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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 country's 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 reforms.

Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-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. The delegation appreciated the prime minister's stance presented on climate change at international level and the government's efforts to promote interfaith harmony.



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

Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan emphasizes:

Provision of bailout packages not sustainable solution to financial issues of universities

Domki stresses that there is a need to establish Endowment Fund for resolving the financial matters of the public sector universities of the province

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that provision of bailout packages to the public sector universities is not sustainable solution to the financial issues being faced by them (universities), as such there is a need to overcome the increasing expenditures by them.

The Chief Minister was chairing a high level meeting held to review the administrative and financial issues of the public sector universities of the province and find solution to their issues, here on Tuesday.

The care provincial Minister for Education, Dr Qadir Bakhsh Baloch, Min-

ister for Finance and Revenue, Amjad Rasheed, other provincial ministers, Chairman Higher Education Commission, administrative secretaries of provincial government departments were in attendance at the meeting.

The Chief Minister also stressed that there is a need to establish Endowment Fund for resolving the financial matters of the public sector universities of the province.

In this regard, the co-operation of federal government would also be sought, the Chief Minister maintained.

Mir Ali Mardan Domki said that the provincial government would put its share in the Endowment Fund according to the avail-

able resources.

He on the occasion also stressed the need to ensure improvement in the governance in the public sector universities.

He directed the concerned authorities to conduct third party audit of the public sector universities in order to bring transparency in the financial and administrative affairs there.

Meanwhile, speaking on the occasion, Chairman HEC told that HEC has framed comprehensive plan to improve performance of the public sector universities.

He said that it is very important to provide quality services declaring education and health sectors as essential services.

Over 65 pc children are out of schools in Balochistan, says Minister Education

Caretaker Minister for Finance says children of province would be made skilled through different programmes

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Education, Dr Qadir Bakhsh Baloch has stated that more than 65 percent children are out of the schools in the province, and the provincial government has decided to make them skilled.

Around 20,000 children have been registered for making skilled during last four days.

He said that there are least number of middle and high schools in the province.

The Minister for Education was addressing a press conference along with the Minister for Finance, Amjad Rasheed.

The caretaker Minister for Education said that Education Cards would be introduced for the out-of-school children in the prov-

last four days.

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over joint meeting of Ministers Committee and HEC regarding public sector Universities of the province

Caretaker Provincial Minister Information says: Manzoor Pashteen expelled from Balochistan; safely handed over to DIK police

Independent Report
QUETTA: The head of Pashtoon Tahafuz Movement (PTM) Manzoor Pashteen has been expelled from Balochistan and handed over to the police of Dera Ismail Khan.

This was announced by the Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai while speaking to the media persons here on Tuesday.

The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information dispelled the impression of allegation of firing on PTM chief Manzoor Pashteen.

Jan Achakzai maintained that a guard of Manzoor Pashteen resorted to fire as a result a female and a child were injured.

The Minister Information said that Manzoor Pashteen has been taken into custody and expelled from the province to hand over to DI Khan police.

He said that the demand has been made by the youngsters and civil society of Balochistan to impose ban on the PTM.

The youth of Balochistan has been calling PTM as terrorist organization through social media and other means. The government is taking review of the situation very keenly and as such a tough decision can be made when the need arises, the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information maintained.



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh presiding over a meeting with police officers through video link regarding law & order and other situation

'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".

Nepra hikes power tariff by Rs3.07 per unit

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Tuesday notified Rs 3.0786 per unit increase in power tariff for consumers of XWAPDA power distribution companies (DISCOs) under the fuel cost adjustment (FCA) mechanism for October 2023.

The said adjustment shall be shown separately in the consumers' bills based on units billed to the consumers in October 2023, said a notification issued here.

XWDISCOs shall reflect the fuel charges adjustment in respect of October 2023 in the billing month of December 2023.

While effecting the Fuel Adjustment Charges, the concerned XWDISCOs shall keep in view and strictly comply with the orders of the courts notwithstanding this order.

The increase shall apply to all the consumer categories except Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS) and Lifeline consumers.

Fazal questions polls feasibility amidst KP, Balochistan lawlessness

ISLAMABAD (INP): While noting that two provinces are still in a state of lawlessness and disorder, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman questioned on Tuesday whether the next general elections can be conducted under the present circumstances.

Interacting with media here, Fazl stated that his party was ready to contest elections at any given time, but stressed the need to ensure a conducive environment in all four provinces.

He also questioned how a party could run its election campaign in a state of lawlessness in the provinces of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, recalling recent incidents of terrorism in Peshawar, Dera Ismael Khan, Tank and Lakki Marwat.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Vice Chairman Balochistan Bar Council Amanullah Kakar meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Governor calls for taking concrete steps for finding permanent solution to problems of HELs

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that all higher educational institutions present in the province are our joint assets and as such there is a need to take concrete measures to find out permanent solution to the problems being faced by them.

He said that we can't disassociate us from the future of our new generation anyway. We can make our universities economically self sufficient easily by adopting modern mechanism instead of settling their financial and administrative, adding he emphasized.

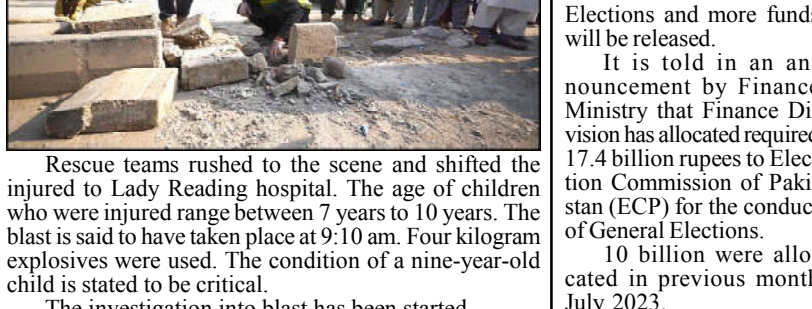
The Governor was speaking to the Chairman Higher Education Commission, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed who called on him here at the Governor House on Tuesday. During the course of meeting, also present were the caretaker Provincial Minister for Education, Dr. Qadir Bakhsh, Principal Secretary to Governor, Hashim Khan Ghilzai and Secretary Education, Lal Jan Jaffar. The Governor stressed that we have to prepare comprehensive strategy for making them financially stable.

He also stressed that we have to demonstrate wise use of human resource and financial matters for getting to the destination.

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.



The investigation into blast has been started.

Bugti says ECP to have full security for holding next elections in peaceful environment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti on Tuesday said that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), would have full security for holding the next elections in a peaceful environment.

The caretaker government would take necessary measures to provide all required facilities to ECP for conducting general elections in a transparent manner, he said while talking to a private television channel.

Political parties should cooperate with law enforcement agencies (LEAs), before arranging any public meeting or corner meeting for election campaign, he said.

Timely information about public gatherings or meetings would help security institutions for aking better arrangements for them, he said.

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.

President Alvi 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 Aiwan-e-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.



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.

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 anti-

submarine 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.

Pakistan women beat New Zealand by 10 runs to complete historic T20 series win

Sports Desk DUNEDIN: The Pakistan women's cricket team on Tuesday completed a historic series win over New Zealand after the Green Team defeated the Kiwis in the second T20 International game in a three-match series in Dunedin. The series win would be the first series sweep for the women's side outside of Asia and Ireland and their first series victory away from home since 2018. The women's team also made history on Sunday as they registered their maiden win over New Zealand, beating the hosts by seven wickets in the first Twenty20 International.

OTAGO Oval in their 20 overs after losing seven wickets with the match concluding in favour of the Green Team who won by 10 runs. Wicketkeeper Batter Muneeba Ali Siddiqi scored 35 at the top of the order for Pakistan, with meaningful contributions coming from Bismah Maroof who scored 21 and skipper Nida Dar who made 14. Fran Jones was the pick of the New Zealand bowlers as the 19-year-old took two in her four overs giving away 21 runs. In response, New Zealand lost three wickets in the powerplay which hampered the chase for the Kiwis. Runs from Georgia Plimmer and Rowe towards the end brought the Kiwis back into the game, however, the effort was in vain. Fatima Sana took three wickets after giving away 22 runs in her four overs, and Sadia Iqbal took two wickets in her four overs for 29 runs. The third and final

T20I of the series will be played in Queensland on December 9. Meanwhile, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief Zaka Ashraf congratulated the team on today's "remarkable achievement". "Pakistan women's team have made the whole nation proud with their brilliant display of skill and talent in New Zealand. I want to congratulate and laud the efforts of the entire squad, team management and support personnel for their collective effort in making the team achieve this special feat," he said in a statement. "The leadership qualities and courage exhibited by captain Nida Dar reflects in the way her players have responded to the challenge and acquired success on the big stage," Ashraf said. He also announced that a special ceremony would be hosted felicitating the team upon their return from the New Zealand tour later this month.



HUB: A large numbers of vehicles stuck in traffic jam during checking to the search of the coaches coming from Quetta due to security arrangement has been tightened, at Hub River road in Hub.

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. The committee has called on the caretaker government to promptly release funds for the upcoming general elections, rejecting any interference or delay tactics. Expressing skepticism about the caretaker government's commitment to free, fair, and transparent elections, the committee vowed that the nation would not tolerate any hindrance to the

scheduled election date. A strong reaction was voiced against the decision to appoint administrative officers instead of judiciary officials as returning officers. The committee asserted that this move was a deliberate attempt to manipulate the elections, demanding the revocation of the decision and the appointment of impartial judicial officers for election conduct. Furthermore, the Core Committee vehemently protested against the restricted access of national and international media to the trial of founder chairman Imran Khan in jail, despite court orders. It argued that blocking access to the trial undermined the principles of an open trial, urging the government to comply with court orders and grant media representatives access to the proceedings of the Blaruk Tok case in the next hearing.

Sports bodies ask IOC to allow Russians as neutrals for 2024 Olympics

LAUSANNE (AFP/APP): Representatives of international sports federations and national Olympic committees on Tuesday called for Russian and Belarusian athletes to be admitted under a neutral flag for the 2024 Games in Paris "as soon as possible". During the Olympic summit in Lausanne, athlete representatives also asked for "clarity" on the issue, according to a statement published after the meeting. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) still has to make a final ruling on whether athletes from Russia and Belarus, a key ally for Moscow in its offensive on Ukraine, will be permitted to compete next summer. The IOC has repeated its stance that a decision will be taken "at the appropriate time". Athletes from the two countries have faced sanctions from a multitude of sports since Russia launched its assault on Ukraine in February 2022. However, over the past year a number of Olympic sports have eased restrictions, allowing them to return to competition under certain conditions. In March, the IOC lifted an outright ban on Russian and Belarusian athletes, allowing them to compete as neutral athletes provided they did not support the Ukraine conflict and had no ties to the military. The IOC on Tuesday "confirmed that the participation of such AINs (individual neutral athletes) in the Olympic Games could happen only under the existing strict conditions". "Neither the qualification system developed by the respective International Federations nor the number of allocated quota places to a sport will be changed for AINs with a Russian or Belarusian passport," it added. The IOC suspended the Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) on October 12 for violating the territorial integrity of the membership of Ukraine by recognising illegally annexed territories. ROC has recognised regional organisations from four Ukrainian territories annexed since Russia's invasion began in 2022. Russia's Olympic body last month launched an appeal against its suspension by the IOC at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

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QUETTA: Health and Rural Development (HARD) Balochistan Program Manager, Zia Baloch addresses to participants during seminar on Create Women Friendly Spaces and Bring Women On Key Decision Making Positions in Party Structures, held at Quetta press club.

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.



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

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. The petition cites the disruption of the February 2023 municipal elections due to terrorism and fears of similar disturbances during the general elections. The petition underscores the inadequacy of Levies forces in deterring terrorist movements. It also draws attention to the distribution of pamphlets

by terrorists in Tehsil Khan aimed at obstructing the election process. Additionally, it emphasizes the impending heavy snowfall across most districts and divisions in February, further impeding access to polling stations for voters. In a separate petition, Advocate Fatima Nazr contends that the escalating security situation in Balochistan renders it unsuitable for holding general elections. The petition details a surge in terrorist incidents, including targeted killings, IED blasts, and suicide attacks, particularly in Makran Division. This atmosphere of fear and threat, coupled with logistical challenges posed by poor transportation infrastructure, casts doubt on the feasibility of conducting fair and inclusive elections. With mounting pressures from concerned citizens and legal representatives, the ECP has agreed to consider the postponement requests. The commission is expected to conduct hearings to evaluate the merits of each petition and make a final decision on the fate of the general elections.

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 as well as international 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." The resolution titled, Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, was also approved by a large majority. It garnered 123 votes in favour to none against, with 62 abstentions. Diplomats said that all four resolutions recognize the significance of and

complementarity between regional and global approaches to arms control, disarmament and confidence building to promote international peace, security and stability. The resolutions also draw attention to the excessive conventional military danger in the regional context - implicitly in South Asia - propose measure to address the associated risks and encourage efforts aimed at promoting confidence building Measures (CBMs) at the regional and sub-regional levels to ease regional tensions; and further disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation measures. They said the resolution on conventional arms control at regional and sub-regional levels acknowledges that the preservation of a balance in states' defence capabilities strengthens peace and stability.

Shehbaz meets PML-N Balochistan president

LAHORE (APP): Former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif met with the President of the party in Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, here on Tuesday. Party's central leader Khawaja Saad Rafique, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, and Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan were present during the meeting. Consultations were held regarding organizational matters and preparations for the upcoming general election during the meeting. Political strategies for practical implementation in the context of the general election in Balochistan were also discussed. The PML-N President said "Balochistan is our heart, our soul, we consider the progress of Balochistan

as an integral requirement for the progress of Pakistan." He said that he visited Balochistan the most during his 16-month tenure. "If given another opportunity, we will spread the network of educational institutions, including science schools, across the entire country, including Balochistan," he promised. Balochistan will be the focal point and center of national economic development in the future, he added. Jaffar Khan Mandokhail congratulated Shehbaz over PML-N Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's acquittal in the Avenfield reference during the meeting. The PML-N President expressed gratitude to Jaffar Khan Mandokhail for his good wishes and appreciated his dedication to the party.

Authorities urged to take stern action against killers of PEC Assistant Registrar, his wife

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) has urged the concerned authorities to take strict action against those involved in the killing of Assistant Registrar of PEC, Engr. Asim Lang and his wife last night. Assistant Registrar of the Pakistan Engineering Council, Engr. Asim Lang, and his wife were targeted in a heinous attack resulting in their martyrdom in the Bhara Kahu area, said a news release. Engr. Muhammad Najib Haroon, the Chairman of the Pakistan Engineering Council, Engr. Dr. Naseer Mahmood Khan, Registrar PEC, and the administrative staff of PEC and the engineering community condemned this brutal act. They prayed to the Almighty to grant the departed souls eternal peace and a high place in heaven and bless the grieving family members with patience and strength during this difficult time. They also urged the federal minister for interior and relevant security agencies to swiftly apprehend the perpetrators and ensure that justice is served.



QUETTA: Managing Director B-WASA Hamid Latif Rana meeting with Caretaker Provincial Minister for PHE and Population Welfare Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Khan Jaffer

Moin Khan appointed as QD team director

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Super League (PSL) franchise Quetta Gladiators has appointed Pakistan's former skipper and 92 World Cup winner Moin Khan as Team Director. The decision was made by Quetta Gladiators owner Nadeem Omar and team management, said a press release. Khan has been serving the team as the Head Coach since season 1 of the Pakistan Super League and has had prolific achievements under his coaching tenure.

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QUETTA: Additional Chief Secretary Home Zahid Saleem briefed A. D. Khawaja and others about Afghan Economic Corridor

Pak, Mexico 6th BPC review bilateral ties, multilateral developments

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 6th Round of Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) between Pakistan and Mexico on Tuesday reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, regional and multilateral issues. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the cooperation between their delegations at various international organizations and forums especially in the United Nations, and on the question of Security Council Reform, Foreign Office Spokesperson in a press release said. Ambassador Mariam Aftab, Additional Foreign Secretary (Americas), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, led the Pakistan delegation while the Mexican delegation was headed by Ambassador Jose Tripp Villanueva, Director General for Africa, Central Asia and Middle East, at the Mexican Foreign Ministry. Regional and global matters including Afghanistan, Palestine, and the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) were discussed

during the consultations. Views were also exchanged on closer collaboration on consular matters. The Pakistan side underscored the importance of deeper diplomatic engagement including through re-opening of Mexico's resident Mission in Islamabad. The additional foreign secretary reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further deepening and broadening its ties with Mexico, particularly in the areas of trade, agriculture, investment, science and technology, and people-to-people contacts. She underscored that Pakistan was firmly focusing on imperatives of geo-economics and pursuing policies that would promote peace, growth, development, and regional connectivity. Pakistan and Mexico continued to support each other's candidatures at the UN and other international bodies, it was added. During his visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Villanueva also called on Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi.

Over 65 pc... Continued from page 1 ince. He said that the technical training would be imparted to the children having interest in education through Education Card. Dr. Qadir Bakhsh said that a total of 5,790 schools are operating with single teacher and some 3,000 schools have been closed during three months. He also informed that vacancies of 14,000 teachers are vacant in the province. He said that recruitments of teachers would be made on temporary to overcome the shortage of teachers. The Minister Finance said that the Hunarmand Development Programme is meant for imparting technical training to the children. Amjad Rasheed said that the children would get livelihood in the foreign after getting technical training. He also vowed that the children of province would be made skilled through different programmes. The technical training would be imparted to the children of province in the federal training institutions, the caretaker Minister Finance added.

Advertisement for 'استخبارات عامه' (Public Information) with contact details and QR code.

Advertisement for 'کراہے کے لیے مکانات درکارہے' (Houses for rent) with contact details and QR code.

Advertisement for 'ضلعی اسپتال' (District Hospital) with contact details and QR code.

Advertisement for 'NOTICE INVITING TENDER' for construction work, including details of the project, terms, and contact information.

Navigating COP28: Pak multifaceted approach to crosscutting issues demonstrated

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan is actively participating in COP28, attending 28 events that offer a worldwide forum for conversations on various viewpoints and climate change-related projects. Under the overarching themes of "Finance/Trade/Gender Equality/Accountability" and "Energy and Industry/Just Transition/Indigenous Peoples," the Pakistan Pavilion has successfully organized and hosted a total of 10 events to date, a news release said issued here on Tuesday.

The country's dedication to openness and cooperation is demonstrated by the way different organizations present their initiatives on this global platform. Today's focus is on the valuable insights derived from key discussions involving the Ministry of Planning, Sindh People's Housing Foundation (SPHF), UN Women, Danish Energy Agency and the Sustainable Energy & Economic Development Program (SEED).

The COP28 panel titled "Enhancing Cross-Agency Coordination for the Expansion of Climate Finance," organized by the

Planning Commission of Pakistan, was a pivotal gathering of policymakers and experts.

Moderated by Member of the Planning Commission, Nadia Rehman, the session addressed strategies to attract private investment and international support for Pakistan's climate finance needs. Secretary, Ministry of Planning, Awais Manzoor Sumra highlighted the role of the Sustainable Finance Bureau in preparing projects across agencies. He emphasized, "Efficient collaboration is key for impactful climate finance initiatives." Sindh People's Housing Foundation (SPHF) convened an important, focusing on advancing climate action and building resilience after the 2022 floods.

The session showcased collaborative efforts between SPHF and International Financial Institutions, aiming to build 2 million resilient houses in Sindh. Sindh Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar introduced the Donor Platform, a cooperative initiative to unite stakeholders and resources.



President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with a delegation of Center for Peace and Development Initiatives comprising of social activists and persons with disabilities, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

Minister for incorporating teachings of Khutba-e-Hajjatul Wida in edu. institutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Syed Jamal Shah has emphasized incorporating the teachings of Khutba e Hajjatul Wida of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in all educational institutions.

He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of an international conference on Sirah, civic sense and tolerance organized with a joint venture of Pak-Saudi Governments by the International Centre of Excellence for Sirah Studies, Islamic Research Institute, IRI of

International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) at the Quaid-e-Azam Auditorium, Faisal Masjid Campus.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the conference, Minister Syed Jamal Shah said that Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) served as the epitome of civic responsibility. He was of the view that the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) consistently highlighted the significance of treating others with kindness and consideration.

Syed Jamal Shah added

that one of the Prophet's (PBUH) well-known sayings encapsulates this spirit.

"The best among you are those who have the best manners and character." He said this timeless wisdom underscores the importance of civic sense in the daily lives of Muslims. Earlier, the minister inaugurated the International Sirah Exhibition held in connection with the conference.

Speakers of national and international repute unveiled timeless wisdom for success in this world and the hereafter highlighting the Sirah of Prophet

Muhammad (PBUH) in this 2-day international conference. During the conference, more than 100 research papers will be presented by researchers and scholars of international repute. The conference will identify the historical roots of civilized social living, the causes of the lack of good manners in our society, and the reasons for cultural ignorance such as mistrust, misconceptions, conflicts, hatred and the lack of mutual understanding among various segments of Muslim societies, particularly Pakistani society.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah inaugurating International Sirah Exhibition on sideline of Pak-Saudi International Conference on Sirah, Civic Sense and Tolerance at IIUI, Faisal Masjid Campus.

Shehla Raza advises all 'political party' to focus economic issues

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly & PPP Senior leader Shehla Raza Tuesday said all 'political parties' should focus on economic issues instead of doing inside room politics ahead of the election 2024 and claimed that his party was ready to play on every kind of pitch.

Talking to a Private news channel, she said that the PPP only political party in the country that was reaching out to all provinces during its election campaign, adding, that the PPP will be influenced by all the provinces including Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

She said the next general elections hopefully be free, fair and transparent as a powerful Election Commission was freely working in the country, her party will win the coming general elections with a thumping majority.

Shehla Raza added that Bilawal Bhutto Zardari through his hard work and competency has not only won the hearts of the nation rather leaders of the international community are also acknowledging his leadership capabilities.

PPP government had always worked for poor people and downtrodden segments of the society, she noted.

Akbar files petition in EC against PTI intra party election

ISLAMABAD (Online): Petition has been filed in Election Commission (EC) against intra party election of PTI. The founder of PTI Akbar S Babar has filed formal petition in EC. It has been said in the petition the election symbol but not allowed to PTI till transparent intra party election held. EC should give order to hold new intra party election. EC should appoint neutral party to hold intra party election of PTI in transparent manner under their supervision. It has been further said in the petition PTI intra party election were sheer delusion in order to deceive EC.

Sanjrani urges collective efforts to end suffering of innocent Palestinians

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Tuesday urged collective efforts to end suffering of innocent Palestinians and emphasized the need of a resolution in accordance with international law. During a meeting with Ambassador of Jordan to Pakistan, Maen Khreizat who called on him here, he said the genocidal actions and war crimes of Zionist Israeli regime in Palestinian territories were condemnable.

The discussion primarily focused on strengthening bilateral ties and addressing pressing humanitarian issues.

They delved into the current situation in the Gaza

Strip and West Bank, condemning the Israeli actions and emphasizing the broader implications for the Middle East region. Sadiq Sanjrani appreciated the efforts of King Abdullah bin Hussein of Jordan in seeking an end to the ongoing crisis.

He appreciated Jordan's pivotal role as the custodian of Masjid Al Aqsa Compound and its historical significance in maintaining peace in Alquds Jerusalem. The ambassador highlighted Jordan's continuous support for the Palestinian people, including the establishment and replenishment of a hospital in Gaza to provide crucial medical services.

ICP special drive against menace of narcotics; educate youth on drug prevention

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police have initiated a special awareness cam-

aign to eradicate use of narcotics from the federal capital and ensure the safety of the youth from the curse of drugs. Police teams have conducted special lectures in various educational institutions to educate students about the harms of drugs and preventive measures.



that drug abuse is detrimental to the health and future of students. Students are urged to protect themselves and contribute to saving their surroundings from the curse of drugs. Parents and teachers are encouraged to collaborate in preventing youth from falling victim to drugs. The police teams have appealed to the public to immediately inform the police about any drug-related activities in their vicinity. The cooperation of the public is deemed crucial for the successful eradication of this menace.

Islamabad Capital Police and Anti-Narcotics Force are jointly working to combat drug trafficking, while special teams have been formed to apprehend drug peddlers in educational institutions. ICCPO emphasized that individuals involved in businesses related to narcotics and liquor will be brought to justice.

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday clubbed all appeals against the verdict of single member bench for termination of government employees who were reinstated on the recommendations of a parliamentary committee. A Division Bench, comprising Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz, heard the intra court appeals of the employees concerned. At the outset of hearing, the court enquired the petitioner regarding the regularization letters of the petitioners so that it may know under what rules the employees were regularized or reinstated. Justice Aurangzeb remarked that the court couldn't give the verdict on one or two cases rather it would hear all cases together.

IHC bars NAB from action against lawyer Faisal

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday barred the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) from taking legal action against Faisal Chaudhry Advocate in an inquiry pertaining to the sale of eight kanal land in Pind Dadan Khan.

The court also sought the case record from the Bureau on next hearing.

A two-judge bench, comprising Justice Mohsin Akhter Kayani and Justice Ijaz Ishaq Khan, heard the petition of Faisal Chaudhry Advocate.

The petitioner's lawyer adopted the stance that his brother Chaudhry Fawad Hussain was arrested on November 4, in a baseless case.

IHC clubs appeals of terminated employees

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday clubbed all appeals against the verdict of single member bench for termination of government employees who were reinstated on the recommendations of a parliamentary committee. A Division Bench, comprising Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz, heard the intra court appeals of the employees concerned. At the outset of hearing, the court enquired the petitioner regarding the regularization letters of the petitioners so that it may know under what rules the employees were regularized or reinstated. Justice Aurangzeb remarked that the court couldn't give the verdict on one or two cases rather it would hear all cases together.



Zahir Shah, Member, PMIC is getting site visit briefing on PSDP project titled Replacement and Upgradation of HVAC Plant Room Equipment and Allied Works at PIMS, Islamabad' at PIMS Hospital Islamabad.

Excise Dept suspends registration of 700 vehicles over illegal modifications

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a sweeping crackdown on unauthorized vehicle modifications, the Islamabad Excise and Taxation Department has suspended the registration of over 700 vehicles in the past three months.

The department, acting on directives from the Deputy Commissioner Irfan Nawaz Memon has also restored registration to over 400 vehicles that complied with the rules and removed black glasses and fancy number plates, ICT spokesman Dr Abdullah Tabasum said on Tuesday.

The initiative, spearheaded by Assistant Commissioners and Excise and Taxation Officers (AETOs) in collaboration with the Traffic Police, has targeted vehicles with tinted glasses and non-standard number plates. During inspections, 322 vehicles were identified for non-compliance, and their registrations were suspended. However, following the removal of illegal modifications, these vehicles are now eligible for registration restoration.

Fog, smog to engulf plain areas of Punjab, KP, upper Sindh: PMD

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Tuesday forecast that smog and fog would engulf plain areas of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and upper Sindh at morning and night time during the next 24 hours. Mainly cold and dry weather is expected in most parts of the country including Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan. According to the synoptic situation, continental air was prevailing over most parts of the country. A shallow westerly wave was present over northwest Balochistan. During the last 24 hours, cold and dry weather prevailed over most parts of the country. The lowest minimum temperatures recorded during the period were Leh -09 C.

In a statement, the ICT spokesman urged citizens to adhere to traffic regulations and avoid using unauthorized vehicle accessories. The Excise and Taxation Department and the Islamabad Transport Authority are committed to maintaining strict enforcement of these regulations, and their joint operations will continue on a daily basis. He further said that over 700 vehicles have had their registrations suspended for using black glasses or fancy number plates.

More than 400 vehicles have regained registration after removing illegal modifications.

Authorities are urging citizens to comply with traffic rules and avoid unauthorized vehicle modifications, he added.

President stresses opportunities for differently-abled in education, jobs

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday emphasized inclusion of persons with disabilities in mainstream by providing them opportunities of education and employment. He was speaking to a delegation from Center for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) comprising social activists and persons with disabilities, here at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President Alvi stressed the need for filling the job quota reserved for

differently-abled persons to ensure their financial empowerment.

In this regard, he said, vocational training, tailor-made jobs and easy loans could help such people attain self-reliance. The president emphasized installation of functional infrastructure such as ramps at public places to ease the movement of differently-abled persons. Executive Director CPDI Mukhtar Ahmed Ali, social workers and persons with disabilities attended the meeting.

Climate resilient urban planning: Pakistan, Ethiopia discuss city-to-city collaboration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Ethiopia on Tuesday discussed the prospects of initiating a city-to-city collaboration in order to promote sustainable governance in the global south through climate resilient urban planning. The collaboration came under discussion during a meeting between Ethiopian Ambassador Jamal Beker Abdula and CDA Chairman Captain (Retd) Anwarul Haq, said a news release of the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Pakistan (FDRE)-Islamabad.

Both sides discussed matters of mutual interest

including knowledge exchange between the administrations of both the countries' capital cities—Addis Ababa and Islamabad. Ambassador Jamal briefed the CDA chairman about the overwhelming response received by the Green Legacy Initiative of Ethiopian Prime Minister Dr Abiy Ahmed from around the world.

He said Ethiopia had planted more than 32 billion seedlings of different trees, fruits and animal feed during the last four years. "Our government's target is to plant over 50 billion plants by the end of 2025," he added.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Ethiopia, Jamal Beker Abdula exchanging views with CDA Chairman Captain (retd) Anwarul Haq on matters of mutual interest here at his office in Federal Capital.

Govt, ILO to forge collaborative path to enhance social justice

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Jawad Sohrab Malik held a meeting with Assistant Director-General & Regional Director, International Labour Organization (ILO) Ms. Chihoko Asada-Miyakawa here at the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis on Tuesday. Jawad Sohrab Malik reaffirmed the commitment of the Government of Pakistan to the Global Coalition for Social Justice and Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection along with its dedication to the shared goal of ensuring Decent Work for all, said a press release. He emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts to achieve this objective, highlighting the need for a comprehensive approach.

He commended the ILO's initiatives, particularly its efforts towards the national skills passport, said a press release.

SAPM reiterated his commitment to supporting the scaling of this initiative and emphasized the significance of human capital development and skills training for women to address gender disparities faced by them during work.

During the meeting, Ms. Chihoko Asada-Miyakawa expressed interest in assisting the Government of Pakistan in developing a national roadmap for safe, fair, and inclusive labour migration.

Recognizing the pivotal role of labour migration in today's globalized world, both parties underscored their commitment to creating an environment that protects the rights and well-being of workers.

She praised the Government of Pakistan's dedication and stressed the importance of building robust partnerships to effectively address challenges and capitalize on opportunities in the realm of labour migration.

Farewell ceremony held in honour of outgoing officials

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: A farewell ceremony was held in honour of Inspector Kifayat Ullah and Inspec-

tor Ahmad Khan at Capital Police Officer Security Division office, a police public relations officer said.



He said that, Capital Police Officer (CPO) Security Division graced the ceremony as chief guest. While other senior police officials were also present on the occasion. The ceremony was held in recognition of the services of the retiring Inspectors.

Speaking at the occasion, the chief guest said that retirement is part of the

best to earn respect for the department. He was of the view that public service only could earn a good name for the officials and the department. He recognized the services rendered by both inspectors and added that the department in return gave him respect and honour. He presented police shields and gifts to the retired police officers and also expressed best wishes for his future endeavors.



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

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Wednesday December 06, 2023

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.

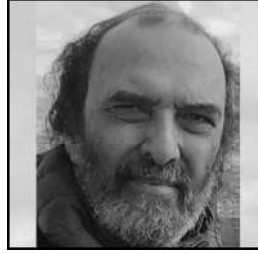
Meanwhile, in September, a militant incursion from Afghanistan was thwarted in Chitral, which also borders GB, resulting in a number of soldiers being martyred. These events show that this particular region of Pakistan is not immune from the terrorist threat.

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.



Jawed Naqvi

The global professor, the Vishwaguru, the sobriquet the Modi regime sees India as being entitled to, has been reminded, it seems, to imbibe lessons it had apparently deleted from the syllabus of truer wisdom. The lapse stems from the country's attempt at slow-marching from the Nehruvian soft power projection of India as a cultured and trustworthy comrade of postcolonial nations to its misplaced aspiration to become Rambo à la Israel. 'Ghar mein ghus ke maareng.' The common refrain in new India is not easy to translate. 'I'll come home to fix you' conveys a rough idea, borrowed from a common line in masala movie scripts inserted to exaggerate the prowess of the hero. To conflate it with diplomacy or domestic policy

is to lean on a brawler's muscle rather than professorial cogitation to make the point. Had any other government pursued the policy and found its ace pilot captured in the process by the perceived quarry, Prime Minister Narendra Modi would have raised Cain.

I recently saw scores of well-heeled Pakistanis at a popular Manchester restaurant, all without exception posing with their families before larger-than-life portraits of Dev Anand and Rekha, of Amitabh Bachchan and Meena Kumari, and other movie stars of India's bygone era.

In the intellectual realm, writers like Geetanjali Shree or academics like Romila Thapar are respected beyond India's neighbourhood. Cricket stars have always had their own cross-border fan following. Gandhiji, for the world, is still a lodestar of peace and reconciliation and is seen as more than a bespectacled municipal official in charge of civic cleanliness, which he has been reduced to in government hoardings in India.

A reality check reveals that the Vishwaguru is out of touch with the world.

Peaceniks in Pakistan holding hands with Sri Lankans, Bangladeshis, Nepalis were as regular in visiting India as those celebrating their visas to Ajmer or Bodhi Gaya or Agra. They offered the best security and most reassuring promise of goodwill, until Rambo burst on the scene.

A reality check reveals that the Vishwaguru is out of touch with the world despite claims to unparalleled adulation from everyone. In the neighbourhood alone, the tiny atoll of the Maldives has told India's troops stationed there to leave. Sri Lanka, which looked up to India for all manner of friendly support, has allowed a Chinese 'research' ship to dock at its port to severe unease in New Delhi. Landlocked Bhutan, otherwise committed to following Indian advice on foreign affairs, is engaged in a discomfiting powwow with China. Further away in the Gulf, the usually friendly emirate of Qatar has not taken kindly to former Indian military officers it trusted as residents. It accuses them of espionage, a charge India hitherto experienced with arch-foe Pakistan.

On the bigger stage, the foreign media, which hailed India as a resolute star on the democratic firmament and as an economic powerhouse, accuses Indian businesses of underhand methods of making money and the government of violating human rights as its preferred domestic policy. Amid the global battle against Covid-19, the UN secretary general ticked off India for liberalising coal mining as the wrong policy to deal with the scourge.

But coal is the bread and butter of the tycoon considered close to the prime minister. The businessman also reportedly has interests in the expansion of the Israeli port of Haifa. It has left the world pondering why India broke ranks with the Global South, instead of supporting a ceasefire to stop the horrors being perpetrated by Israel in Gaza.

Some bad news has come from Unesco's board membership, where Pakistan has reportedly defeated India's nominee by a large margin of votes with the support of countries of the Global South. The let-down may not make the grade in news value as do other em-

barrassments for the Vishwaguru but it should make the foreign ministry netizens sit up.

In possibly the most disturbing turn of events for Indian diplomacy in recent memory, it is public knowledge now that when Prime Minister Narendra Modi was patting himself on the back for the G20 summit he hosted in New Delhi with self-proclaimed flourish, he was being pressed, discreetly at the time, by President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to explain the shadowy link of assassins and would-be assassins of Sikh activists in their countries with Indian intelligence.

There was a robust denial and comments verging on reprimand came from New Delhi when Mr Trudeau subsequently made the allegation public in his parliament. He spoke of the killing of a pro-Khalistan Sikh in Surrey in Canada by gunmen allegedly at the behest of Indian officials. A bulk of Canadian diplomats in India were expelled to make Delhi's point and visa regimes were frozen. Canada on its part expelled the station chief of India's spy agency from the Indian em-

bassy. The reaction to the US demarche was more tempered, even respectful. Delhi, however, has not commented on the veracity of the charges.

Last week's indictment of an Indian citizen in a New York court in a plot to kill a Sikh Khalistani activist, a US citizen, has only made it trickier for the Indian government. The plot is seen as linked with the assassination of the Sikh activist in Canada and potentially also with the death in a hospital in the UK. Consequently, as was the case with Canada, senior officials of India's external spy agency, the Research and Analysis Wing, or RAW, were expelled from the UK and the US for the first time since Indira Gandhi created the agency in 1968. Arguably, India is a close ally in a US-led coalition to counter China. And, therefore, no serious harm could be expected in that realm. But equally so, the crown prince of Saudi Arabia is a crucial sheet anchor for Western interests in the Middle East. He got away with murder as we all know. Except that he never claimed the mantle of the Vishwaguru. -- Courtesy Dawn

The true test of the SIFC



Mosharraf Zaidi

The logic for a public-sector vehicle that does what the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is supposed to do is solid. Pakistan's governance system doesn't work for anyone, even the country's elites.

What is the harm in establishing mechanisms that solve problems? There are very few serious people in the country that would not celebrate a robust and effective SIFC.

On the face of it, therefore there is not only no harm in trying, there is only an upside if it works out. Will it work out? What are the key considerations that should inform the SIFC as it learns how difficult the task of normalizing Pakistan's economy really is? Who are the most vital stakeholders in the SIFC reform journey? Some little

historical perspective may help shed light on these important questions.

The October 8, 2005 earthquake left over 73,000 dead and rendered over 3.5 million Pakistanis homeless. The scale of the death and destruction was unlike anything Pakistan had experienced. In the hours and days immediately after the earthquake, the entire governance system was seized with one overwhelming question above all: how will Pakistan recover from the calamity?

Two days after the earthquake, a body called the Federal Relief Commission (FRC) was set up to coordinate and manage immediate search and rescue and relief operations. Sixteen days after the earthquake, a body called the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Agency (ERRA) was established to create a mechanism and channel for the large-scale and long-term reconstruction that the country would now need.

At the time, there was no National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and therefore the FRC made a lot of sense. The logic for establishing ERRA was a little less com-

elling. The primary explanation for why ERRA was required was that the existing approvals process for big public spending projects—especially infrastructure for roads, highways and electricity transmission and distribution—took too long and required too many loopholes for the system to jump itself through. By allocating all such big spending effort to the 'authority' of ERRA, the government systems in Pakistan would be able to act decisively and quickly to serve earthquake-affected Pakistanis without the burden of the departmental DWPs, the provincial DWPs, the central DWP, and of course the ultimate ECNEC.

Back then, I argued for the government to revisit the existing mechanisms rather than establishing a parallel government in the shape of ERRA to do what the government should be able to do anyway. In subsequent arguments with senior officials and colleagues who insisted that the earthquake merited the establishment of a parallel government, I usually had three key questions I would ask.

The first was: "what will Pakistan do if a different calamity was to strike a few years later—would there be a new 'ERRA' for every kind of calamity?" The second was: "what impact will a functional and well-funded parallel government like ERRA have on the less functional and already decrepit rest of government? How will it affect motivation and accountability when we signal that it's okay for the rest of government to move slowly and without performance metrics on the boulevard of broken Pakistani government dreams whilst ERRA gets on the highway of governance heaven?" The third was: "without sunset clauses, would the system have the wherewithal to shut down an organizational infrastructure that brings jobs and money, given the track record of job creation and sustenance as a driver of public sector incentives?"

ERRA turned 18 years old this year—an adult by every measure. Some aspects of the earthquake response are seen as among global best practices. Pakistani civil servants and military officers are respected around the world based on the richness of the earthquake experience. Indeed, the FRC was transformed into the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and though it took some time for the NDMA to become central to how Pakistan deals with disasters, it is a reasonably functional coherer of the Pakistani response to disasters and calamities. It helped deal with the internal displacement after the 2009 military operations in Swat, it helped deal with the floods of 2010, and it has maintained a reasonable handle on disaster responsiveness since—most notably during the 2022 superfloods.

The most important lesson for governments everywhere in this era of polycrisis is the lesson of convergence. All big-picture problems and solutions are now anchored outside the boundaries of traditional verticals—and wrapped up across old and new disciplines. Let's take climate change as a test case. Climate has a finance dimension that makes the Finance Division and the Debt Management Office a central stakeholder in the Climate Division's work, but neither of those functions can

be fulfilled without a robust provincial planning function input. More crucially, new investments and the drive for exports growth means that the BOI and the Commerce Division are intimately connected to both adaptation and to "clean" and "green" both in terms of the kinds of industries Pakistan promotes at home and the kinds of investors it works to bring home.

Is the solution a climate version of ERRA, NCOC or SIFC? Probably not. What the country needs—for climate, for education, for public health, for national security, for women's economic empowerment, for investment, and for exports—is a dramatic transformation of the traditional verticals in government. It needs a wholly different approach to how talent is recruited and retained in the public sector, and it needs entirely new kinds of incentives to shape the behaviour within the public sector. Can the SIFC serve as a vehicle for serious reforms that serves these urgent Pakistani systemic needs? That is the SIFC's true test. -- Courtesy TheNews

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 partnership.

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 Kyber 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 syed.gilani@gmail.com.]



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali and Mayor Peshawar Haji Zubair Ali in a group photo with orphan children of Model Institute for Estate Children during their visit to Governor House.

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.



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.

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

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman distributed shields and trophies to the prize winners of flower show, organized by the Horticulture 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. He said that Allah Almighty is beautiful and likes beauty.



HYDERABAD: Volunteers of Rescue 1122 display their equipment to mark International Volunteer's day, in City.

PFA shut 210 food points in November

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has shut down 210 food points and imposed hefty fines on 6,300 eateries during an inspection drive in November across Punjab.

PFA Director General Raja Jahangir Anwar said in a statement that the teams thoroughly inspected the food safety and quality parameters of more than 52,500 food businesses including marts, tuck shops, restaurants, marriage halls, tea points, water filtration plants, beverages units and other production units. The authority lodged first

information reports (FIRs) against 53 people on account of forgery and adulteration besides issuing warning notices for improvement to 33,000 food business operators. Further, the authority sent over 955 food samples for laboratory tests and issued 3,900 food licenses to newly registered FBOs. The PFA warned more than 33,000 food points, asking them to improve their hygienic condition and food quality, he said. Raja Jahangir Anwar said that all types of food are also checked as per the annual checking schedule along with surprise checking.

UAD celebrates World Soil Day

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The 'World Soil Day' was celebrated at the University of Agriculture Dera Ismail Khan (UAD) on Tuesday by organizing a ceremony here at the varsity's Department of Soil Sciences.

The ceremony was organized by the Department of Soil Sciences led by its Head of Department Dr Zarina Baloch wherein UAD Registrar Abdul Basit Khan was the chief guest of the ceremony.

KP Caretaker Minister lauds collaboration with overseas employment corporation

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 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 (GTVC) in Peshawar, the minister proposed the establishment of a provincial organization or cell, modelled after the OEC, under the Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA). This proposed setup aims to explore more opportunities for skilled professionals from the province in foreign countries, offering support throughout the necessary stages, including assistance in sending graduates from technical training institutions abroad.

Dr. Abdullah also took notice of various trades classes at the college and, during the visit, suspended the absent college accountant and demanded an explanation.

Sohail Khan, the coordinator of the OEC at the regional office, informed the minister that South Korea annually requires around 4,000 skilled workers from Pakistan, including approximately 600 individuals from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He highlighted the importance of language courses in Korean.



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.

KPCS condemns Warsak Road blast

PESHAWAR (Online): Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary 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 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Two dacoits killed during police encounter

HYDERABAD (APP): In an encounter with a gang of car lifters, police killed two dacoits while one of the gang members managed to slip away from the scene, they were wanted in a score of heinous crimes.

SSP Haider Raza told the media that the gang lifted a Corolla Car AHG 659 from the cattle den of Daur town; however, on instant information, the police started a chase.

LHC rejects petition against meeting of CEC, IG with US ambassador

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) while upholding the objection of registrar office has rejected the petition against meeting of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and IG Punjab with US ambassador.

The petition filed by one Kamran came up for hearing before justice Shujaat Ali Khan of LHC Tuesday.

The court remarked president and prime minister cannot be made respondents directly.

The petitioner had taken the plea IG Punjab and CEC met US ambassador. The meeting of these two officers with US ambassador will influence election result. Application was sent to president and prime minister against the two officers but the president and the prime minister did not give any decision on the application.

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 (DAP) 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

CM Naqvi chairs cabinet meeting, approves reforms

Approves increase in driving licence fees effective from January 1; transfer policy for MBBS and BDS students in govt medical and dental colleges also approved

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, chairing the 33th 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 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.

Furthermore, the cabinet endorsed policy frameworks for the selection of vice-chancellors at the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences in Lahore and Bahawalpur.



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.

Governor met with orphans; urged philanthropist to provide them assistance

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Orphans and needy girl students of Zamoong Kor Model Institute of Street Children Mathra on Tuesday visited Governor House Peshawar and met with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali.

The children were accompanied by the Principal of the institute, Naheed Bilal, Deputy Director, Mian Ziaullah and teachers. They visited various sections of the building and met with KP Governor. He also distributed gifts among the visiting children.

The governor was

informed that more than 1000 needy and orphan girls are getting education in four model institutes that are situated in Peshawar, Abbottabad, DI Khan and Swat. He was informed that children of these institutes are being provided all the needed help and assistance.

Speaking on the occasion, the governor said that helping these children is the best norm of humanity and added that their help is the collective responsibility of the society. He also urged philanthropists to provide them assistance to become a useful part of society.

The governor also appreciated the teachers of these institutes for their dedication and sincere help towards children.

He said that these children deserve the same status and treatment as other children. He said making these children a useful part of society is among the responsibilities of society and the state.

Later Haji Ghulam Ali also met with a delegation of Bannu and Badhbir elders and discussed the problems and issues confronted by them. He also assured them of his cooperation and help.

Governor inaugurates swimming pool

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur 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, Zaheer 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.

He expressed these views while visiting the Government Technical and Vocational Centre (GTVC), Gulbahar here on Tuesday, wherein, the minister

OEC'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 Corporation (OEC) collaborative 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.

He expressed these views while visiting the Government Technical and Vocational Centre (GTVC), Gulbahar here on Tuesday, wherein, the minister

reviewed technical training processes there and also visited the same language center established inside the technical college.

The caretaker minister on this occasion, also reviewed the various trades classes in the college while taking serious notice of the college accountant's absence without reason during the visit and issued orders to the relevant authorities for his suspension and seeking an explanation.

The provincial minister indicated to consider setting up their own organization or cell at the provincial level on the pattern of Overseas Employment Corporation for the purpose of finding more opportunities for skilled and professional people of the province in foreign countries and providing them support in the required stages.

He said that the proposed setup will be established under the Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA).



LAHORE: Activists of Civil Society participated in a protest to show solidarity with the people of Palestine and take part in an anti-Israel demonstration at Liberty Chowk.

Planning Minister reviews power sector's progress

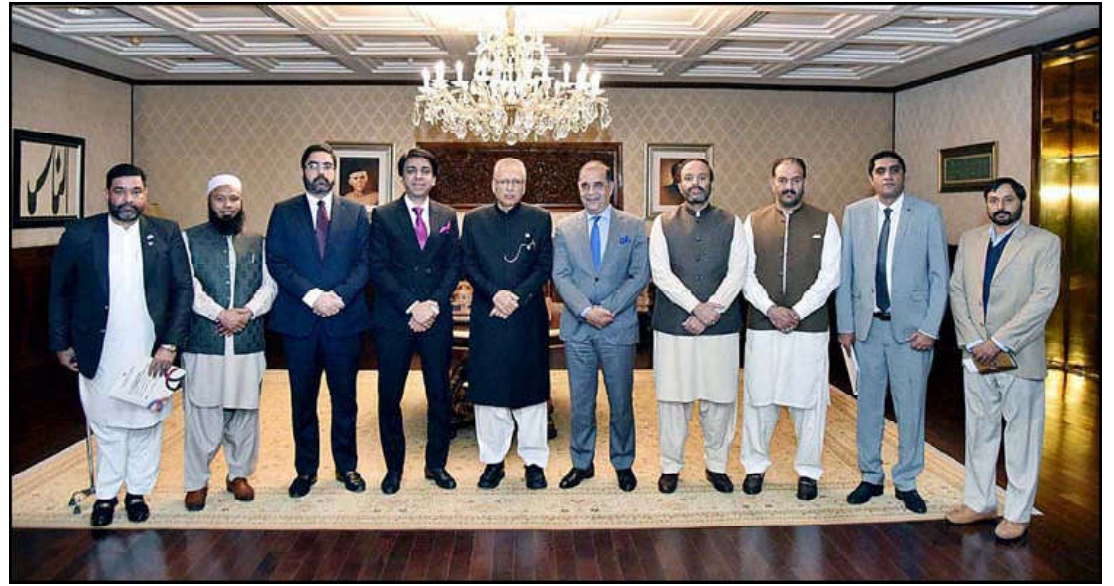
ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the progress of the power sector of the ministry. The Chief Energy Section gave a detailed briefing on current statistics, prevalent policies and new initiatives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

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

technical appraisal of the 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 Sector.



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.



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

Senate body directs companies to prioritize skill development

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Sub-Committee of the Senate Standing Committee on Petroleum on Tuesday directed all oil and gas companies to prioritize skill development and entrepreneurship initiatives in the Balochistan province.

The meeting was chaired by Senator Prince Ahmed Omer Ahmedzai. The purpose of the sub-committee meeting was to assess the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives carried out by oil

and gas companies, both public and private, in Balochistan.

During the session, representatives of seven oil and gas companies presented their initiatives and operations.

The Prime Company officials briefed the committee members on their initiatives and schemes.

Subsequently, officers from Al-Haj Company detailed their expenditures, revealing total spending of

Rs.300,000 in the Baska North division and approximately Rs.254,908 in the Potwar South division.

Deewan Petroleum offered insights into their spending and schemes from previous years, emphasizing their focus on clean water supply, educational programs, free bus services, and flood relief activities. Similarly, PGNiG (Polish Oil and Gas Company) explained its main CSR deposits, domains.

U Microfinance Bank announces net profit Rs 1.7b in nine months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's fastest-growing microfinance bank, U Microfinance Bank Limited on Tuesday announced financial results for the nine months ended September 30th, 2023.

The announcement was made during the Board of Directors' meeting held here.

The bank has reported a profit after tax Rs 1.7 billion, with a remarkable growth of Rs 2.2 billion as compared to the corresponding period's nine-month ended loss (Restated) of Rs 513

million. The total deposits of the bank stood at Rs 103 billion with a growth of 44% YoY, while the Gross Loan Portfolio amounting to PKR 72.5 billion exhibited an impressive growth of 59% YoY.

U Microfinance Bank Limited President & CEO Mr. Mohamed Essa Al Taheri said, "Our latest performance results reflect the hard work and dedication of our teams. We have always had full confidence in our institution's ability to navigate challenges and remain profitable."

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.

Gold rates decrease by Rs.4,200

ISLAMABAD, Dec 5 (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold witnessed a decrease of Rs.4,200 on Tuesday and was sold at Rs.219,400 against its sale at Rs 223,600 the last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat also decreased by Rs3,601 to Rs.188,100 from Rs 191,701 whereas that of and 10 gram 22 Karat gold declined to Rs.172,425 from Rs 175,726. The price of per tola silver decreased by Rs 20 to close at Rs 2600 and ten-gram.

LESCO recovers over Rs 11m from 546 defaulters in 24hrs

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) in collaboration with Tehsildars (Recovery) has recovered Rs 11 million from 546 dead defaulters in all the five districts - Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara - on the 83rd day of its recovery campaign.

LESCO spokesman told media here Tuesday that on the 83rd day, Chief

Engineer O&M (T&G) Zafar Iqbal with the support of Tehsildar City Mujahid Zia and Tehsildar Shalimar Noreez Humayun recovered outstanding dues of Rs 1.77 million from 58 defaulters in Northern Circle and Rs 3.28 million from 83 defaulters in Eastern Circle respectively. Similarly, LESCO Manager (Material Disposal) Engineer Anwar Watto along with Tehsildar.

Seed Potato Production thru Aeroponics PARC, KOPIA sign TCPs & contract for construction of Green, Screen Houses

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Republic of Korea are working jointly on agriculture technology transfer projects for seed potato production through aeroponics, fodder production, chili drying and improvement in artificial insemination in cattle. These projects are being implemented jointly by Korea Program on International Agriculture (KOPIA) and Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC).

Technical Cooperation Projects (TCPs) were signed for the construction of aeroponic green houses, oat and rye grass seed production and artificial insemination using Korean Holstein Sexed Semen in Cattle.

In his remarks, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), emphasized the significance of the



that conventional potato plants typically yield only five tuber seeds, whereas aeroponic plants have the potential to produce 50 to 60 seeds each. Pakistan currently cultivates

potatoes on approximately 300,000 hectares of land, yet due to the substandard quality of domestic seeds, the country imports 15,000 to 20,000 tons.

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 Raof 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.

While Dr Saqib Ali, Major General Dr Aamer Khan, Dr Ahmed Mukhtar Khalid and Dr Asghar Maqsood have been elected as members of the PAS Council. The PAS Council will decide regarding the Secretary for Balochistan.

Dr Abdullah will officially take charge of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences for the period of two years from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2026. He thanked all the fellows of Pakistan Academy of Sciences for electing him as the president and said that he will use all the resources and effective measures for the promotion of higher education and research in the country.

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.



QATAR: Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication, Dr. Umar Saif in a meeting with H.E. Ahmad Al-Sayed, Minister of State and Chairman of Qatar Free Zones Authority and CEO of Qatar Venture Capital.

Providing favourable environment to industrialists top priority: Minister

FAISALABAD (APP): Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce S M Tanveer has said that providing a favorable environment to industrialists and businessmen is the first priority and all necessary measures are being taken to solve the problems faced by them at the local and provincial level.

In a meeting with industrialists and business organizations during his visit to the city on Tuesday, he said that a business facilitation center has been established in the provincial capital while such types of business facilitation centers will also be set up in other cities of the province.

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 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

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) and to forge a long-term relationship to secure our cyberspace. Dr. Umar Saif also visited the Qatar Development Bank (QDB) and met with its management and matters relating Pakistan Startup Fund were discussed during the meeting. QDB runs a network of incubators in FinTech and AgriTech and invests in startups from the seed stage to series A.

SBP injects Rs.454.6 billion into market

KARACHI (APP): State Bank of Pakistan, Tuesday, injected Rs. 454.6 billion in the market through reverse repo purchase and Shariah Compliant Modarabah Open Market Operation (OMO) cumulatively. According to OMO results issued here, the SBP conducted Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) on December 5, 2023 for a tenor of 3 days.

The central bank received 14 quotes amounting to Rs.469.450 billion offered at the rate of return ranging between 22.06 to 22.21 percent. Of them, the SBP, accepted 9 quotes amounting to Rs.434.6 billion at the return rate of 22.11%. Meanwhile, the central bank also conducted Shariah Compliant.



LAHORE: President Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) Kashif Anwar chairs an awareness session on Recent Amendment SROs and Regulation issued by Federal Board Revenue and Punjab Revenue Authority.

Ambassador Amna highlights investment opportunities in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg Amna Baloch on Tuesday highlighted the factors that made Pakistan a unique investment destination including the business friendly environment and opportunities characterized by ease of doing businesses, in addition to the availability of workforce.

She was addressing a webinar themed "Trade Opportunities in Pakistan," organized by Pakistan Embassy in Belgium, a press release said.

The ambassador also highlighted the government's constant support for business entities investing in Pakistan which played an

important role in attracting investors. A large number of representatives from national trade and investment agencies, and business entities of Belgium & Luxembourg participated in the event.

Emphasizing the need to enhance partnerships in a shifting world, Amna Baloch said that Pakistan was a reliable partner.

"The EU regulatory framework placed Pakistan in a position to cater to the needs of the European market and the upward trajectory of trade was a tantamount of this fact," she added.

Trade and Investment Attache Muhammad Bilal Khan apprised the participants regarding massive trade opportunities in Pakistan.



FAISALABAD: Care Taker Provincial Minister for Industry and Commerce SM Tanveer addressing during gathering at the residence of Former President of Chamber and Commerce Hafiz Ahtisham in City.

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. The headline inflation sustained at 26.9 percent on year on year (YoY) basis in October 2023 as compared to 26.6 percent in October 2022.

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 reach a 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.

UK's Cameron, China's Yi discussed intention to have 'constructive relationship'

MONITORING DESK LONDON: British Foreign Secretary David Cameron said he had spoken to his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on Tuesday and the pair discussed their "intention to have a constructive relationship".

"The UK will continue to engage with China where it furthers our interests," Cameron said in a post on X, adding that he had also discussed the situation in Israel and Gaza, and the war in Ukraine.

Prime Minister Rishi

Sunak's appointment of former British leader Cameron as foreign minister last month caused concern among some lawmakers in his Conservative Party about what it would mean for the government's approach to China. As prime minister, Cameron heralded a "golden era" in relations with China in 2015, something Sunak has said is over. Sunak has instead sought to balance national security interests with better cooperation on trade and climate change.

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 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.

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.

Myanmar junta leader says armed organisations must solve their problems 'politically'

MONITORING DESK MYANMAR: Myanmar's junta leader Min Aung Hlaing has called on armed ethnic groups involved in an offensive against the country's ruling military to solve their problems "politically," state media reported on Tuesday.

"(He) warned that if armed organisations keep on being foolish, residents of the relevant regions will suffer bad impacts. So, it is necessary to consider the lives of the people, and those organisations need to solve their problems politi-

cally," the Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper reported, Myanmar's military is facing the biggest challenge to its grip on the Southeast Asian nation since taking power in a 2021 coup, after three ethnic minority forces launched a coordinated offensive in late October, capturing some towns, including major border trade zones, and military posts.

A parallel civilian government backing some of the armed rebel groups dismissed Min Aung Hlaing's call for dialogue.



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.

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.

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 (9,840 feet) — taller than the volcano itself — into the sky on Sunday.

The dead hikers were found near Marapi's crater after the 2,891-metre

volcano rained ash on nearby villages, according to a local rescue official. Twelve were missing, three more were found alive and 49 had safely descended from the crater, some with burns and fractures, the official said.

"Until now I have not received any information," said Dasman, father of missing hiker Zakir Habibi, who made a two-hour drive from Padang city to the base of the mountain last night in hope of good news.

"I will stay here until I hear some news," said Dasman, who like many Indonesians goes by one name.

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 Shout 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. Markets reacted with scepticism to the deal because of doubts about whether the voluntary cuts would be fully implemented.



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

COP28 deliberates financing, carbon credits

MONITORING DESK DUBAI: Money pledges stacked up at COP28 in Dubai on Monday as delegates sought to address the huge gap between what is needed in climate finance and the amounts so far on offer.

The United Arab Emirates, the host of this year's conference, pledged to mobilise \$270 billion in green finance by 2030 through its banks, and several development banks announced plans to increase their funding efforts, including by agreeing to pause debt repayments if a climate-related disaster hits.

But leaders of the region's biggest economy and biggest OPEC oil producer Saudi Arabia have so far not attended the U.N. summit, in contrast to their participation in last year's COP27 conference in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

However, in a video message to the Saudi Green Initiative forum, held on the sidelines of COP28, Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman dismissed Western donations to a new climate loss and damage fund as "small change".

Australia's Greens to investigate supermarket 'price gouging'

MONITORING DESK SYDNEY: Australia's Greens party said on Sunday it would lead a parliamentary inquiry into "price gouging" by major supermarkets as the country grapples with high costs of living. "The inquiry will scrutinise the impact of market concentration on food prices and the pattern of pricing strategies employed by the supermarket duopoly," Greens Senator Nick McKim said in a statement, referring to Australian grocers Woolworths and Coles. "It will also assess the rise in essential item prices, the validity of discounts offered, and the inflation of profits during

economic hardship," added McKim, accusing supermarkets of "price gouging" during "Australia's cost of living crisis".

Assistant Minister for Competition Andrew Leigh said the Labor government supported the inquiry. "We recognise that Australians have questions about what's driving the prices they're paying at the cash register," Leigh said in a statement relayed by his spokesperson.

Woolworths and Coles, which together make about two-thirds of Australian grocery sales, have previously drawn criticism from the left-wing Greens over claims of unfair price hikes on groceries.

Man charged with assault for allegedly spitting on Muslim students in Ontario's London

MONITORING DESK LONDON: A man has been charged with two counts of assault for allegedly spitting on Muslim students at Western University in Ontario, Canada.

The male, who has also been barred from varsity premises, was arrested by the university's special constable service after two incidents were reported.

It wasn't specified if the accused, who is scheduled to appear before a court.

China says visa-free travel policy has boosted tourism

MONITORING DESK BEIJING: China's foreign ministry said on Tuesday its visa-free travel policy has produced a clear effect, making things easier for travellers.

"Going forward, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to adjust visa policies to create more favourable conditions and further facilitate cross-border travel," spokesperson Wang Wenbin told a press briefing when asked for an update on tourism after China announced the policy, which covers several European countries and Malaysia.

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".

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. Israel on Saturday ordered a negotiating team from its Mossad intelligence service that was in Doha to return home. Sheikh Tamim, called on the UN Security Council to force Israel to return to the negotiating table over the war in Gaza, saying the inaction by the international community in halting the conflict was "shameful".

"It is shameful for the international community to allow this heinous crime to continue for nearly two months, during which the systematic and deliberate killing of innocent civilians continues."

UN warns that 2 boats adrift in the Andaman Sea with 400 Rohingya aboard desperately need rescue

MONITORING DESK BANGKOK: The U.N. refugee agency on Monday sounded the alarm for about 400 Rohingya Muslims believed to be aboard two boats reported to be out of supplies and adrift in the Andaman Sea.

The UNHCR is worried that all aboard could die without efforts to rescue them, said Babar Baloch, the agency's Bangkok-based regional spokesperson.

"There are about 400 children, women and men looking death in the eye if

there are no moves to save these desperate souls," he told The Associated Press. The boats apparently embarked from Bangladesh and are reported to have been at sea for about two weeks, he said. The captain of one of the boats, contacted by the AP on Saturday, said he had 180 to 190 people on board, that they are out of food and water and the engine was damaged. The captain, who gave his name as Maan Nookim, said he fears all on board will die if they do not receive help.

Ukraine says it downs 10 of 17 Russian drones during overnight attacks

MONITORING DESK KYIV: Ukraine's military shot down 10 out of 17 attack drones launched overnight by Russia, Ukrainian authorities said on Tuesday. The governor of Ukraine's western Lviv region said three drones had struck an unspecified infrastructure target, but damage had been minimal and no casualties had been reported.

Authorities in eastern Ukraine's Kharkiv region said drones had struck private homes and residential

buildings, among other civilian targets, in at least two different settlements.

Kyiv's air force said the drones were shot down over "various regions" of the country.

It said six S-300 missiles had also been launched at civilian targets in the eastern Donetsk and southern Kherson regions.

Russia has repeatedly denied targeting civilians in Ukraine, but says the country's energy infrastructure is a legitimate military target.

South Africa intercepts buses carrying more than 400 unaccompanied children from Zimbabwe

MONITORING DESK JOHANNESBURG: Border officials in South Africa say they have intercepted dozens of buses carrying more than 400 young children from Zimbabwe without parents or legal guardians in an anti-trafficking operation.

The officials say the children were being "trafficked" into South Africa, although an organization representing foreign nationals living in South Africa says it's likely the children were being sent to visit their parents, who are working in South Africa, for the end of year holidays. The buses were sent back to Zimbabwe.

More than 1 million Zimbabweans live in South Africa, many of them illegally, having moved to their southern neighbor over the past 15 years to escape Zimbabwe's economic turmoil.

South African Border Management Agency commissioner Mike Masiapato said Sunday that South African police

stopped and searched 42 buses entering from Zimbabwe on Saturday night and found 443 children under the age of 8 traveling unaccompanied.

"We denied them entry and activated the Zimbabwean officials to process them back into Zimbabwe," Masiapato said.

The buses were allowed through on the Zimbabwean side of the Beitbridge border post, South African border officials said.

N g q a b u t h o Mabheba, chairperson of the Africa Diaspora Forum, which represents foreign nationals living in South Africa, said his organization believed the buses were carrying Zimbabwean children coming to South Africa to visit their parents, which is a regular phenomenon near the end of the year.

He said it is common that children are sent over the border without proper documentation allowing them to travel as unaccompanied minors.



Activists lift placards calling on the world's biggest CO2 emitters to fill the 'Loss and Damage' fund for supporting countries most vulnerable to climate change, at the COP28 summit.

Pakistan needs stable govt to get rid of prevailing crises: Ahsan

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Secretary General Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said that Pakistan needed a stable government that can fix and revive the national economy and put the country again on path to progress and development. Talking to media at Model Town here, he said that whenever the PML-N came to power, the foundation of Pakistan strengthened.

Ahsan Iqbal said the PML-N was the only political party that could steer the country out of current challenging situation and put it on the way to progress again, adding that continuation of policies and stability were vital for the country's development as it was the need of hour.

When compared to the governments of other political parties, the PML-N's performance appeared superior and everyone could acknowledge that easily, he said and added that PTI ministers themselves acknowledged that Pakistan was on the verge of default when they left the govern-

ment. He said that his party had adopted a transparent mechanism to distribute party tickets across the country, adding that dedicated and loyal candidates would be shortlisted to contest upcoming general elections so that the PML-N could form strong and stable government.

Ahsan Iqbal said that every party should be given political space, but if PTI wanted the space then its accused involved in May-9 mayhem must surrender. He added that PTI should apologize to the nation, martyrs' families and law enforcement agencies for the May-9 incidents if it wanted to bring itself in democratic process and get space in current political scenario. The PML-N had started its preparations for contesting next general elections to be held on February 8, he said and added that vigorous election campaign would be carried out in that regard. The PML-N would win in the next general election as it had clean swept the polls in 2013, he claimed.



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 Ombudsperson Secretariat for Protection Against Harassment (FOSPAH) at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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, Q u a i d - e - A z a m 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.

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 has 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.

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



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

Power companies should face action for overcharging consumers: Rabbani

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Senator Raza Rabbani on Tuesday castigated country's power distribution companies (Discos) for overcharging consumers, saying that action should be initiated against them for the 'criminal activity'.

The statement came after the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) exposed the "most controversial power theft drive" of the power distribution companies (Discos), defrauding consumers of billions of rupees by overcharging them as much as 100 percent.

The regulatory authority, in its inquiry report, claimed that the distribution companies were intentionally engaging in such malpractices to conceal their inefficiencies, causing thousands of consumers to suffer from higher electricity bills.

In a statement, the PPP Senator said that the NEPRA's inquiry had revealed the "mother of all scams, as power firms have been skinning alive users through inflated bills".

Raza Rabbani noted that the inquiry report had called into question the integrity of Discos' entire revenue stream.



QUETTA: Provincial Ombudsman Balochistan Nazam Muhammad Baloch Advocate presenting annual report of department to Caretaker Provincial Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Amanullah Khan Kanrani

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 imple-

mentation of Loss and Damage Fund, finally decided its secretariat to be placed under the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

"This was a tie between the Caribbean Development Bank and UNDRR but on developing countries emphasis, it was not placed under the multilateral development bank but the UN office," he added.

Commenting on the Clean Energy Transition, Dr Suleri said negotiations on energy to phase out fossil fuels by 2050 were also held.

The developing countries are agreeing on the harmful impact of fossil fuels but they are asking for some sort of just energy transition because it will be impossible for them to switch alternate energy solutions if imposed abruptly in the next 27 years, he said.

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.

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 ambassador reciprocated the sentiments, affirming Iraq's perspective on its friendly relations with Pakistan. He called for expanding economic and trade ties between the two nations. The envoy commended the contributions of Pakistani expatriates working in Iraq, assuring them of every possible facilitation.

He also praised Pakistan's efforts towards unity in the Muslim world.



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

The chairman expressed admiration for the resilience of the Iraqi people, acknowledging their steadfastness in addressing their challenges.

Balochistan Information department to organize women summits in 20 dists

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Information Department has completed all arrangements to organize Women Empowerment Summits (WES) in 20 districts of the province to empower and facilitate women enabling them to play a role for the development of the province.

The purpose of organizing summits was to encourage and provide a platform to women who had excelled in various fields so that they could play a role in the development of the country and province by using their talent in a better way.

According to the plan, the summits would be held in the districts including Khuzdar, Awaran, Dera Bugti, Sibi, Kharan, Noshki, Lasbela, Musakhel, Naseerabad, Zhob, Kohlu, Pashin, Quetta, Chaman, Killa Abdullah, Jafferabad, Kech, Kachi, Sohbatpur and Panjgur.

The women empowerment summits in collaboration with the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) would be held during the current month.

According to the plan, the summits would be held in the districts including Khuzdar, Awaran, Dera Bugti, Sibi, Kharan, Noshki, Lasbela, Musakhel, Naseerabad, Zhob, Kohlu, Pashin, Quetta, Chaman, Killa Abdullah, Jafferabad, Kech, Kachi, Sohbatpur and Panjgur.



QUETTA: Caretaker Home Minister Captain (retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali in a meeting with QESCO Chief Shafiq Ali

Zehri condemns incident of terrorism in Chillas

Independent Report
QUETTA: Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri on Tuesday expressed extreme anger and outrage over the incidents of terrorism in Chillas and other parts of the country.

In her condemnation statement issued here, she said that the purpose of consecutive incidents of terrorism in Pakistan is to prevent Pakistan from the upcoming elections and economic stability.

While expressing her condolences to the families of the martyrs on the martyrdom of army personnel and innocent civilians in the incidents of terrorism, she prayed that Allah Almighty

grant the martyrs a high place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and give patience to the bereaved. She said that the blood of the martyrs would not go in vain and the terrorists to be chased to the last extent and they would be sent to hell.

She said that the purpose of the cowardly incidents of terrorism was to sabotage the process of holding the upcoming elections in Pakistan and to create instability in the country, very soon these cowardly terrorists would be brought to their end.

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri said that cowardly enemies could not shake our firm resolve



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Information Imran Khan inspecting different sections during his visit to Directorate of Public Relations. Director General Public Relations Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran is also present



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting of Secretaries Committee

BNP condemns arrest of Manzoor Wadh situation created to keep away BNP from political process: Sajid

Independent Report
QUETTA: The senior leader of Balochistan National Party (BNP) Sajid Tareen has condemned the arrest of head of Pashtoon Tahafuz Movement (PTM), Manzoor Pashteen and said it was an attempt to stop him from going to Turbat.

Sajid Tareen was addressing a press conference here at the Quetta press club on Tuesday.

Other BNP leaders were also present on the occasion.

Sajid Tareen said that Manzoor Pashteen was not allowed to proceed for Turbat where he wanted to express solidarity with bereaved family of the young-

ster Balach Baloch who was killed in an alleged encounter.

Sajid Tareen also said that extra judicial acts are being done under a pre planned conspiracy.

He said that we have reservations about holding free and fair elections.

He alleged that Wadh situation was an attempt to keep the BNP away from the political process.

He said that such tactics are being used to keep away from the political and democratic process.

However, the BNP is a political and Democratic Party and it would take wholehearted part in the general elections, he asserted.

PTI leader Gandapur declared PO

ISLAMABAD (Online): District and Sessions Court Islamabad has declared former minister and PTI leader Ali Amin Gandapur proclaimed offender in possessing illegal arms and liquor case.

The case of possessing illegal arms and liquor against Ali Amin Gandapur came up for hearing before district and sessions court Islamabad Tuesday.

Prosecutor and investigation officer reached the court with case record. However Ali Amin Gandapur and his counsel Raja Zahoor ul Hassan did not appear in the court.

The court upon it declared Ali Amin Gandapur proclaimed offender.

The court adjourned the hearing of the case till January 04.



QUETTA: Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Education Dr. Qadir Bakhsh Baloch and Minister for Revenue, Finance Amjad Rasheed addressing a joint press conference at Quetta Press Club.

Secretary Info directs DGPR to expedite work on Digital Lab

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Secretary Information Department, Imran Khan had directed the Directorate General of Public Relations (DGPR) authorities to expedite work on the digital lab in view of importance of the digital era.

The Secretary Information was on the visit to DGPR on Tuesday.

He was welcomed by the Director General Public Relations, Muhammad

Noor Khetran and other officers.

The Secretary Information reviewed different sections of the DGPR including electronic media monitoring system.

Mr. Khetran briefed the Secretary Information about the overall performance of the Directorate.

He particularly informed about the assistance for establishing digital lab from the Chinese embassy.

Solangi grieved over demise of Ustad Gullu

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of Ustad Hussain Bakhsh Gullu, a famous singer of the subcontinent. In a statement, he condoled to the family saying he was deeply saddened to hear the news of the death of Ustad Hussain Bakhsh Gullu.

Ustad Gullu, who performed all over the world, left his singing footprints everywhere, Murtaza Solangi maintained.

He also performed on Radio Pakistan and Pakistan Television and with his death, a brilliant chapter of classical music has closed today.

ECP reserves Judgment in Imran' disqualification case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has reserved its verdict in the disqualification case of Imran Khan, the former Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), from holding the position of party chairman.

A five-member ECP bench, led by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, resumed the case hearing and reserved a decision on the disqualification of the former Chairman of PTI.

Appearing before the Election Commission, Shoaib Shaheen, the lawyer for the former PTI Chairman, argued that the party has submitted records of its intra-party elections.

Step afoot to improve quality of education in Pishin: DC

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pishin Captain @ Juma Dad Khan Mandukhel on Tuesday said that measures were being taken to improve the quality of education in the district. He said that special directives had been issued to the District Education Officer to take immediate action against all absent teachers and submit a report in this regard.

He expressed these views while talking to the delegation led by the Dis-

trict President of the Government Teachers Association Arif Tareen.

The Deputy Commissioner said that his door is open for the legitimate work of every person, saying that hundreds of primary and higher secondary teachers have been absent this year, absentee employees are nothing less than a burden on the exchequer. He said that legal action would be taken against the absent teachers and show-cause notices would also be issued.