

CM Naqvi visits civil hospital, reviews various development projects in Sialkot

SIALKOT (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi paid a detailed visit to Government Sardar Begum Civil Hospital Sialkot and Allama Iqbal Medical Teaching Hospital here on Wednesday and also reviewed various development projects.

The chief minister came to know during the visit that Sardar Begum Hospital lacked medical facilities; beds were damaged and walls were dilapidating. Due to the sewerage passing through the hospital, there was a smell of sewerage water everywhere and students classrooms were in poor condition.

The attendants of the patients were forced to sit on the floor. Taking notice

of the situation, Mohsin Naqvi announced the hospital and redesign of the hospital and said Sardar Begum Civil Hospital would be upgraded soon. It would cost Rs 210 million, and 21,000 square feet area of the hospital would be upgraded.

CM Mohsin Naqvi visited various wards, met patients and inquired about the treatment facilities in hospital. He inspected the Emergency, ICU, Gynecology, Lab and other wards. He also went to the basement, ground and first floor and expressed his displeasure over the bad condition of the classrooms. The CM listened to problems of elderly woman in hospital and gave instructions to the

deputy commissioner to solve them. The chief minister also visited Allama Iqbal Medical Teaching Hospital and reviewed progress on upgradation project of the hospital. He inspected the ongoing construction activities in the hospital and said that the upgradation project of Allama Iqbal Teaching Hospital would cost Rs. 700 million. He said that the 65 per cent of upgradation work at Allama Iqbal Teaching Hospital had been completed. Naqvi said that 100,000 square feet area of Allama Iqbal Teaching Hospital would be revamped while the remaining 50,000 square feet area of the hospital would be upgraded in the second phase.



SIALKOT: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab, Mohsin Naqvi is visiting Allama Iqbal Teaching Hospital.

Govt. spending hefty amount on health sector to benefit people: Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali Wednesday said the government was spending a hefty amount to improve the healthcare system for the facilitation and benefit of the masses.

He was addressing the convocation of Rehman Medical College as a Chief Guest. The ceremony was also attended by Caretaker Health Minister, Qasim Jan, Health Advisor, Dr Riaz Anwar, Vice Chancellor Khyber Medical University,

Dr Zia-ul-Haq, Chairman RMI, Dr Muhammad Rehman, faculty members, and students. He said that a maximum portion of the budget was being spent on health as the government must ensure the provision of health facilities to people.

Governor lauded the position of RMI in the medical field and said that the medical profession is being given due respect by society and doctors must work for maximum relief of ailing community adding dedication and attitude of

Minister emphasizes pivotal role of research in societal impact

LAHORE (APP): In a compelling address at the Lahore Garrison University's two-day conference on Frontiers in Applied Biological Sciences on Wednesday, Caretaker Punjab Health Minister Professor Dr. Javed Akram emphasized the pivotal role of research in societal impact.

He underscored the importance of collaboration between academia and industry, particularly in the vast field of biological sciences.

Dr. Akram highlighted the urgency for Pakistan to focus on biotechnology, expressing concern over the absence of a single biotechnology

plant in the country compared to China's 3,000 facilities. Propelled by the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi, Dr. Akram revealed plans to establish biotechnology parks in Pakistan.

Anticipating Pakistan becoming the world's third-largest country in population within two decades, Dr. Akram emphasized the need for progress in gene editing and improving lab skills. He announced a comprehensive screening program, making Thalassaemia screening mandatory for every class 10 student across the province.



HYDERABAD: Journalists of Hyderabad Press Club are gathered and waiting for their turn to get their driving license during Computerized Driving License Camp at press club premises in Hyderabad.

Symposium held to promote the Tourism and Cultural heritage of Chitral

PESHAWAR (Online): Wali Khan were the Chief guest.

Secretary Tourism Mutahir Zaib, DG Tourism Barkatullah Marwat, GM planning and Marketing Ali Syed, GM Culture and Tourism Sajjad Hameed and Manager Events Haseena Shaikat also graced the event. Tourism and information Minister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel, addressing the ceremony, emphasized the need to promote tourism. He stated that the event was arranged to showcase the rich culture of Chitral.



LAHORE: Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi and Dr Arshad Muhammad are giving a briefing to the media about the performance of the department at Ombudsman office.

Minister for NMDs chairs steering committee meeting

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Newly Merged Districts, Industries, Commerce and Technical Education Dr. Aamir Abdullah chaired a meeting of the Special Steering Committee formed regarding Newly Merged Districts at Civil Secretariat here on Wednesday.

During the meeting, the committee reviewed

progress on various tasks assigned to relevant departments by the Special Task Force and Steering Committee in previous decisions. Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development Department Syed Intiaz Hussain Shah, officers of the Pakistan Army, secretaries of the Department of Health, Industry, Irrigation, Communications.

Five SHOs reshuffled in DI Khan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Station House Officers (SHOs) of five police stations in Dera Ismail Khan were reshuffled on Wednesday.

According to the police spokesman, District Police Officer Dera, Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani issued transfer and posting orders of five SHOs.

Two bodies found in Ghazi Brotha water channel

ATTOCK (APP): Police have found two bodies in the Ghazi Brotha water channel in an unrecognizable, mutilated condition on Wednesday.

According to Police, the Attock Saddar Police Station reported two dead bodies found in the Ghazi Brotha water channel in a mutilated condition within the limits of Attock.

LHC seeks reply from govt, others on plea against doctors' strike

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Wednesday sought a reply from the Punjab government and other respondents on a petition against young doctors' strike in government hospitals till December 18.

The court also sought reports from medical superintendents of the hospitals concerned in connection with the matter.

Justice Ali Baqar Najafi heard the petition filed by a citizen, Zeeshan,

DC launches 5-day anti polio campaign

PESHAWAR (APP): Deputy Commissioner Lakki Marwat Rehmat Ali, alongside District Health Officer Dr. Abdu Gul and other health department officials, officially kicked off a five-day anti-polio campaign on Wednesday.

He started the campaign by administering anti-polio drops to a child here at DC office. The anti-polio drive will continue till December 18, which aims to vaccinate all children under the age of five.

Deputy Commissioner Rehmat Ali appealed to the parents to ensure the administration.

International News

Nations reach deal at COP28 to transition away from fossil fuels

DUBAI: Representatives from nearly 200 countries agreed at the COP28 climate summit on Wednesday to begin reducing global consumption of fossil fuels to avert the worst of climate change, a first-of-its-kind deal signaling the eventual end of the oil age.

The deal struck in Dubai after two weeks of hard-fought negotiations was meant to send a powerful signal to investors and policy-makers that the world is united in its desire to break with fossil fuels, something scientists say is the last best hope

to stave off climate catastrophe.

COP28 President Sultan Al Jaber called the deal "historic" but added that its true success would be in its implementation. "We are what we do, not what we say," he told the crowded plenary at the summit. "We must take the steps necessary to turn this agreement into tangible actions." Several countries cheered the deal for accomplishing something elusive in decades of climate talks. "It is the first time that the world unites around such a clear text on the need to transition away from fossil fu-

els," said Norway Minister of Foreign Affairs Espen Barth Eide.

More than 100 countries had lobbied hard for strong language in the COP28 agreement to "phase out" oil, gas and coal use, but came up against powerful opposition from the Saudi Arabia-led oil producer group OPEC, which argued that the world can slash emissions without shunning specific fuels.

That battle pushed the summit a full day into overtime on Wednesday, and had some observers worried the negotiations would end at an impasse.



HANOI: President Xi Jinping and Nguyen Phu Trong, Vietnam Communist Party's General Secretary, attend a welcome ceremony at the Presidential Palace.

Biden backs Ukraine, warns against allowing Putin to win

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden told Republican and Democrat in Congress, signaled cautious optimism that the stalled US aid flow will restart. "I got the signals. They were more than positive. But we know that we have to separate words and particular results. Therefore we will count on particular results," Zelensky said.

But the united front at the White House contrasted with growing division up on Capitol Hill, where leading Republicans are insisting that renewing Ukraine aid will depend on Democrats.

Japan PM to axe ministers over fundraising scandal

TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Wednesday announced he would make changes to his cabinet as he seeks to stem the fallout from a fundraising scandal that has further dented public support for his embattled administration.

The premier told a press conference he would make the changes on Thursday, just three months after a previous cabinet overhaul.

"I will take the lead in fighting to rebuild the ways of the Liberal Democratic Party to restore trust in politics."

Human Rights Watch call on UK to halt arms exports to Israel

LONDON: Human Rights Watch and other civil society groups have called on the UK government to stop transfers of arms to Israel, amid concerns that they might be used to commit "war crimes" against Palestinians. It comes as Israel continues its two-month-long campaign of airstrikes and ground assaults in Gaza, during which more than 17,000 Palestinians, many of them women and children, have been killed, according to Palestinian officials.

In a detailed letter on Tuesday, the groups said that since 2015, UK au-

thorities have authorized sales of military equipment to Israel worth at least £474 million (\$595 million), including components for combat aircraft, missiles and tanks, other technology, and small arms and ammunition. "The UK provides approximately 15 percent of the components in the F-35 stealth bomber aircraft currently being used in Gaza, including the rear fuselage and active interceptor system, ejector seats, aircraft tires, refueling probe, laser-targeting system, and the fan propulsion system," it said.



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Finance Minister Christian Lindner, and Economy and Climate Minister Robert Habeck present the 2024 budget in Berlin, Germany.

Security breach in Indian parliament, man jumps into lawmakers' area

NEW DELHI: A man jumped into the lawmakers' area of the lower house of India's parliament on Wednesday, in a major security breach on the 22nd anniversary of a deadly attack on the complex.

TV channels showed a man wearing a black jacket jump from the visitors' area into the lawmakers' seating area, climbing over tables of lawmakers.

White and yellow coloured smoke could be seen in the chambers in a photograph posted on social media by a lawmaker and shown on India Today TV channel.

Lawmakers told TV channels that the intruder

shouted some slogans they could not make out and there was a sound and some smoke.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was not in parliament at the time. India Today said the intruder had smoke cans hidden in his shoes and lawmakers fled the chambers as the cans released smoke.

TV channels showed the man jumping over two rows of lawmakers and trying to enter the aisles by evading security personnel. The man was later shown being taken away by police outside the building. The lower house stopped proceedings soon after the incident but resumed business about an hour later.



Mahsa Amini's representative, Iranian lawyer Saleh Nikbakht, European Parliament President Roberta Metsola, Afsoon Najafi and Mersedeh Shahinkar from the "Women, Life, Freedom" movement in Iran pose during the 2023 European Parliament's Sakharov Prize ceremony at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, eastern France.

Hunger rises in Gaza as UN prepares to vote on ceasefire resolution

CAIRO: Hunger was worsening among Palestinians in the besieged Gaza strip, aid agencies said, as the United Nations General Assembly prepared to vote on Tuesday on an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in the two-month-old conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Hundreds more civilians have died in Israel's assault on Gaza since the U.S. on Friday vetoed a

Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire.

Most of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been driven from their homes and residents say it is impossible to find refuge or food in the densely populated coastal enclave. The U.N. World Food Programme has said half of the population is starving.

"Hunger stalks everyone," UNRWA, the U.N. body responsible for Palestinian refugees, said on X.

Dozens injured in missile strikes on Kyiv

KYIV: Russian missile strikes damaged a hospital and residential building in the Ukrainian capital on Wednesday, injuring at least 45 people, the city's mayor said. Several explosions were heard in the city, with air raid sirens sounded soon after that.

"In total, 45 people were injured in Dniprovsy district as a result of the enemy attack. 18 of them were hospitalized, including 2 children. 27 received medical help on the spot, including three children,"

US intelligence assesses Ukraine war has cost Russia 315,000 casualties

WASHINGTON: A declassified U.S. intelligence report assessed that the Ukraine war has cost Russia 315,000 dead and injured troops, or nearly 80 percent of the personnel it had when the conflict began, a source familiar with the intelligence said on Tuesday. The report also assessed that Moscow's losses in personnel and armored vehicles to Ukraine's military have set back Russia's military modernization by 18 years.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the concluding ceremony of the Conference on Sustainable Mountain Sports Tourism, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Pakistan's huge scope of sports tourism needs regulation, infrastructure facilities: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday said Pakistan had immense potential for sports and adventure tourism, however stressed effective regulation and improved infrastructure to explore the untapped sector.

Addressing the concluding ceremony of the third Sustainable Mountain Sports Tourism Conference, he said the provision of facilities was the top factor in the development of domestic and sports tourism.

The event themed 'Revival of Mountain Glory' was organized by the Alpine Club of Pakistan and gathered the country's renowned mountaineers including Samina Baig, Naila Kiani, and Sajid Sadpara among others who won titles by scaling the highest peaks of the world.

President Alvi said Pakistan was blessed with incredibly serene natural beauty, particularly its northern areas where the mountains and snowy peaks were a big source of attraction for tourists and trekkers.

He mentioned that the country's scenic Malam Jabba and Naltar areas offered amazing skiing facilities and had huge potential for adventure sports. Also, the Hunza Valley has the world's best treks amidst the gigantic mountains of Karakoram, he added.

The president, however, stressed the need to put in place a tourist regulatory mechanism to promote domestic tourism.

He emphasized ensuring facilities for tourists such as easy access to destinations, better roads, clean hotels and guest rooms, and trained human resources.

He pointed out that the unregulated influx of tourists caused nuisance of traffic jams and disruption of the civic system. In this regard, he proposed proper management and development of new tourist destinations to shift the quantum of visitors.

The president also called for raising consciousness among the general public to be kind towards the environment while exploring tourist places.

He termed security and a peaceful environment significant factors in promoting tourist activities in the country.

Patron Alpine Club of Pakistan Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) Ijaz Malik said Pakistan being the home of the highest mountain peaks and glaciers outside the Arctic region had great scope for adventure and mountain tourism.

He outlined the outcome of the sports tourism conference which stressed the need for formulating a policy on domestic tourism to accrue economic benefits, introducing tourism as a subject in the national curriculum, and training human resources with contemporary skills. President Alpine Club of Pakistan Abu Zafar Sadiq said the organization was playing its role in promoting sports tourism in the country through rock and sport climbing, hiking, and trekking.

Govt framing National Maritime Policy for dev. of sector: SAPM

KARACHI (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Maritime Affairs, Vice Admiral @ Iftikhar Ahmed Rao, Wednesday, said that government was framing National Maritime Policy to develop the sector for realizing the growth potential and reap benefits of blue economy.

He was addressing as chief guest at Passing out Parade of 60th batch of Pakistan Marine Academy (PMA). As many as 94 cadets graduated in disciplines of Nautical Sciences (48) and Marine Engineering (46).

The SAPM appreciated professional services of Pakistan Marine Academy for providing training in nautical and marine engineering fields as well as conducting compulsory seamanship training, certificate courses and post sea special courses.

Vice Admiral (ret'd) Iftikhar Ahmed Rao appreciated the positive role Pakistan Marine Academy is playing in the country's shipping industry and also felicitated the graduating cadets who were ready to induce themselves into much desired process of national building.

Terming cadets as the backbone of the blue economy he stated that you have chosen a profession that has immense importance nationally as well as internationally as marine transportation being the most economical and environmentally friendly medium occupied significance in global trade and nations who realized its importance became great powers.

Seafarers are backbone on this industry that offers opportunities of bright future to youth as it was expected that global requirement of seafarer officers in the industry would be around 90000 by 2026, he noted.

Madad Ali increases quota for women from 33% to 40% in PMYSDP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi has increased the quota for women from 33% to 40% in the Prime Minister's Youth Skills Development Programme (PMYSDP).

He made these directions while chairing the 1st Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Prime Minister's Youth Skills Development Programme (PMYSDP) by NAVTTC on Wednesday.

He said that women's empowerment is a crucial milestone that needs to be prioritised if we want Pakistan to overcome the existing social challenges.

Similarly, he ordered that all differently abled students to be given seats irrespective of any quotas set.

He also ordered the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) to arrange accommodation for them in major cities to facilitate them.

Madad Ali Sindhi said that technical training can become the backbone of the economy of Pakistan. He said that it is imperative that we harness the full potential of the youth of Pakistan.

He appreciated the sheer scale of the Prime Minister's Youth Skills Development Programme (PMYSDP) and said that effective and practical implementation of this programme can yield extremely positive results.



KARACHI: Caretaker Minister Balochistan for Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Prosecution Amanullah Kanrani meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar.

Level playing field be given to all political parties including PTI: PHC

PESHAWAR (Online): Peshawar High Court (PHC) has ordered level playing field to be given to all political parties including PTI.

The court further ordered that chief secretary should take action against those behind giving discriminatory treatment.

PHC has issued written decision regarding the case in connection with permission for PTI workers convention. Justice Ijaz Anwar has written this 5-page decision.

It has been said in the court's decision holding election is constitutional obligation of Election Commission (EC) and caretaker government. It is binding on caretaker government to assist EC in elections. It is not job of caretaker government to influence the election or to make such bid which influences transparent election. The decision said level playing field be given to all political parties including PTI. EC should submit report from DOs on daily basis.

Maritime minister calls on PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Maritime Affairs, Communications and Railways Shahid Ashraf Tarar called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar here on Wednesday, the PM's Office said.

The meeting discussed various issues of importance.

Administration imposes Rs0.345m fine on 58 illegal profiteers

KARACHI (INP): The city administration on Wednesday imposed fines of Rs.344500 on 58 illegal profiteers during ongoing campaign for ensuring sell of essential commodities at notified prices.

On directives of Commissioner Karachi, Muhammad Saleem Rajput, the campaign against illegal profiteers and hoarders has been further accelerated to ensure implementation on rates of essential items of daily use notified by the administration, said a statement issued here.

Assistant commissioners of different towns and sub-divisions of Karachi visited various markets to check prices of items of daily use and inspected retail and wholesale shops of grocery, meat, milk, poultry, vegetables and fruits.

According to the district-wide reports submitted to the commissioner's office, fines of Rs.175,500 were imposed on 32 illegal profiteers in district South.

Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami appointed Vice Chief of Naval Staff

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Ministry of Defence on Wednesday appointed Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami as Vice Chief of the Naval Staff with immediate effect.

The Vice Admiral was commissioned in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1989. He carried out his initial training from Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth (UK) and won the coveted Sword of Honour.

LHC acquits 3 convicts in Kasur Video scandal

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has acquitted three major convicts in Kasur video scandal.

A two members bench of LHC presided over by Justice Shehram Sarwar Chaudhry took up appeal pleas of the three convicts against life imprisonment for hearing Wednesday.

The convicts are Aleem Asif, Haseeb Amir and Wasim Sindhi.

Abid Hussain Khichi and Sohail Asghar advocate appeared on behalf of the convicts.

The court while accepting the appeal pleas of the three convicts against life imprisonment acquitted them.

Pak expects raising \$4.5bn this year: Shamsad Akhtar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamsad Akhtar said Pakistan anticipates raising approximately \$4.5 billion from multilateral and bilateral sources, excluding the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the current fiscal year (2023-24).

In an interview with the official flagship Journal of ICMA International, the minister said for the second quarter (Q2), the government expects to receive over \$1.6 billion from these sources.

She said the major creditors include the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, adding the inflows comprise both project-based and program-based funds.

She said, negotiations for some program loans have been completed, and disbursements are expected. The country is currently meeting its debt obligations in a timely manner and intends to continue doing so in the future.

Talking about IMF programme, the minister said, as the first review of the Standby Agreement was successfully concluded, a Staff Level Agreement (SLA) has been reached.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Women's Wing President, Faryal Talpur presiding over a meeting of the Sindh Parliamentary Board, held at Bilawal House in Karachi.

Operation against robbers will be started soon: IGP

By Tanveer Ahmed Soomro

MIRPUR MATHELO: A vigorous operation against robbers will be started soon, in which Rangers will also be helped, Punjab Police will also participate in this operation. IGP Sindh Rafat Mukhtar Raja expressed these views. On the occasion of his visit to district Ghotki and attending a high-level meeting,



HE SAID THAT ROBBERIES AND CRIMINALS SHOULD HAVE MERCY ON THEIR CHILDREN AND SURRENDER, OTHERWISE A DECISIVE OPERATION WILL BE CONDUCTED AGAINST THEM WITH MODERN WEAPONS. DACO CRIMINALS AND THEIR FACILITATORS WHETHER KACHHA OR PAKKA SHOULD NOT BE FORGIVEN IN ANY CASE.

Anwar Khetran SSP Ghotki, gave a briefing regarding the law and order situation of Ghotki district. DIG Sukkur Abdul Hameed Khoso, DIG Larkana Nasir Aftab, SSP Ghotki Mohammad Anwar Khetran, SSP Sukkur Irfan Samu, SSP Kashmiri Rupal Khoso, SSP Shikarpur Dr. Imran Khan participated in the meeting.



SUKKUR: Participants are holding awareness walk against corruption organized by Cadet College Kamrupur in connection of the International Anti-Corruption Day, held in Sukkur.

Abbasi declares not to participate in elections

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan: Former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, speaking outside the NAB court in Karachi on Wednesday, announced his decision not to participate in the upcoming general elections. He expressed frustration with the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and called for a justice system based on fairness and transparency.

Abbasi questioned the motives behind his five-year legal case, which culminated in his acquittal by the High Court earlier today. He demanded accountability for former NAB Chairman Javed Iqbal, who he accused of fabricating charges against him and other political figures.

Army soldier laid to rest with military honours

HYDERABAD (APP): The martyred army soldier Ghulam Murtaza Dahri was laid to rest at the ancestral graveyard in Pir Shahmir on Wednesday.

Ghulam Murtaza Dahri (35) was among one of the Pak Army Jawans who were martyred in a terrorist attack in Dera Ghazi on Tuesday. He belonged to Village Khair Muhammad Dahri, Tehsil Qazi Ahmed District Shaheed Benazirabad. Ghulam Murtaza was buried at the graveyard of Dargah Pir Shahmir where the army contingent presented a salute.

ECP enforces countrywide ban on DCs, ADCs' transfer, posting

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has enforced a countrywide ban on the transfer and posting of Deputy Commissioners and Additional Deputy Commissioners and others assigned to supervise the upcoming elections.

The ECP in a letter addressed to the Secretary Establishment and the four Chief Secretaries, emphasized the strict enforcement of the ban, citing the pivotal roles assigned to DCs and ADCs in the upcoming general elections.

"I am directed to state that the Commission has appointed DROs, ROs and AROs on 11th December 2023 for the conduct of General Elections 2024.

To this end Commission has imposed complete ban on the posting/transfer and leaves of DROs, ROs, AROs and Data Entry Operator DEOs (EMS Operators) engaged in Election process forthwith and till the culmination of election process," says the letter.

Foreigners repatriation case sent to SC judges committee

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday sent the case pertaining to the repatriation of foreigners to the judges committee for the formation of a larger bench.

The three-member SC bench headed by Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, while hearing the case, observed that the petitioners had objected on the powers of caretaker government under Article 224 of the Constitution.

It said that in the matter of repatriation of foreigners, the interpretation of articles 9, 10 and 24 was required, and it was sending it to the judges committee under the SC (Practice & Procedure) Act for the formation of a larger bench.

During hearing, the Federal Government and the Foreign Office submitted their comments.

The case was then adjourned till after the winter vacations.

PTA unveils Cyber Security strategy

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) on Wednesday unveiled its Cyber Security strategy for Pakistan's telecom sector, a comprehensive and ambitious plan set to span from 2023 to 2028.

This strategy is a significant step in the implementation of the National Cyber Security Policy - 2021 and marks a monumental stride towards bolstering digital security in the country's rapidly evolving telecom sector.

According to PTA, the strategy is built on six foundational pillars, each targeting a specific aspect of cyber security, such as legal framework, cyber resilience, proactive monitoring and incident response, capacity building, cooperation and collaboration, and public awareness.

The strategy emphasizes a multi-stakeholder approach, fostering active collaboration between public and private sectors, regulatory bodies, telecom operators, private security firms, academia, and civil society.

This initiative is not just a step forward in cyber security but it is also a leap towards a more digitally secure and resilient Pakistan.



HYDERABAD: Sindh Taraqi Pasand Party (STP) Chairman, Dr. Qadir Magi addresses during death anniversary of Shaheed Muhammad Hussain Magi, in Hyderabad.

EU, AFD sign MoU to spearhead new climate initiative in Punjab's urban centers

ISLAMABAD (INP): A memorandum of understanding was signed between the EU and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) here on Wednesday to spearhead a new climate initiative in the urban centers of Punjab.

EU Ambassador Dr. Riina Kionka and Deputy Director AFD Eastern Europe, Middle East and Asia, Ms. Julie Marsaudon signed the agreement.

The project aims to improve access to drinking water and sanitation services by installing 200 kilometers of new water supply pipes and providing 55,000 new connections.

It focuses on enhancing capacities, increasing water treatment capacity by 135,000 cubic meters per day and bolstering urban water governance. The initiative will improve the access of 400,000 individuals to drinking water.

Speaking on the occasion, the EU Ambassador underscored the commitment to supporting Pakistan in improving resilience to climate change and the EU's readiness to redouble efforts to support the country's green inclusive growth.