on the financial matters of the two projects. General Manager Land Acquisition & Resettlement, Chief Executive Officer Diamer Basha Dam Company and General Manager Mohmand Dam also made detailed presentations to the participants about the progress and the issues relating to both Projects.



ISLAMABAD: Former PTI founding member Akbar S Babar talking to media persons outside Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) after challenging the party's intra-party elections, which were "rigged and fraudulent" according to him.

Police Welfare Markaz working effectively for official's welfare

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Police has initiated a dedicated effort to swiftly address and improve the administrative issues faced by its officers and officials, through the effective operations of the Police Welfare Center. Following the special directives of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Police Welfare Center at the Central Police Office Islamabad is actively engaged in resolving the administrative concerns of officers and officials in an expedited and efficient manner.

Unlike traditional methods of addressing administrative issues across various departments, officers and officials are now channeling their requests through the Police Welfare Center. This streamlined approach ensures prompt delivery of their requests to the relevant offices.

As part of this initiative, officers and officials can now access various services such as loans for education, construction of homes, purchase of vehicles, including cars and motorcycles, through the Welfare Center. Moreover, provisions for passports, education, employment, and multiple other essential services are also being efficiently facilitated. ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan emphasized, "Our focus remains on enhancing the welfare and facilities for police personnel, enabling prompt actions to improve morale."