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PM for health sector reforms to meet global requirement of experts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday emphasized the introduction of reforms in the health sector with a view to meet the global requirement of health experts. The prime minister, chairing a meeting of the task force on reforms in medical education and patients care, said the reforms in the health sector was vital in current situation.

He also called for improving the standards of medical education in accordance with the contemporary requirements. The participants of the meeting were briefed on the strategy to uplift the health sector at par with international standards. The prime minister said that considering its significance, enhanced attention should be given

on uplifting the nursing sector. The meeting was also briefed on the steps taken for improvement in the health sector in coordination with the health ministry, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan, Pakistan Medical and Dental Council, Higher Education Commission and medical universities.

It was told that a three-prong strategy had been formulated for health sector reforms to enforce the rules and regulations of international standards. The participants were also apprised of the reforms strategy for the graduate and postgraduate levels in the health sector. Prime Minister Kakar appreciated the performance of the task force working under Special Assistant Dr Amir Bilal for bringing in health sector re-

forms.

Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday lauded the services of the Bohra community for the progress of the country and said the government and nation valued their positive contribution. The prime minister was talking to the Spiritual leader of the Dawoodi Bohra community, Dr Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin who led an eight-member delegation here at the PM House.

PM Kakar felicitated Dr Saifuddin on being awarded the Nishan-e-Pakistan in recognition to his services for the country.

He expressed confidence that the Bohra community would continue to play their role for the progress and development of the country.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting of the Taskforce for Strategic Reforms in Medical Education and Patient Care.

Pakistan Navy inducts 5th ATR aircraft into its fleet

KARACHI (APP): The induction ceremony of 5th ATR of Pakistan Navy was held at Naval Aviation Base PNS Mehran, Karachi where Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf was the Chief Guest on Tuesday.

The newly inducted ATR aircraft, acquired from PIA, is equipped with day and night flying capability to undertake ferry, logistics support, Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC), General Evacuation (GENEVAC) and training missions, a news release said.

Pakistan Navy is in the process of acquiring ATR aircraft from various sources and is modernising them to carry out maritime reconnaissance and antisubmarine warfare missions at sea. Being a commercial aircraft it has very low operating cost as compared to tailor-made military aircraft. This is the 5th aircraft which has been acquired for

the purpose.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief of the Naval Staff highlighted the importance of evolving geo-strategic environment in the Indian Ocean Region and emphasized the need to have a potent naval force in order to counter emerging challenges. He underlined the significance of strong maritime defence for Pakistan and reiterated that the induction of modern aircraft will enhance Pakistan Navy's capability of safeguarding maritime frontiers.

Earlier during his welcome address, Commander Pakistan Fleet Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi highlighted that induction of ATR will ensure sustained operations from western seaboard through regular logistics and personnel movements.

Later, Chief of the Naval Staff handed over ATR documents to Commander Pakistan Fleet.

PM strongly condemns Peshawar blast

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday strongly condemned the bomb blast that took place at Warsak Road of Peshawar.

The prime minister instructed the authorities concerned to provide the best possible medical facilities to the children who sustained injuries in the incident, and prayed for their early recovery, according to a PM Office statement.

He directed the law enforcement agencies to probe into the incident and reiterated that the nefarious designs of the terrorists to mar the country's peace would never let to succeed.

The prime minister reiterated the resolve that the war against terrorism would continue till the elimination of the scourge and assured that the perpetrators of the incident would be brought to task as soon as possible.

President confers Nishan-i-Pakistan award on Bohra community head

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday conferred the civil award of Nishan-i-Pakistan on Dr Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, the Head of the Dawoodi Bohra Community, in recognition of his services for Pakistan in the field of spiritual guidance and social services.

The award was conferred at a special investiture ceremony held at the Aiwane-Sard and attended by the federal cabinet members as well as the representatives of the Bohra community.

According to the citation read out before the conferment of the award, Dr. Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin is the 53rd Dai-e-Mutlaq whose followers are spread across all continents with a large number of them being

Pakistani citizens. The Bohra community head has a special regard for Pakistan and is an advocate of peace, harmony and goodwill.

Recounting his services in the education sector, it was told that he had contributed to the building of the School of Law at the University of Karachi and launched a university project. Multiple healthcare institutions are operating in the name of the Bohra community head providing affordable healthcare to people. Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin has repeatedly emphasized the importance of conserving and protecting the environment. In the past few years alone, over 100,000 trees have been planted by his followers in different parts of Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi conferring the award of Nishan-i-Pakistan upon Dr. Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, Head of the Dawoodi Bohra community at a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwane-Sadr.

ECP receives number of requests to postpone general election

ISLAMABAD (INP): A wave of requests has inundated the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), urging the postponement of the upcoming general elections scheduled for February 2023. Citing security concerns and adverse weather conditions, petitioners argue that holding elections under these circumstances would hinder voter participation and

compromise the fairness of the electoral process.

Advocate Azizuddin Kakakhil, representing citizen Shakir Khan of Kohlu, submitted a petition highlighting the precarious law and order situation in the region. With the Frontier Corps (FC), responsible for maintaining security, redeployed to border areas, concerns over terrorist activities remain heightened.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori cutting cake during a ceremony to mark national day of Thailand.

'Tobacco smoking not an addiction, but a death pill,' says Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday said tobacco smoking was not an addiction rather it was a death pill and a threat to human lives at the global level.

Delivering his speech at an event organised to educate children about the harmful impacts of smoking, he said like environmental destruction, smoking was also a threat to human lives.

At the outset, he said it was important to ask some important questions regarding the habit of smoking.

"Smoking is a disease that kills one person every

six seconds on average", Murtaza Solangi said adding the habit of smoking takes the life of one person among ten.

Recounting the devastation caused by smoking, he said 100 million people lost their lives due to smoking in the 20th century and some five million deaths were caused by smoking every year worldwide.

He said it was feared that the number of people killed by smoking would increase from five to eight million per year by 2030 if the habit of smoking continued at this intensity.

Appreciating the services of those who have waged war against smoking, he termed them "the anti-smoking heroes".

Sindhi Culture Day programme held at Governor House

KARACHI (APP): A program in connection with the Sindhi Culture Day was organized at the Sindh Governor House.

Consul General, caretaker provincial ministers, city dignitaries, and senior officials were present in the ceremony, a Governor House communique said.

Addressing the ceremony, Governor Sindh Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori welcomed all the guests on the occasion of Culture Day.

He said that your presence proved that the Governor's House belonged to all of you. He further said that it was an honor for him as a governor that Sindhi Cultural Day was being celebrated for the second time here.

Rs. 17.4 billion allocated for General Elections

ISLAMABAD (Online): Finance Ministry has allocated 17.4 billion rupees to Election Commission (EC) for the conduct of General Elections and more funds will be released.

It is told in an announcement by Finance Ministry that Finance Division has allocated required 17.4 billion rupees to Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for the conduct of General Elections.

10 billion were allocated in previous month July 2023.

According to Finance Division, overall 27.4 billion rupees have been allocated to ECP regarding General Elections so far.

According to Finance Division, we are determined for provision of funds as required by EC.



KARACHI: Group photo of Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf with officers of naval aviation at the induction ceremony of 5th ATR 75 in Pakistan Navy Aviation Fleet.

Minister urges to recognise PWD contributions in society

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Caretaker Minister for Information, Minority Affairs, and Social Protection Muhammad Ahmad Shah on Tuesday urged to recognize contributions of Differently-Able Persons while addressing an event held at the Arts Council.

He emphasized that differently-abled individuals were akin to normal human beings, possessing senses and talents. By observing their handicrafts and artworks showcased at

the Arts Council, one could truly appreciate the talent and worth of these boys and girls.

He stressed that it was our collective duty to acknowledge the abilities of these children and serve them. He said that without caring for these persons, we cannot claim to be civilized.

He highlighted Chief Minister Sindh, Justice Retired Maqbool Baqar's commitment to the welfare and development of the common man.

SHC rejects police report on missing persons

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court on Tuesday rejected the police report on the petitions related to the recovery of the missing persons and ordered to speed up the steps for the recovery of the citizens.

A two-member bench headed by Justice Naimatullah Phulpoto heard the petitions related to the recovery of missing persons.

Among the petitioners are Asma, Saghir al-Nisa, Muhammad Qadir,

Mumtaz Ali, Ghulam Mustafa and others. The family of the missing citizen wailed and said that I beg with folded hands to close the case and this spectacle too. Nothing has been known about my brother Furqan, he is being pushed. When we go to the police, they say we don't have it. It has been 9 years since missing Furqan and Nadeem could not be recovered.

The police officials submitted a report to the court.

Bilawal & Asif Zardari condemn terrorism incident in Peshawar

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has condemned a terrorism in Peshawar here on Tuesday.

In a condemnation communique, he expressed his grief over the injuries of children in the bomb blast.

He demanded of the federal and provincial governments to take strict action against the criminals involved in the bomb blast.

He also prayed for the speedy recovery of the children injured in the blast.

Meanwhile: Former President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday condemned a terrorist incident in Peshawar.

He, in a condemnation statement, demanded to bring terrorists and their masterminds to book.

Two killed upon resistance during robbery incidents

KARACHI (INP): Two people were killed another injured upon resistance during separate robbery incidents in different localities of the metropolis on Tuesday.

Robbers gunned down a trader identified as Saleem upon resistance during robbery in Aligarh Bazaar Orangi Town. The deceased was father of four children.

A rider of online food delivery company identified as Arsalan was killed after robbers shot him upon resistance during a robbery near Metric Board Office.

A shopkeeper was shot injured by robbers near Korangi No. 5 Pul.

7 people including 3 children injured in blast

PESHAWAR (Online): An explosion left 7 people including 3 children injured on Warsak Road here on Tuesday morning.

Police said explosive was planted alongside the road near a private bank and a school. Glasses of nearby buildings splintered by the explosion.

Rescue teams rushed to the scene and shifted the

injured to Lady Reading hospital. The age of children who were injured range between 7 years to 10 years. The blast is said to have taken place at 9:10 am. Four kilogram explosives were used.

The condition of a nine-year-old child is stated to be critical. The investigation into the blast has been started.



PESHAWAR: Pakistani security officials inspect the scene of the explosion of an improvised explosive device (IED) on a roadside in Peshawar.

Mayor Karachi sets up a committee to look into affairs of Spencer Eye Hospital

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has on public complaints set up a five-member committee consisting of UC chairmen to enquire about the affairs of Spencer Eye Hospital while sending the medical superintendent on forced leave. The committee shall submit a report within a week regarding the hospital.

He gave these instructions on a surprise visit to Spencer Eye Hospital on Tuesday during which he checked the attendance of the doctors and staff of the hospital and inspected the OPD register and other

documents. On this occasion, Municipal Commissioner Syed Afzal Zaidi, Mayor Karachi's Representative for Political Affairs Karamullah Waqasi, People's Party South District President Khalil Haut, UC-13 Chairman, Vice Chairman and other people representatives were also present.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab inspected the operation theatre and doctor's rooms of Spencer Eye Hospital and also visited the residence of the staff within the hospital premises.



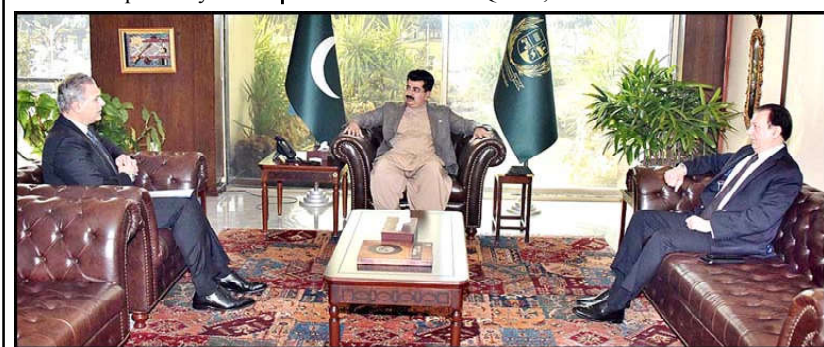
UAE: Energy Minister Muhammad Ali meeting with Energy Minister of Azerbaijan Parviz Shahbazov on sidelines of COP28.

UNGA approves 4 Pakistani resolutions to promote disarmament, int'l security

UNITED NATIONS (INP): The United Nations General Assembly approved four annual Pakistani disarmament-related resolutions that are aimed at advancing the goals of regional peace and security. The resolutions were recommended on Monday by the 193-member Assembly's First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) where the texts were adopted by overwhelming support of its members.

Of these, three resolutions deal with regional disarmament, conventional arms control at regional and sub-regional levels as well as

Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in the regional and sub-regional context. The fourth Pakistani resolution sought international security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon states. The resolutions, entitled "Regional Disarmament and Confidence Building Measures" in the regional and sub-regional context, won the unanimous approval of the Assembly adopted without a vote. But the resolution on "Conventional arms control at regional and sub-regional levels" was supported by an overwhelming majority of 186 votes, with India casting the only "no vote."



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Jordan to Pakistan, Maen Khreisat called on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Parliament House.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Chilas bus attack

Perhaps even more challenging than countering terrorism in urban areas is the threat posed by militants in remote regions of Pakistan. This is especially true in the rugged terrain of Gilgit-Baltistan and adjacent regions of KP. Here, in the shadow of towering peaks, tracing the perpetrators is arguably more difficult than it is in the cities.

However, terrorists cannot be given a free hand to stomp through the mountains, killing innocent people at will. In fact, the geopolitical and communal sensitivity of the area requires that strong counterterrorism measures be taken.

No group has as yet claimed responsibility for Saturday's atrocity, in which at least nine people were killed when terrorists opened fire on a bus travelling on the Karakoram Highway in GB's Chilas area. A number of suspects have been detained.

The authorities have ruled out a sectarian motive, while the fact that two of the victims were military men could explain a possible motive for the attack.

Diamer, where Chilas is located, as well as the adjacent Kohistan area of KP, have witnessed militant activity previously, while both areas are known for their ultraconservative mores. In 2012, at least 18 people were pulled off buses and massacred in a sectarian attack in Kohistan.

Later that year, a similar atrocity took place in Mansehra. In both attacks, most of the victims were Shia. In 2013, terrorists massacred 10 foreign climbers and one local at the Nanga Parbat base camp, while in 2021 nine Chinese nationals working on the Dasu dam project, along with four locals, were killed in a TTP suicide bombing.

Meanwhile, in September, a militant incursion from Afghanistan was thwarted in Chitral, which also borders GB, resulting in a number of soldiers being martyred. These events show that this particular region of Pakistan is not immune from the terrorist threat.

Complicating matters is the fact that militant activity in the area often has sectarian overtones. Also, GB borders Afghanistan and China as well as India-held Kashmir, making it a target for transnational militant activity.

The threat from militancy will also scuttle the state's plans to promote tourism in the area, affecting the livelihoods of the locals of this beautiful, but economically deprived region. Due to these reasons, it is imperative that the administration take decisive action to root out militancy.

Efforts should be headed by federal counterterrorism agencies, with the involvement of the GB and KP administrations. Locals, particularly in Diamer and Kohistan, need to be on board to ensure that militants have no place to hide. Meanwhile, transporters are of the view that the security provided even to convoys of vehicles is inadequate. This needs to be rectified to ensure the safety of those travelling to and from the region.

New security threats



Arifa Noor

The security situation in Pakistan continues to be of concern. And the decision to repatriate illegal migrants has done little to stem the tide. That the latter is a result of the increasing unease over the former is a message the caretaker governments have been at pains to disseminate.

The decision to zero in on the 'migrants' came shortly after the bloodbath in Mastung in the last week of September, in which nearly 60 people lost their lives. Within days of the attack in Balochistan, APP, the state-owned news agency, reported that "The caretaker government has decided to evict 11 lacs foreigners living illegally in Pakistan because of their involvement in funding, facilitating terrorists and other illegal activities."

"In the first phase, illegal residents, in the second phase, those with Afghan citizenship and in the third phase, those with proof of residence cards will be expelled. 'Illegally [sic] resident foreigners pose a serious threat to the security of Pakistan', said a source privy to the development."

A day later, the interior minister briefed the media after the apex committee meeting. Announcing the Nov 1 deadline he said, "The most important thing that was decided was that the welfare and security of a Pakistani are most important for us over any country or its policy." Once again, he seemed to link the decision to the security situation.

The caretaker prime minister also expressed similar views.

Such statements, which were repeated more than once, were sufficient to link the decision to the deteriorating security situation in Pakistan. And as the focus shifted to the administrative preparations and movement of the migrants, it appeared that the number of attacks also came down. But this was not a permanent shift. By November, it appeared that the attacks were increasing again.

Unfortunately, the caretaker government's constant efforts to link the deportation/return of the migrants with the security situation means that the policy is now being seen as ineffective, coupled as it is with portrayal of the migration as having caused human suffering. This perception is going to be hard to change, especially as the ministers seem unaware of the consequences of their statements.

However, outside of the caretaker set-ups, the matter has set off a larger debate on Islamabad's policy towards Afghanistan and the militancy within, especially by the TTP.

The tense relationship with Afghanistan has now laid to rest all earlier assertions of a better regional environment with the change of regime in Kabul. And it is also leading to serious questions about the larger policy towards the western neighbour.

At the same time, there is a growing debate about the challenge of militancy and its growing complications (compared to what Pakistan dealt with the last time).

For instance, there are increasing reports of the TTP's expansion into Balochistan and what this means for the insurgency there, especially as some reports suggest there may even be cooperation between the

former and Baloch separatist organisations.

Similarly, the TTP has changed its tactics and is now trying to reach out to the people, instead of solely relying on violence. Its use of social media, for example, and outreach on interests of public importance will need a response, which seems to be missing at the moment. The strategy of simply constraining coverage on mainstream media may not prove enough.

On the other hand, what is even more serious is the absence of a clear strategy on the part of the state. After all, there is little space — fiscal or otherwise — to carry out large-scale military operations as in the past.

And frankly, there is little clarity on how effective they may prove this time around, especially as ordinary people are wary of military operations because of what they entail for residents. What are the options in this case and will they prove effective, especially as civilian law-enforcement personnel continue to be short on resources?

A consensus which includes a debate and public buy-in, which will be impossible without getting the political leadership within parliament and outside on board. And it will also require brainstorming on the evolution of the threat and how to address it.

But before any of these steps can be taken, we will need to acknowledge that security issues cannot be viewed as simply administrative matters, where state force will prove sufficient.

The political context in which they arise has to be recognised. Take Balochistan, for example; a political process has to be initiated there. Without that, little will be achieved just through the use of force. — Courtesy Dawn

Bridging Horizons: Economic Strategies and Geopolitical Dynamics

By Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

Have you ever pondered how economic strategies and geopolitical maneuvers shape the world's future? In a landscape where nations grapple with challenges, China seems to be orchestrating a different symphony. Let's embark on a journey through the maze of global infrastructure competition, where economic uniqueness, strategic initiatives, and collaborative endeavors intertwine. In a recent East Asia Forum article, a striking revelation emerges—China's economy dances to its rhythm. While the rest of the world battles inflation, China tactically cuts interest rates to ward off deflation. This distinctive economic strategy showcases China's prowess in navigating global financial currents.

Traditional geopolitics often spawned arms races, but China is charting a new course—an infrastructure competition that diverges from the norm. The global stage witnesses major powers initiating substantial infrastructure projects, challenging conventional paradigms. It's a novel approach that beckons a redefinition of global power dynamics.

Enter the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC), a memorandum signed by eight nations responding to China's Belt and Road Initiative. This ambitious project aims to connect half the world's population and 40% of the global

economy, unfolding as a potential game-changer. It signifies a strategic response to the evolving infrastructure narrative.

The Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), an initiative by G7 countries, takes center stage. With a commitment to mobilize \$600 billion for developing nations by 2027, the US State Department deems projects like the Lobito Corridor and Zambia-Lobito railway in Africa as significant contributors to global progress.

Responding to the Belt and Road Initiative, the EU unveils its \$340 billion Global Gateway investment plan. Positioned as a credible alternative, this plan doesn't merely mimic but introduces a distinctive approach to address global infrastructure gaps. Beyond megaprojects, a tapestry of regional initiatives unfolds. Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific and Partnership for Quality Infrastructure, along with India's regional connectivity endeavors—these smaller strokes contribute to the evolving landscape of global infrastructure development.

Despite geopolitical tensions, collaboration emerges as the defining theme. Organizations like McKinsey and the Asian Development Bank view these projects not as rivalries but as collaborative efforts. The \$26 trillion global infrastructure gap necessitates collective action, fostering a sense of partner-

ship. China's proximity to investment-focused regions and its status as the world's largest trader amplify its influence in the global infrastructure race. The trend initiated by China propels major powers to allocate substantial capital, transforming the global infrastructure landscape.

As investments surge to address the infrastructure gap, opportunities unfold for widespread development and collaboration. Regardless of the financier, these megaprojects promise benefits that extend to various nations, promising a shared journey toward progress. The prevalence of terms like connectivity, corridors, infrastructure, and Belt and Road echoes a trend set by China. This marks a paradigm shift in great power politics, with a significant allocation of capital toward global infrastructure and connectivity projects initiated by China. In the grand symphony of global infrastructure development, China's unique notes resonate, steering the world toward a future where collaboration, innovation, and connectivity redefine the very fabric of progress.

— [The writer, serves as Secretary General of the Pakistan China Friendship Association's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter. With a passion for fostering international bonds, he also lends his expertise as a Senior Media Consultant based in Peshawar, can be contacted through syeed.gilani@gmail.com.]

Commerce News

Planning Minister reviews power sector's progress

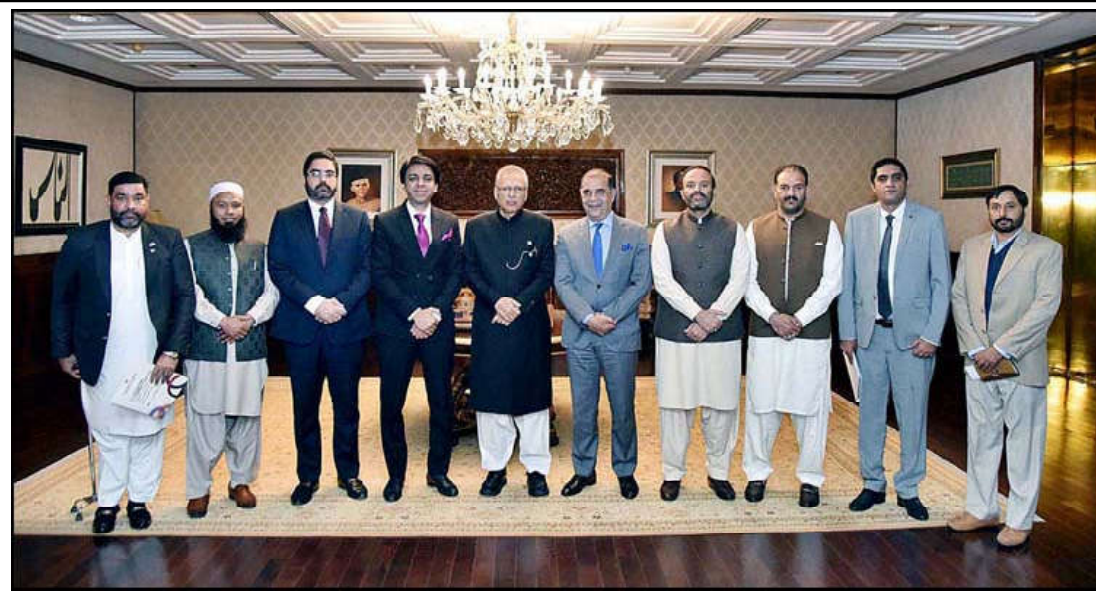
ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the progress of the power sector of the ministry. The Chief Energy Section gave a detailed briefing on current statistics, prevalent policies and new initiatives of the power sector, a news release said.

The Power Section of the Planning Ministry is assigned the tasks of

technical appraisal of the Power Sector's development projects to be considered by the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) and Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC). The Power Section is also involved in planning, policy-formulation process and furnishes comments on CCI, Cabinet, ECC summaries and other reports/intergovernmental agreements. The minister

was also briefed about the prevalent policies in the power sector. In this regard, National Electricity Policy, 2021 was approved in June 2021 by the Council of Common Interests (CCI) which laid down six principles for the growth of the power sector including Efficiency, Transparency, Competition, Financial Viability, Indigenization and Environmental Responsibility. To meet policy goals, principles and underlying directives in the

respective areas as provided in the National Electricity Policy, an objective-oriented National Electricity (NE) Plan has recently been approved by the CCoE in August 2023. The NE Plan envisaged 20 priority areas of intervention including Integrated Energy Planning, System & Market Operations, Electrification, Tariff Design and Subsidy Rationalization. Among the new initiatives being undertaken in the Power



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with a delegation of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Dr Kausar elected President of PAS

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for National Food Security and Research Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik has elected as the 20th unopposed President of Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS).

After scrutinizing and counting the ballot paper, the members of the Ballot Opening Committee formally announced the election of Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik as the President on December 1, 2023, and the other council members as well, said a

press release issued by the Ministry on Tuesday.

Apart from the President, Dr Muhammad Ashraf elected as Vice President, Dr Muhammad Qaiser Vice President, Dr M. Aslam Baig Secretary General, Dr Abdul Raouf Shakoori Associate Secretary General, Dr Saleem Asghar Treasurer, Dr M. Raza Shah Secretary for Sindh, Dr M. Waheed Akhtar Secretary for Punjab and Dr Sardar Khan elected as Secretary for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Dr. Umar holds various meetings in Qatar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif held a meeting with CEO of Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) Mansoor Ebrahim Al-Mansoori in Qatar. They discussed opportunities and mutual collaborations across various sectors during the meeting, said a news release received here on Tuesday. Faisal Al-Thani, QIA CIO of APAC & Africa was also present in the meeting. Meanwhile, Dr. Umar Saif

visited the Qatar Free Zones Authority to explore how Pakistan's IT companies can register in Qatar and use it as a hub for regional business opportunities. During his visit, Dr. Umar Saif met with the CEO of Qatar Free Zones Authority Sheikh Mohammed Al-Thani, Ambassador of Pakistan to Qatar Muhammad Aejaz was also present in the meeting. Dr. Umar Saif also visited the Qatar Science and Technology Park and met with its management to explore how Pakistani

startups can benefit from their incubator and Startup Fund. The two sides agreed to sign an agreement to establish a startup exchange program between Ignite and Qatar Science and Technology Park. The Caretaker Federal Minister for IT Dr. Umar Saif also met with the authorities of Qatar National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) to explore a partnership with Pakistan's newly created National Computer Emergency Response Team (NCERT).



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed chairing a meeting to review progress of Power Sector at the Ministry.

Currently rice export third largest sector in country's economy: REAP leaders

ISLAMABAD (APP): Rice Export Association of Pakistan (REAP) on Tuesday said that rice export is currently the third largest sector in the country's economy, which should be given the status of an industry.

According to the rice exporter organization, REAPs leaders, Pakistan has an export potential of rice worth \$4.5 billion, which can be further improved through the use of technology and modern methods. According to the REAP leaders, government support is necessary to

increase the production of rice in Pakistan and to find new markets, which if fully available, rice export can become the largest sector in Pakistan's economy.

Leaders of REAP in National Press Club Islamabad, including Chairman REAP Chela Ram Kelwani, Group Chairman Sindh Abdul Rahim Janu, Group Chairman Punjab Shahzad Ali Malik, Senior Vice Chairman Haseeb Ali Khan, Vice Chairman Habibur Rahman and other leaders including President National Press Club.

PSX gains 462 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with a bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 462.67 points, a positive change of 0.74 percent, closing at 62,956.03 points against 62,493.05 points the previous trading day.

A total of 765 418,288 shares valuing Rs 30,858 billion were traded during the day as compared to 734,294,598 shares valuing Rs 31,641 billion the last day.

Some 382 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 187 of them recorded gains and 177 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 18 remained unchanged.

Economy steadily progressing towards recovery, revival: Report

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The national economy is steadily progressing along a promising path toward recovery, propelled by the momentum of economic revival initiatives that are fostering a significant surge in economic activity.

According to the "Monthly economic update & outlook November 2023," released by the Ministry of Finance on Tuesday, the positive economic signals and recovery indicators have triggered the market sentiment, propelling the KSE-100 index of PSX by 33% in November, surpassing the 58199-point

mark for the first time in history.

The sustained monetary policy stance and successful International Monetary Fund staff review in November drove the market confidence. Owing to reforms in exchange companies and a reduction in illicit transactions, the exchange rate remains stable thus exerting a positive impact on overall economic activity.

The Large-Scale Manufacturing (LSM) sector demonstrated a positive trend for the second consecutive month while posting a growth of

1.0 percent in September 2023.

After several months of decline, the industry has been on the path of recovery since August 2023.

The stability in the exchange rate, ease in supply disruptions due to the removal of import restrictions, and improved dollar liquidity contributed to this economic upswing.

Meanwhile, in the agriculture sector, the input situation shows positive signs, whereas the farm tractor production and sales witnessed the growth of 55.1 percent (17,098) and 86.8 percent

(17,296), respectively during July-October of fiscal year 2024 over the corresponding period last year.

During October 2023 the 6.8 percent growth in urea and 122 percent in DAP off-take compared to October 2022, indicating a positive growth in Rabi crops.

On the fiscal front, healthy growth in revenues

outpaced the growth in expenditure during the first quarter of current fiscal year. Both tax and non-tax collection attributed to a significant rise in total revenues, however, a substantial increase in non-

tax collection on the back of higher receipts from petroleum levy remained the major source of the increase.

With healthy growth in revenues relative to expenditures, the fiscal deficit reduced to 0.9 percent of GDP during the period from July-September 2023-24 from 1.0 percent of GDP last year.

Primary balances continued to be in surplus and improved to Rs.416.8 billion (0.4 percent of GDP) in the first quarter of fiscal year 2023-24 from Rs.134.7 billion (0.2 percent of GDP) last year.

CM Naqvi chairs cabinet meeting, approves reforms

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, chairing the 33rd provincial cabinet meeting at the Civil Secretariat on Tuesday, addressed crucial matters. The cabinet approved an increase in driving licence fees effective from January 1. Until this date, driving licences will continue to be issued at the existing rates. Starting January 1, the learner fee will surge from Rs 60 to Rs 1000, alongside an increase in LTV, HTV, and PSV licence fees. Residents of the US, Canada, and other countries can obtain a licence online by paying \$100. During the meeting, the cabinet endorsed a transparent lottery system for allocating government land to landless farmers in Cholistan. A substantial 3,44,000 acres of land will be allocated to landless farmers at subsidized rates. Additionally, the cabinet approved the transfer policy for MBBS and BDS students in government medical and dental colleges, allowing transfers only from high-grade merit to low-grade institutions. The management of prison hospitals will be entrusted to the health department and a healthcare system for prisoners was also approved. Funds were greenlit



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

OEK's Korean language Centre generating manpower for Korea: Dr Aamir

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Technical Education, Industries, Commerce and Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Dr. Aamer Abdullah has termed the provincial government and Overseas Employment (OEK) collaboration efforts of imparting the skilled force of the province on Korean language training, a very important and useful. He said that the manpower of the region could be able to gain more opportunities available in various professional and technical fields in Korea through this project. He said that as a result of this effort, hundreds of trained and skilled people of the province can get honorable employment in various fields in the Korean market every year.

to double the number of nursing students, and a management committee for the Institute of Public Health Lahore was established. The cabinet renewed the agreement between the Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department and the Recep Tayyip Erdogan Health Trust for the operation of Regional Blood Centers in Multan and Bahawalpur. Decisions were made to elevate Children's Hospital Faisalabad to the status of a medical institute under the Punjab Medical and Health Institutions Act 2003. The establishment of PKLI-2 for South Punjab in Multan Institute of Kidney Diseases was also confirmed.

Governor inaugurates swimming pool

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman on Tuesday inaugurated the newly constructed swimming pool of Bahawalpur Gymkhana. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the swimming pool was a good addition for the club members. The governor said that a committee had been formed to affiliate Lahore Gymkhana with Bahawal Gymkhana. He appreciated the efforts of office bearers of Bahawal Gymkhana in making the club more beautiful. The governor said that Bahawal Gymkhana was a useful recreational facility for the people of the area. Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur, Zaher Anwar Jappa briefing the governor told that the funds of the gymkhana had been used transparently and all office bearers had performed their duties with dedication. Commissioner Bahawalpur, Dr Ehtesham Anwar, General Secretary Ejaz Nazim and others were also present.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman in a group photo with position holders of Flower Show organized by Horticulture Society of Pakistan at Jilani Park.

CM KP Arshad chairs meeting Meeting deliberates on strengthening police force in merged districts

PESHAWAR (APP): An important meeting to review law and order in the province, and deliberate upon the matters related to strengthening of police force in merged districts, was held here on Tuesday with the Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice Syed Arshad Hussain Shah in the chair. Besides, Caretaker Provincial Ministers Dr Aamir Abdullah, Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Inspector General of Police Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur, Additional Chief Secretary

Home Muhammad Abid Majeed, and other senior officials attended the meeting. Divisional Commissioners and Regional Police Officers participated in the meeting via video link. The meeting was briefed in detail on the overall situation of law and order, challenges.

opportunities in various professional and technical fields in Korea. Dr. Abdullah expressed confidence that, as a result of this effort, hundreds of trained individuals from the province would secure honorable employment in the Korean market annually. During a visit to the Government Technical and Vocational Centre (GTVN) in Peshawar, the minister proposed the establishment of a provincial organization or cell, modelled after the OEK, under the Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA).

KP Caretaker Minister lauds collaboration with overseas employment corporation

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: The caretaker minister for Technical Education, Industries, Commerce, and Newly Merged Districts Affairs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr. Aamer Abdullah, has commended the joint initiative between the provincial government and the Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC) for Korean language training. He emphasized the significance of this collaboration, stating that it opens doors for the region's workforce to access numerous

KPCS condemns Warsak Road blast

PESHAWAR (Online): Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry on Tuesday condemned the blast on Warsak Road and promptly sought a detailed report from authorities. He directed district administration, police, and other law enforcement agencies (LEAs) to maintain heightened vigilance in the area. The Chief Secretary prayed for swift recovery of the injured and instructed hospital administration to provide the best possible medical care to them. The Chief Secretary highlighted the sacrifices rendered by the general public and LEAs in establishing peace and tranquility in KPK.

Punjab Governor says: Govt is committed for promotion of health activities

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman distributed shields and trophies to the prize winners of flower show, organized by the Horticultural Society of Pakistan at Jilani Park, in a ceremony held at Governor House Lahore. Vice-Chairman Horticulture Society of Pakistan, Abrar Mumtaz, Secretary General, Tariq Jilani, Convener Sajid Sambal, Marketing Head Shaista Khawar, Chairman Millat Tractor Limited Sikandar Mustafa Khan and others were present in the event. While addressing the ceremony, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the government is committed to the promotion of healthy activities. He said that the Walled City of Lahore under the leadership of Director General Walled City of Lahore Authority is doing a good job by promoting cultural activities and tourism in Lahore. Governor Punjab said that public private partnership is a successful model in Pakistan, adding that PHA and other institutions can work on various projects through public-private partnership. Governor Punjab said that flowers are one of the beautiful and priceless gifts of nature.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi enquiring about medical facilities from mother of under treatment children at Children Emergency during his visit to Mayo Hospital.

Doctors' protest against attack on clinic of Dr. Ranjeet

Independent Report
MIRPUR MATHELO: Mirpur Mathelo doctors' protest against the attack on the clinic of child specialist Dr. Ranjeet Kumar, all private hospitals closed, doctors' protested on the assurance of SSP Ghotki, demanding the arrest of the attackers, Dr. Meher Chand, Dr. Satiyaan, Dr. Om Prakash, Dr. Jai Kishan, Dr. Bhajanlal and others held a press conference with Dr. Ranjit Kumar against the alleged attack on the clinic of child specialist Dr. Ranjit Kumar in Mirpur Mathelo. While saying that yesterday, a man named Shahid came to Lady Dr. Sapna for an ultrasound due to the premature delivery of his wife, on whose normal report he left, returned in the evening with four colleagues and rushed to the private hospital. They tortured me mercilessly and ransacked the hospital and ran away. Clinics have been opened so that ordinary patients do not have to face difficulties.

International News

Gazans running out of safe places: UN official

NORTHERN (Online): Palestinians in Gaza have been left with virtually nowhere to go as the Israeli army continues its offensive in the enclave following the end of a truce with Hamas, a UN official has said. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) is shifting its focus to the southern part of Gaza and has urged the population to evacuate. However, Palestinians and human rights groups have condemned the move after the area was initially declared a safe zone when Israel launched retaliatory strikes following the Hamas attack of October 7. The head of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in Gaza (UNRWA), Thomas White, said on Monday that "people are pleading for advice on where to find safety. We have nothing to tell them." According to media reports, heavy fighting has taken place near the largest city in southern Gaza, Khan Younis, around 10km from the Rafah border crossing with Egypt. The IDF warned Gazans on Monday that some areas in the north and east of Khan Younis are "extremely dangerous," offering them a way to a reach refugee camp in the Rafah district. The same day, White said the humanitarian situation "worsens by the hour" as another wave of displacement was underway and the roads leading

toward the border crossing were "clogged with cars and donkey carts." He added that even in Rafah "the sound of airstrikes punctuates the day." The UN official declared on Tuesday that Rafah, which normally has a population of 280,000, "will not cope" with the influx as it is already hosting around 470,000 displaced persons. Meanwhile, Palestinian telecom provider PalTel announced "a complete disruption of communication services" in Gaza due to Israeli bombing. The company later reported that services in the central and southern regions of the enclave were gradually being restored "after being cut off from the Israeli side."



GAZA: A man carrying dead body of a child who martyred during Israeli attack.

Qatar pushing to repair truce, bring comprehensive end to Gaza war

Monitoring Desk
DOHA: Qatar is pressing for a comprehensive end to the war in Gaza and is working to repair a collapsed truce agreement between Israel and Hamas, its emir said on Tuesday. "We are constantly working to renew (the truce) and to alleviate the burden of our people in the Gaza Strip, but truces are not an alternative for a comprehensive ceasefire," Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani said in a speech to Gulf leaders gathered in the Qatari capital Doha. Qatar, where several political leaders of Hamas are based, has been leading negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian militant group. Those talks led to a truce that ultimately lasted for seven days before hostilities resumed on Friday. During the truce, Hamas released dozens of hostages held in Gaza in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, and Israel allowed humanitarian aid to flow into the coastal enclave.

Former US ambassador charged with spying for Cuba

Monitoring Desk
MIAMI: A former US ambassador to Bolivia and member of the National Security Council has been charged with spying for Cuba for 40 years, the Justice Department announced on Monday. The charges against Victor Manuel Rocha, 73, "exposes one of the highest-reaching and longest-lasting infiltrations of the United States government by a foreign agent," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement explaining the charges. Rocha, a naturalised US citizen originally from Colombia, allegedly began aiding Havana as a "covert agent of Cuba's General Directorate of Intelligence" in 1981, and his espionage activities continued to the present, the statement said. "Those who have the privilege of serving in the government of the United States are given an enormous amount of trust by the public we serve," Garland said.



BEIJING: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in a group photo with Ambassadors of European Union and its member countries.

Israel mulls flooding Hamas tunnels - WSJ

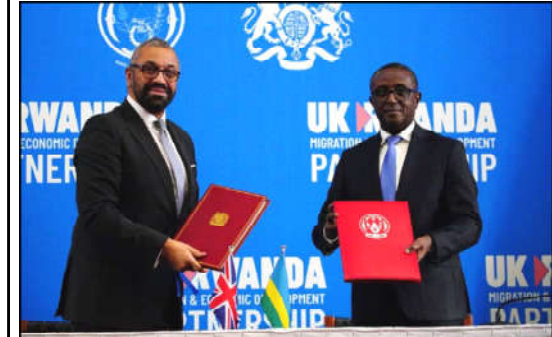
NEW YORK (Online): Israel is considering using seawater to flood the extensive network of tunnels under Gaza, used by Hamas militants to smuggle goods in and out of the Palestinian enclave, the Wall Street Journal reported on Monday, citing sources. According to US officials interviewed by the paper, the Israeli military assembled an extensive flooding system not far from the Al-Shati refugee camp in northwest Gaza in mid-November. The unit reportedly consists of five pumps capable of drawing thousands of cubic meters of water per hour from the Mediterranean Sea, potentially allowing Israel to flood the underground maze within a few weeks. The Israeli government informed the US, its key ally,

of the initiative last month, sparking debate about whether the plan was feasible, as well as its pros and cons, WSJ sources said. They noted that no final decision on its execution has yet been made and that it is unclear how ready Israel is to implement it. The plan, the report says, could drive Hamas fighters out of the sprawling system of tunnels, which span hundreds of kilometers, with some passages reaching into Egypt. The network also provides Hamas and other local Islamist groups with formidable cover from missile strikes and allows them to evade Israel's blockade. Some tunnels are tall enough for an average man to stand up in, are built from reinforced concrete, and boast a network of communication lines. However, some US officials are said to have serious doubts about the plan. "We are not sure how successful pumping will be, since nobody knows the details of the tunnels and the ground around them," one source said. Meanwhile, Jon Alterman, a senior vice-president at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, warned in a WSJ interview that it was hard to estimate how much seawater would seep into the ground or what impact the pumping would have on water and sewage infrastructure. This sentiment was echoed by Wim Zwijnenburg, an environmental expert, who noted that the flooding could wash hazardous materials out of the tunnels, further contaminating the soil.

ever, some US officials are said to have serious doubts about the plan. "We are not sure how successful pumping will be, since nobody knows the details of the tunnels and the ground around them," one source said. Meanwhile, Jon Alterman, a senior vice-president at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, warned in a WSJ interview that it was hard to estimate how much seawater would seep into the ground or what impact the pumping would have on water and sewage infrastructure. This sentiment was echoed by Wim Zwijnenburg, an environmental expert, who noted that the flooding could wash hazardous materials out of the tunnels, further contaminating the soil.

China says Afghan Taliban must reform before full diplomatic ties

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China said on Tuesday Afghanistan's Taliban government will need to introduce political reforms, improve security and mend relations with its neighbours before receiving full diplomatic recognition. Beijing does not formally recognise Afghanistan's Taliban rulers, although both countries host each others' ambassadors and have maintained diplomatic engagement. "China has always believed that Afghanistan should not be excluded from the international community," foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said on Tuesday when asked if China would now recognise the Taliban government. "We hope that Afghanistan will further respond to the expectations of the international community, build an open and inclusive political structure (and) implement moderate and stable domestic and foreign policies," he said. Wang also said China urged Kabul to "resolutely combat all types of terrorist forces, live in harmony with all countries around the world, especially neighbouring countries, and integrate with the international community at an early date".



British Home Secretary James Cleverly and Rwandan Minister of Foreign Affairs Vincent Biruta sign a new treaty, in Kigali, Rwanda.

Senior EU official warns of huge security risk in Europe over Christmas as Israel-Hamas war rages

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: Europe faces a "huge risk of terrorist attacks" over the Christmas holiday period due to the fallout from the war between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas, the European Union's home affairs commissioner warned Tuesday. The warning came as French investigators probe a fatal weekend attack near the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Questions were raised about the mental health of the suspect, who swore allegiance to the extremist Islamic State group before stabbing a German-Filipino tourist to death and injuring two other people with a hammer. "With the war between Israel and Hamas, and the polarization it causes in our society, with the upcoming holiday season, there is a huge risk of terrorist attacks in the European Union," EU Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson told reporters. "We saw (it happening) recently in Paris, unfortunately we have seen it earlier as well," she said, as EU interior ministers gathered in Brussels.

11 hikers die as volcano erupts in Indonesia

Monitoring Desk
AGAM: Eleven hikers were found dead on Monday and another 12 were missing after a volcano erupted in Indonesia, with rescuers racing to carry injured and burned survivors down the mountain on foot. Rescuers worked through the night to find dozens of hikers stranded on Mount Marapi on the island of Sumatra after it spewed an ash tower 3,000 metres (9,340 feet) — taller than the volcano itself — into the sky on Sunday.

Putin to visit UAE, Saudi Arabia this week

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia this week, Russian news outlet Shot reported on Monday, citing Putin's aide Yuri Ushakov. The reported visit comes after the OPEC+ group of oil producers, which includes all three countries, agreed last Thursday to voluntary output cuts totalling 2.2 million barrels a day.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing an awareness event "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence and Harassment of Women" organized by the Federal Ombudsman Secretariat for Protection Against Harassment (FOSPAH) at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

DRAP approves registration of life-saving medicines

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the direction of Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan, major progress has been made to ensure the availability of life-saving medicines.

According to the spokesperson of the Ministry of Health, Dr Nadeem Jan had issued orders for the registration of medicines on an emergency basis to improve the supply of these medicines.

He said that on the instructions of the Minister for Health, Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has approved the cases for registration on a priority basis.

The registration will help supply diabetes and anticancer drugs in the market.

He said that the DRAP approved the registration of anesthesia injections and anti-cancer drugs.

He said that the authority also approved anti-cancer drugs for import and local manufacturing.

He said that the registration board approved the registration of influenza vaccines, heparin and enoxaparin injections.

He said that the registration of the new anti-diabetic drug Semaglutide injection was also approved.

The registration of these drugs will significantly improve the provision of anti-cancer, diabetes and life-saving drugs.

He said that an uninterrupted supply of life-saving medicines will be ensured.

He said that the government is taking all necessary steps to ensure the availability of life-saving medicines.

Dr. Nadeem Jan said that the government is building a pharma park for the production and promotion of medicines locally.

He said that concrete steps are also being taken to increase the capacity of the pharma industry.

Sanjrani, Iraqi Ambassador discuss bilateral relations, current situation in Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Mohammad Sadiq Sanjrani and Ambassador of Iraq, Hamid Abbas Lafta, on Tuesday discussed bilateral relations, issues of mutual interest, and current developments, including the situation in Palestine.

Chairman Sanjrani said that the ties between Pakistan and Iraq were rooted in religion, brotherhood, Islamic culture, and mutual respect, highlighting shared values.

He said that Pakistan attached great importance to the long-standing brotherly relations with Iraq. In the meeting, there was also a detailed discussion regarding the further enhancement of bilateral trade.

The chairman expressed admiration for the resilience of the Iraqi people, acknowledging their steadfastness in addressing their challenges. He stressed the need to enhance direct air links between Pakistan and Iraq.

The chairman asked international powers to put pressure on Israel to stop the genocide of innocent Palestinians and end the siege of Gaza immediately, facilitating the supply of food and medicine.

Harassment-free workspace vital for women's financial empowerment: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday termed financially-empowered women an important contributor to socio-economic development and their emancipation necessitated a harassment-free environment at workplaces.

"The State and the society need to provide every woman a safe and secure space in public and domestic domains where they could thrive amid equal opportunities," he said in his address here at an event organized by the Federal Ombudsman Secretariat for Protection Against Harassment (FOSPAH).

President Alvi said it was the responsibility of both the State and society to bring a change in attitudes that promoted gender-based harassment.

He said the empowerment of women had several facets including the right to ample representation in financial, political, and leadership spheres.

The president said denial of property and inheritance rights to women was against the injunctions of Islam and the country's law and needed to be reported at legal forums such as FOSPAH.

He said Islam enunciated equal rights to women some 1,400 years ago and supported their participation in all fields of life.

The president quoted the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah as saying "No nation can rise to the height of glory unless your women are side by side with you."

He termed 'honour killings' of women a criminal act that required a change of behaviours against several social taboos.

Dr Alvi emphasized the role of media in promoting awareness about gender harassment through talk shows, television dramas and cultural programmes.

He proposed that the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority could be taken on board for relaying short messaging services to cellular phone consumers on awareness about gender harassment.

State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) Deputy Governor Saleem Ullah said women could prove themselves as a productive workforce in achieving the goals of a stable economy.

He mentioned that SBP in three years provided training to women on digital finance at their doorsteps and was endeavouring to open accounts for 9.3 million women in collaboration with Benazir Income Support Programme.

Chairperson FOSPAH said the organization was redressing the grievances about harassment at workplace and the women's property rights within 90 days and without any fee.



ISLAMABAD: The spiritual leader of Dawoodi Bohra Community, Dr. Sayedna Mufaddal Saifuddin called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

COP-28 negotiations enter tense mode, Loss & Damage Fund secretariat notified: Dr Suleri

DUBAI (APP): Executive Director of Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri Tuesday said that after five days of constant negotiations at the COP-28, the excitement of the international forum had converted into a tension on the negotiating text based on diverging opinions of different delegates.

In his online interaction with media persons here from Dubai, Dr Suleri, who is regularly sharing his views on the official discussions at the COP-28, said tension prevails among the negotiators this time especially on the global goals and means of adaptation not only between the developing and developed countries but also between G-77 states and China.

However, he said, the Santiago Network, which was set up to provide technical support on the implementation of Loss and Damage Fund, finally decided its secretariat to be placed under the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

PML-Q eyes 'seat adjustment' with PML-N

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) is eyeing 'seat adjustment' with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in the general election 2024. Sources said the PML-Q is considering seat adjustment with the PML-N on more than two National Assembly and Punjab Assembly seats in Gujrat. It emerged that Chaudhry Shafay Hussain wants to contest the election on both MPA seats from Gujrat. PML-Q chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain is expected to meet former three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif to discuss the 'seat adjustment'. It is to be noted that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's Parliamentary Board has already opposed seat adjustment with the PML-Q.

The general elections will be held on February 8, 2024. The date was mutually agreed upon during a meeting between the chief election commissioner and the president of Pakistan on the directions of the Supreme Court. On Monday evening, sources claimed that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Jamiat Ulema-Islam (JUI-F) have agreed on a seat-to-seat adjustment formula after talks between Nawaz Sharif and Maulana Fazlur Rehman.



HYDERABAD: President Sindh Abadgar Board, Mahmood Nawaz Shah addressing a press conference at HPC.

DIG Police Larkana range paid surprise visits to police stations

LARKANA (APP): DIG Police Larkana range paid surprise visits to police stations of Kashmore-Kandhkot and Shikarpur districts Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP) Larkana Range Nasir Aftab on Wednesday paid a surprise visit to Kandhkot A-section and B-Section police stations of Shikarpur district to review the performance of police officers.

During the visits, DIGP Larkana checked various registers of the police stations, including the daily register (Roznamcha register), and FIR boxes. DIG Larkana emphasized on cleaning and maintenance of arms and ammunition.

He instructed the officials to take effective measures to facilitate the public and to provide relief to the masses. The DIG Nasir Aftab said that surprise inspections would continue to ensure better quality of service delivery at all times.

SHC orders KMC to end 'illegal' charged parking

KARACHI (INP): Sindh High Court (SHC) on Tuesday ordered Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) to end 'illegal' charged parking across the port city.

A single bench of SHC Judge Justice Nadeem Akhtar was hearing the case related to 'illegal' charged parking in Karachi.

The court asked KMC counsel how they can receive parking fees in areas that don't fall under its jurisdiction.

When you cannot maintain roads in the area then how come you charging fees?

The SHC while summoning details of the parking fees and a concrete plan about it, adjourned the further hearing of the case until December 13.

PTI announces to intensify peaceful political activities nationwide

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Core Committee has announced its commitment to intensify peaceful political activities nationwide, firmly opposing any election rigging by administrative officers. The committee, in a statement released on Tuesday after its meeting extended congratulations to all officials, including the newly-elected Chairman, Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, who secured an unopposed election following the nomination by PTI founder Imran Khan.

The Core Committee affirmed its unwavering support for Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and conveyed good wishes for his tenure. The decision to nominate Khan, described as a competent and loyal worker of the Jamaat, was hailed by Imran Khan, who has disrupted the longstanding trend of hereditary politics in the country.

Imran Khan, the founder chairman, has been granted a lifelong post as chairman by the Core Committee. Emphasizing the need for peaceful political engagement, the committee has greenlit a workers' convention in Punjab, following a similar event in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Instructions have been issued to organizational officials to expedite the organization of workers' conventions in Punjab, expressing serious concern over any potential delays.



Licenses of dealers involved in smuggling of fertilizer in Ghotki to be cancelled

By Tanveer Ahmed Soomro

MIRPUR MATHELO: Licenses of dealers involved in smuggling of fertilizer in district Ghotki will be cancelled, order to set up check post at Ubauro toll plaza, officers of agriculture department should play an active role, there will be no smuggling of fertilizer. According to the details, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Ghotki Agha Sher Zaman regarding shortage of fertilizer and black marketing in which assistant commissioners, officers of agriculture department, representatives of fertilizer companies and farmers and dealers participated.

On this occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that the quota of fertilizer received by Ghotki district should not be transferred out in any case. If any dealer tries to transfer urea to other districts, his license will be revoked.

The Additional Director of Agriculture strictly instructed to set up a check post at Ubauro Toll Plaza, not to allow any vehicle to pass without seeing the invoice and bill, to oblige all dealers to sell fertilizers under open counter. Any kind of negligence will not be tolerated in this. He asked the representatives of the fertilizer companies to increase the quota during December and January so that the problems of the farmers can be reduced.

Karachiites advised to wear masks amid worsening air quality

KARACHI (INP): With the province's capital city experiencing high levels of air pollution, health experts have urged the general public to restrict their outdoor activities and wear masks to protect themselves from the deteriorating levels of air quality.

The health experts described Karachi's air quality as "very unhealthy" and advised citizens to reduce the intensity of outdoor activities especially during peak pollution times. Jinnah Sindh Medical University (JSMU) Vice Chancellor Prof. Amjad Siraj Memon urged the government to implement strict regulations to reduce pollution levels. The advice came after Karachi ranked 5th most polluted city in the world on the Air Quality Index (AQI) on Tuesday morning. Karachi was measured to have 177 reading of particulate matter on the air quality index.

Secretary agriculture assures of action against fertilizer hoarders

HYDERABAD (APP): The Sindh Secretary of Agriculture Syed Aijaz Ali Shah has said the government has fixed the buying price of sugarcane crop at Rs 425 per 40 kilograms.

Chairing a meeting at Shahbaz Building here on Tuesday, attended by the representatives of Sindh Abadgar Board and Sindh Chamber of Agriculture, said the purpose of the meeting was also to listen to complaints of the farmers.

The Secretary apprised the meeting that he had written to the Sindh Chief Secretary to approve the Provincial Advisory Board, adding that he would soon seek approval for constituting the district advisory boards which would hold monthly meetings to discuss agriculture-related issues.



NAUNDERO: Students take keen interest in books during Book Fair organized by Social Awareness Development Association held at Public Park in Naundero.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori giving away file of a plot to a woman during a prize distribution ceremony of Jashne-e-Azadi Rally.

Regional head Federal Ombudsman visits State Life, NADRA offices

HYDERABAD (APP): The Regional Head of the Federal Ombudsman Hyderabad office Dr Syed Rizwan Ahmed visited the building of the State Life Insurance Corporation and the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) which is located inside the corporation's building.

During the visit, he interacted with the public and asked them to share if they faced any problems with the services offered by the two federal organizations.

He directed the corporation's officials to set up a separate counter for female clients. The Regional Head also directed the staff of NADRA to be have concerning the people visiting their office to obtain the NIC card.

Commissioner directs to carry out Survey of land, encroachments on Badin Stop

HYDERABAD (APP): In accordance with the directives of Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh during his visit to Hyderabad regarding encroachments and construction of bus terminal on Badin Bus Stop, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Commissioner Hyderabad Syed Khalid Hyder Shah in his office on Tuesday.

Commissioner Hyderabad directed the director Settlement Survey to conduct a survey of land and encroachments on the Badin Bus Stop with the help of the Revenue Department, HMC, Police Secretary Regional Transport Authority the land and chalk out a plan for the construction of Bus terminal on the Badin Bus Stop.

DIG Hyderabad division, SSP Hyderabad, DC Hyderabad, Secretary RTA and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

"We first survey the assigned land of 10.6 acres of Badin stop" said Commissioner Hyderabad. For that Commissioner Hyderabad issued the directions to Director Settlement Mohammad Bux Dharejo to commence the survey of the land.

Meeting of Larkana Municipal Corporation held

LARKANA (APP): A meeting of the Larkana Municipal Corporation (LMC) was held on Tuesday, at newly established conference hall of the corporation's office, chaired by Mayor LMC Anwer Ali Nawaz Lohar, Lehar in which 32 members of the council and concerned officers attended the meeting.

In the meeting, various agendas were presented in the house by the concerned members regarding development in the city and office matters, in which CC drains, paver blocks, street lighting and park maintenance in different areas of the city, supply of required electric equipment and material. Another agenda of the sanitation system in the areas was presented, while the government projects were also presented, including the repair of the office damaged during the heavy rains in 2022.



LARKANA: Participants are holding awareness walk on the occasion of World Soil Day led by Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Agricultural College Dokri Principal Dr. Sultan Metlo, held at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.

Awareness walk held to mark Voters Day

SUKKUR (INP): The District Election Commission Sukkur organized a walk here on Tuesday from Minara Road to Sukkur Press Club on the occasion of Voters Day to create awareness among the masses to register their votes and to play their vital role in electing the rulers during elections.

District Election Commissioner Azizullah Abbasi, Government officials, scouts, members of civil society a large number of political and social workers, and elected representatives participated in the walk.

District Election Commissioner Abbasi said that the Election Commission of Pakistan has taken an initiative to enhance the turnout of voters in upcoming general elections by introducing the District Voters Education Committee in every district of the country.

The committee comprises different stakeholders of the district who are working as a volunteer to educate the citizens about the voter registration process and the importance of the vote.

The purpose of introducing the District Voters Education Committee was to create awareness among citizens for using their right to vote and to facilitate them to register their vote in the District Election Commission office before the announcement of the next elections.