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Grand public meeting held marking 56th foundation day of PPP:

Bilawal calls for burying politics of hatred, division; desires to introduce new style of politics to end rivalries

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has called for "burying" politics of hatred and division in line with the vision of his father Asif Ali Zardari's reconciliatory politics.

Bilawal said: "we have to do politics wherein we should think about unity and not of division. The PPP wants to start a new kind of politics in the country".

He was addressing a grand public rally held to mark the PPP's 56th foundation day in Quetta.

The grand public meeting marking the 56th founding day of PPP was held at the spacious football ground located in the Ayub Sports complex.

Besides PPP's central leaders including its President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, other prominent leaders of the party who participated in the event were included: Faisal Karim Kundi, Syed Khurshid Shah, former Chief Ministers of Sindh, Syed Qaim Ali Shah and Syed Murad Ali Shah, Nafisa Shah,

Nayyar Bokhari, Manzoor Wassan, Ms. Shazia Marri, Sharjeel Memon, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Nisar Khoro besides the party's leaders from different other parts of the country.

The prominent provincial leaders participated in the party's public gathering were included its provincial President, Mir Changez Khan Jamali, General secretary, Rozi Khan Kakar, Nawab Sanauallah Zehri, Lt. General (Retd) Abdul Qadir Baloch, Ali Madad Jatak Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrami, Iqbal Shah besides others.

The senior leader of PPP from Sindh, Nisar Khoro as well as provincial leaders including Mir Changez Jamali, Nawab Sanauallah Zehri, Abdul Qadir Baloch, Ali Madad Jatak, Rozi Khan Kakar, Sadiq Umrami and others addressed the public meeting. The party workers and leaders from all over the province participated in the public gathering.

They reached the jalsa gah in form of big caravans and groups mostly carrying the party flags and portraits of their leaders.



QUETTA: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses to his supporters during the public gathering meeting on the occasion of PPP 56th Foundation Day, at Ayub Stadium in Quetta.



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Country Director of World Health Organization, Dr. Palitha Mahipala called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

We have formulas to strengthen country, Balochistan:

Zardari pledges to make Pakistan stronger and great country after coming into power

Independent Report

QUETTA: The President of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) and former President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari has said that Balochistan is the heart of Pakistan, and it is very important to win this heart, and reaffirmed his resolve that he would, by bringing the entire nation together, make Pakistan a great country. He also urged that if Pakistan is to become an exporting country, Balochistan has to be supplied with water.

Addressing the grand public meeting organized on the occasion of the party's 56th foundation day in Quetta, the former president said that Pakistan is rich in all virtues. He furthered that Pakistan is not weak, and added: "a nation does not rise by itself, it is led and raised by leaders. He said that when he was in prison, people often asked him what his

activities were?" "So I used to answer them that I dream for Pakistan," he added. He said that each and every one of the nation should work together to make Pakistan in real sense a Pakistan. "(Such a Pakistan) as 'Quaid-e-Awam' used to say that to make this country a great country, we have to emerge as a great nation on the map of the world," he added.

President PPPP said that individuals sitting in Islamabad do not see that Balochistan is the heart of the country, but PPP sees (without doubt) that Balochistan is the heart of the country. "Today I want to tell everyone that there is a great sadness and sorrow spread inside the land of Balochistan, and we have to put ointment on it. We put some ointment during our time, but it is not enough," he said.



GWADAR: Caretaker Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Communication and Railway, Capt. (Retd) Shahid Ashraf Tarar undertook a comprehensive two-day visit to the port city of Gwadar to closely monitor and evaluate the progress of development initiatives.

Iranian Ambassador for ending political relations with Israel

QUETTA (APP): The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pakistan, Raza Amiri Moqadam, urging the need for ending political relations with Israel said the problem of Palestine is a war between Islam and Western forces.

It is admirable that Pakistanis expressed their sympathy for Palestine by going out on the streets. He said this while addressing scholars, intellectuals, journalists, and a tribal elders at Khana Farhang Quetta on Wednesday.

The ambassador said that there is a law to support the oppressed in the constitution of Iran. In

this connection, we will continue our support to Palestine.

All kinds of conspiracies were hatched against Iran in 44 years; he said adding that Iran fought all the conspiracies with bravery and unity.

The ambassador further said America's hostility towards Iran is not only because of its nuclear power but because it supports Palestine. "Iran has supported Palestine and will continue to do so", he added. Quetta is a neighbouring city of Iran, therefore Quetta has special importance, Amiri said urging the need for promoting commercial and cultural relations with Pakistan.

PM to lead Pakistan's delegation in COP-28

DUBAI (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar will lead the Pakistani delegation in the high-level segment of the 28th UN Conference of Parties (COP 28) starting here at the Expo City on Friday.

The prime minister will attend the World Climate Action Summit on December 1 and 2, a press release by the Prime Minister Office Press Wing said.

Prime Minister Kakar will give a national statement at the World Climate Action Summit on December 2.

Meetings of the prime minister with various world leaders are expected on the sidelines of the conference. Caretaker Foreign Minister Jaleel Abbas Jilani, Caretaker Finance Minister Dr Shamsah Akhtar, Caretaker Minister for Climate Change Ahmed Irfan Aslam and Caretaker Energy Minister Muhammad Ali will also participate in the COP 28.

Court told Nawaz joins investigation in Toshakhana reference

ISLAMABAD (APP): An Accountability Court (AC) on Thursday adjourned the hearing till December 20, of Toshakhana case against PML-N's Quaid Nawaz Sharif, former president Asif Zardari and former PM Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani.

The defence lawyer, during the hearing, informed the court that former prime minister Nawaz Sharif had joined the investigation, explaining answers to the questionnaire.

Qazi Misbah Advocate said that it was on the record that his client didn't demand the vehicle from Toshakhana. On the occasion, the NAB prosecutor endorsed the stance of defence and said that former prime minister had given answers to the NAB questions. He said that now the prosecution would view the statement of Nawaz Sharif and after it further action would be decided.

The court adjourned further hearing of the case till December 20. AC-1 Judge Muhammad Bashir heard the case.

Naval Chief emphasizes perpetual combat readiness to thwart any aggression

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Command & Staff Conference of Pakistan Navy concluded here on Thursday which was chaired by Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf.

During the conference, matters related to national security, geo strategic affairs, combat readiness and training of troops were discussed, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

The conference assessed the evolving maritime situation in the region due to ongoing conflict in Middle East.

Under the prevailing maritime situation in the

Middle East, deployment of Pakistan Navy Ship for the protection of Pakistan's merchant ships was discussed.

Progress on Pakistan Navy projects including future plans was also reviewed and way forward was deliberated.

The Naval Chief emphasized on maintaining perpetual combat readiness to effectively thwart any aggression against Pakistan.

He lauded the initiatives undertaken towards capability development through acquisition of state of the art platforms and emerging technologies.

Solangi underlines need of state media reforms at pat with modern standards

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Thursday urged the Senate's Standing Committee to discuss and work out the plan for reforms in the state media institutions.

Addressing the Senate Committee on Information and Broadcasting, the minister underlined the need to carry out reforms in the state broadcasters to bring them at par with modern standards.

Senator Fawzia Arshad presided over the meeting which was attended by members of the committee including Senator Maula Bakhsh Chandio, Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui and Senator Naseema Ehsan as well as Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Shaheera Shahid, MD Pakistan Television (PTV), Director

General Radio Pakistan, and Managing Director Associated Press of Pakistan (APP).

During the session at Committee Room No. 1 of the Parliament House, the panel discussed the implementation of the recommendations, worked out in its meeting on October 9, 2023.

The committee also took up the recommendations related to the appointment of 53 daily-wage employees during the meeting. The information minister said the caretaker government could not make permanent appointments or decide about the closure of any institution.

He said services of different people were hired sometime back to mitigate the shortage of staff and run essential programmes, but hiring of daily wagers through advertisement, seemed to be a time-consuming process.

SC moved for establishment of JC on return of Afghan refugees

ISLAMABAD (Online): Petition has been filed in Supreme Court (SC) for establishment of Judicial Council (JC) in connection with return of Afghan refugees to Afghanistan.

The petition has been filed by six citizens.

It has been said in the petition that Pakistan has been hosting 5 million Afghan refugees generously since the last 40 years. Afghan refugees came to Pakistan during 3 wars after war with Soviet Union. The government gave deadline for evacuation of illegal foreigners.

As per media reports Afghan refugees were allowed to take with them Rs 50000. Government could not check every one individually that any person is threat or otherwise.

The plea has been taken in the petition that federal government failed to prove this that decision for returning Afghan Refugees to their homeland was taken under what authority.

It has been requested in the petition that the decision of federal government for deportation of Afghan refugees is against the basic rights. Therefore, an autonomous commission be constituted for transparent return of Afghan refugees to Afghanistan.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan/Chairman National Judicial Automation Committee (NJAC) convened a meeting at Supreme Court.

PM Kakar for utilizing Loss & Damage Fund on merit to cope with climate change issues

DUBAI (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday stressed the need to immediately operationalize the Loss & Damage Fund, ensuring its utilization on merit to cope with the issues of climate change.

He said the utilization of Fund should not be linked with the development funds and loans from multilateral financial entities, but the funding should be additional and tangible.

The prime minister, in an interview with CNN on the sidelines of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP28, said that currently Pakistan's focus was on transformation from the coal-based

power plants to renewable energy projects to contribute towards minimizing the climate change impacts in the region and beyond.

"This is the area which could attract interest of countries here in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the settled economies and democracies on the Western side, so it is an opportunity for all of them and all of us," he added. He said the climate change was no more a fashionable point to discuss as it hit Pakistan very hard last year.

The prime minister pointed out that Pakistan was not primarily responsible for contributing to the climate disaster in which the country's two prov-

inces Sindh and Balochistan faced historical devastation.

"Everyone knows who have been contributing in last one century so it is more of a question of an honest conversation rather than passing judgment on countries and economies," he remarked. Therefore, he said, the responsibility shown by the wealthy nations themselves would be a welcome step.

To a question whether the Fund should be operationalized through a United Nations framework, the prime minister said, "If we wait for a UN framework it will take years of years. Therefore, initially it is possible to operationalize it under the World Bank and other multilateral entities."



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf chairs the Command and Staff Conference held at Naval Headquarters in Islamabad.

Shehbaz meets Nawaz, felicitates him on acquittal

LAHORE (APP): Former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif met party supreme Nawaz Sharif on Thursday and congratulated him over his acquittal in the Avenfield reference.

During the meeting, the two leaders discussed the current political situation and issues related to upcoming general election in February 2024.

According to a post shared on PML-N official X (formerly Twitter) account, Shehbaz Sharif met Nawaz Sharif at the central secretariat of the party. He expressed his happiness over his brother's acquittal in the Avenfield reference.

He also extended felicitations to Maryam Nawaz in this regard.

ECP adjourns contempt case hearing until December 6

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has adjourned the hearing of a case linked to contempt of the commission until December 6.

Nisar Durrani, an ECP member, chaired a four-member bench that resumed the hearing of a case, where Chairman PTI Asad Umer and Fawad Chaudhry face accusations of contempt of the Chief Election Commissioner and the commission.

A member of the ECP said, the Law Ministry has cited security concerns, stating that the PTI chairman cannot be brought before the commission.

Shoab Shaheen expressed his desire to present arguments, stressing the importance of transparency by making the report public. Alternatively, if public disclosure isn't possible, he requested the commission to share the report with the accused's counsel, especially as it is being used against PTI. In the event of a jail trial, he insisted that the entire proceedings should be conducted

Federal cabinet approves jail trial of PTI chairman in cipher case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Cabinet has accorded approval to jail trial of PTI chairman in cipher case.

According to media reports federal cabinet has approved trial of Imran Khan in Adiala jail in cipher case.

Approval has been obtained from cabinet regarding summary of ministry of law and justice through circulation under which the trial of former Prime Minister (PM), Shah Mehmood

Qureshi and others will be conducted in Adiala Jail as per official secret act.

It has been said that approval was obtained from federal cabinet in the light of decision of judge Abul Hasnat Zulfqarnain of special court established under official secret act. The cabinet was informed about Islamabad High Court (IHC) decision on nullification of jail trial of PTI chairman and others.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Avenfield verdict

In a turn of fortunes, and for some a rightful reset of justice, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) has acquitted PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif in the Avenfield Apartments reference case. The high court had also recently acquitted Maryam Nawaz and her husband Captain @ Muhammad Safdar in the same reference. To many – both in the PML-N and independent legal observers – what had transpired in the Avenfield case in 2018 was a mockery of justice and the case had over the past years come to be seen as part of an aggressive anti-Sharif family campaign led by NAB, which eventually paved the way to the House of Sharif contesting the 2018 elections on a backfoot, weakened and broken for the most part.

The verdict can also be seen as yet another look at the way NAB had used weak and barely-there cases to gun for those out of favour with the previous PTI government.

The Avenfield legal saga had become a focal point of political intrigue, legal scrutiny, and public debate. At the heart of the matter was Nawaz Sharif and his family's ownership of luxury apartments in the upscale Avenfield House in London, the case having had far-reaching implications, impacting not only the political landscape of Pakistan but also the discourse surrounding accountability, corruption, and rule of law. The Avenfield reference stemmed from revelations in the Panama Papers. Nawaz Sharif and his family were implicated in owning luxurious properties in London through offshore companies. On July 6, 2018 the trial court had sentenced Nawaz to 10 years in jail upon conviction along with a fine of more than one billion rupees – for owning assets beyond known sources of income and an additional year for not cooperating with NAB, both of them to be served concurrently. Maryam Nawaz had been sentenced to seven years in prison with a fine, and one year for non-cooperation with NAB, while her husband was handed down a two-year rigorous imprisonment. The verdict led to Nawaz Sharif's disqualification from holding public office, further polarizing the political landscape in Pakistan. In 2020, the IHC had declared him a proclaimed offender in the case.

The inequality equation



By Kamila Hyat

Inequality has always existed in Pakistan for at least one-third of the population which lives below the poverty line. There is no evidence of a drastic change over the decades since the country came into existence. But there is speculation from top economists in the country that after 2018, things have taken a turn for the worse and inequality has grown with the poor falling lower down the ladder as they struggle with inflation, unemployment, and many other perils that come along with these.

In a country where 50 per cent of the children are already stunted, we cannot afford more inequality and a further lowering of the quality of life for the poorest half of society. But this is what we are seeing. We know of families that have had to remove children from school or move them to less privileged ones in order to make their household budget cover the cost of the family. We also know of children sent out to work instead of attending school.

We see poverty all around us. From the sight of someone eating a roti with mere water in his plate to dip it in, to the other sights we have grown so familiar with, no one seems to care.

The golf courses which line many of our major cities spread out over acres at times, consume more water than the entire katchi abadis (informal settlements) and communities around them. It is the attitude to these katchi abadis which is more shocking. As they drive past these communities, people running the

golf clubs and those who use the clubs, suggest quickly that in order to beautify Lahore, Islamabad, Karachi, or some other city, the abadi simply be moved away, so they can drive in peace to their clubs rather than suggesting any effort to improve sanitation and housing and thereby help the people living there.

We see the same attitudes reflected in the way people treat domestic employees. We know of the deaths of maids, in some cases for no crime other than eating a morsel of food, after being kept on a starvation diet for days. In many houses, around big cities, we can see that housing for lower-income employees consists merely of a tin shack, sometimes without even toilet facilities or a fan. It is difficult to see how anyone can expect a human to live in these conditions, notably in the harsh summer months which hit the country or in the winter of the country's north.

Closing the equality gap is important to harmony and a greater sense of belonging in the country. Analysts who have looked at the matter believe that rising street crime and other such crime is linked to growing poverty, unemployment and bringing in earned incomes. Even when these incomes are available, the salaries given out to clerks, gardeners, postmen, drivers, and others are simply not enough to meet even their basic needs.

So what is to be done? There is a desperate need for a fairer system of taxation and taxation on land as well as some method to ensure that the rich pay out the taxes that they owe the country rather than drawing this tax only from salaried workers where it is cut at source.

More revenue needs to be well utilized. This would mean a policy stretching out over at least 15 years which looks at how uplift can take place and with this how the attitudes of what we call the 'elite' can change. Chang-

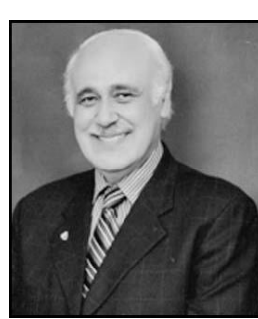
ing attitudes is important so that all citizens of the country get the dignity that is granted to them under the constitution of Pakistan but is rarely available in regular day to day life.

There are other measures too that need to be taken. One of them is improving the condition of our public schools so that all citizens everywhere can receive good education at affordable costs. The decline in standards of public schools is a huge setback in our efforts to grow and develop as a nation. Bangladesh has achieved much of its improvements in the economy and development by ensuring schooling, particularly for girls. To do so, it has roped in clerics and other people of influence so that the right message can go out to people. We need to emulate these examples.

The same applies to healthcare and its availability to people everywhere in the country. At present, it is not available. It must be made available, gained by upgrading public hospitals and clinics and by ensuring that there is some insurance scheme in place at more workplaces so that workers at all levels are covered. Again, the attitude of doctors and nurses needs to be changed too. No matter who seeks medical help, they must be treated in the same way and with the same degree of respect. This does not happen right now. A poorer person going in to seek care is often treated with an attitude of contempt even by medical staff who should understand how important it is to take care of everyone in the country and of the oath they have taken to do this as they became practicing doctors.

The journey for Pakistan will be a long and hard one. We must recognize that some of our top housing colonies are built atop the remains of katchi abadis and villages which have simply been decimated in order to accommodate these plush societies. —Courtesy The News

Cultural escapism



By F.S. Aijazuddin

Poised on the precipice of another Armageddon, one is reminded of the remark made in the 1940s by Sir Kenneth Clark, then director of the National Gallery, London. Asked why he arranged lunch-time concerts during the London Blitz, he retorted that it was necessary to remind people of the civilisation they were fighting to protect.

Living in a modern battle zone of sorts, one can be forgiven for recalling such moments of intellectual escapism. We live in a battered society where public protests attract penalties, political figures, like zoo animals, are safer behind bars, and festive paper kites are no longer visible in a sky smothered by fog.

My personal escape was in the late 1960s when, freshly transplanted from London to Lahore, I sought refuge from the dull world of accountancy and fled to the Lahore Museum. There, in the timeless world of miniature paintings, redolent with romance, populated by deities and demons, rulers and lovers, heroes and pining heroines, I discovered a world of courtly combat in which death was only symbolic, and blood merely a pigment.

These miniature paintings belonged to a period following the collapse of the Mughal empire in the 18th century when artists migrated to provincial courts, particularly it is believed to states in Rajasthan and the smaller Rajput principalities in the Punjab hills.

naissance occurred during the 15th and 16th centuries in the north Italian states, notably Venice and Florence. American art historian Bernard Berenson in the 1890s developed a chronology of Italianate painting. His pioneering publications included Venetian Painters (1894), Florentine Painters (1896), and Central Italian Painters (1897) — all of the Renaissance. Berenson's approach was to identify the artist's personality and identity through his works, not simply through signatures. As another scholar put it: inscriptions lie; paintings don't.

In 1899, Berenson created a personality he called Amico di Sandro, "by looking solely at the works and not at documents". He placed unsigned pictures he attributed to this unknown artist between two contemporaries — Botticelli and Filippino. Later evidence proved that an artist named Sandro did, in fact, exist.

Subsequent scholars benefited from this approach to art history. In the 1950s, Dr W.G. Archer, working in London's Victoria & Albert Museum, used certain Pahari paintings as evidence to argue that Guler and not Kangra had been the crucible of Pahari painting. Subsequent research confirmed his view.

Archer had an almost symbiotic connection with paintings. His attributions were more accurate than his detractors cared to admit. I was witness to a test of his gift. In 1977, a number of us scholars were taken to San Diego to examine the Ed Binney III collection of miniatures. There Brijen Goswamy noticed that one of the paintings, a Kahlur/Bilaspur image of the casting of Krishna's horoscope, bore an inscription. It revealed a date of 1705. The scholars present scrambled to check the date Bill had made in his attribution, hoping he was wrong. To their dismay,

Bill, unaware of the colophon, had dated it purely on the basis of style to circa 1700!

Over time, Goswamy's familiarity with Devanagari, Persian and Urdu gave him an edge over Bill Archer and Western scholars, overshadowing their work. Gradually, their pupil matured into an Ustad. I was especially gratified, therefore, when during his visit to the Lahore Museum in 2016, Brijen urged its management to reprint my 1966 catalogue of its miniatures. It had withstood the test of time (50 years), and his scholastic scrutiny.

My next venture into art history was in response to another challenge — the identification of over 70 figures in the large canvas by August Schoefft titled 'The Court of Lahore' displayed in the Lahore Fort. Schoefft had visited Lahore in the 1840s. Dazzled by the splendour of the flamboyant Sikh darbar, he compressed the politics of the post-Maharaja Ranjit Singh era onto one expansive canvas. Looking critically at the painting, I noticed that Schoefft had cleverly grouped the figures according to their relationship with each other: princes with their peers, courtiers with their colleagues, foreigners with their fellow mercenaries, and assassins with their victims. This research too was published abroad as no publisher here wanted to handle Hindu or Sikh subjects. I returned to my spouse accountancy to pay for my affairs with art history. I learned from both, though, the importance of seeing, not just looking, of searching behind the apparent.

In today's environment when governments lie and sewage gushes through news channels, it helps to lose oneself in culture and art. "Art is not escape," the American poet Robert Hayden wrote, "but a way of finding order in chaos." —Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

President asks traders to adopt honesty, fairness to grab space in global economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday urged the traders and businessmen in the country to strictly adhere to the principles of honesty and fairness to capture a space in the competitive global economy.

Addressing the achievement recognition ceremony of the Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries (ICSTSI), the president said it was difficult to have a successful business if the customers did not trust a brand or considered it dishonest.

President Alvi said in a competitive economy, businesses that fail to create an ethical reputation soon become extinct. "Sell your products

with fairness by maintaining the same standards which you show to your target audience while marketing," he told the gathering of traders, here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Besides adopting a profit-based approach, he said, it was equally important for companies to ensure an environment of empathy and compassion in society.

"Honesty in public dealing and developing trust between supplier and consumers can lead to an atmosphere in the society," he said.

The president emphasized inculcating the values of honesty in the society in line with the glorious teachings of Islam which called for

maintaining integrity in public dealings.

He also noted that it was the responsibility of society to provide a harassment-free environment to women at workplaces to ensure their inclusion in all fields of life.

Dr Alvi said the promotion of small industries in the country could stimulate economic growth. The president highlighted the need for skill development through vocational courses to help the population earn the dividends of a skill-based economy.

"There is no dearth of talent and skills in the country, however, the situation needs provision of better opportunities to people," he said.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with the winners of the 2nd Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries achievement trophies at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Low income groups urged to apply in "BISP Savings Scheme"

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) has urged the people belonging to the low-income groups to submit applications for becoming a part of the recently launched "BISP Saving Scheme", taking a step towards making them self-reliant.

According to an official source, the BISP has started receiving applications under this scheme from those applicants both men and women living in Islamabad, Muzaffarabad, Neelum, Peshawar, Lucky Marwat, Quetta, Qila Saifullah, Lahore, Multan, Karachi, Sukkur, Gilgit and Astore.

The applicants, having a PMT score below 40, are required

to apply through a web portal: savings.bisp.gov.pk to become a part of this scheme without paying any fee.

The applicants will open a savings account in the bank to participate in the scheme. Those who will participate in the scheme will deposit money from 500 to 1000 rupees monthly in their rupee account.

The beneficiaries will get an additional 40 per cent of their savings from the BISP. The duration of the scheme is two years at the end of which the beneficiaries will be able to withdraw their entire amount. The beneficiaries will not be able to withdraw their principal amount during this two-year period.

IEP Project to help tackle energy crisis, says Planning Minister

ISLAMABAD (INP): The caretaker Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed said here on Thursday that the Integrated Energy Planning (IEP) Project for sustainable development would help in tackling the energy crisis in the country.

While chairing a meeting to review progress on IEP Project, the minister reviewed the work carried out by an Energy Planning & Resource Centre (EPRC) in the last two years, according to a press statement issued by the ministry.

According to the statement, the IEP is an effective and appropriate

tool for realizing the government's vision of developing a sustainable, cost-efficient energy sector that meets the country's strategic, socio-economic needs and rapidly growing energy demand.

In the continuation of this vision, an Energy Planning & Resource Centre (EPRC) has been established within IEP project. The EPRC team gave a comprehensive shared briefing of the policy reports published by EPRC including Pakistan Energy Demand Forecast 2021-30, Pakistan Energy Outlook Report 2021-30, Pakistan Natural Gas Policy Analysis and way forward and its upcoming work on the

financial viability of introducing large scale solar IPP's in the country.

During the meeting, Pakistan Energy Demand Forecast 2021-30 report was discussed. The report aims to start addressing the dire need for primary energy demand forecasting and provide the future energy demand (2021-2030) for all energy sources (oil, coal, natural gas, liquefied natural gas (LNG), liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), and electricity) across all economic sectors of Pakistan.

The report provides a review of existing energy sector forecasts published by various stakeholders in their official reports.

Limited increase in business of PSM witnesses on last day of November

KARACHI (Online): Pakistan Stock Market (PSM) was full of business on the last day of November, but limited momentum was seen.

Despite touching the level of 609020 points, the index closed at the level of 60500 points. An increase of more than 11 billion rupees was recorded in the market capital and 39.05% share prices also increased.

PSM on Thursday, although there was a bullishness in the opening session and the index touched a high of 60982 points, but selling pressure in some stocks for the sake of profit-taking limited the market momentum.

In the Pakistan Stock Market, the KSE 100 index recorded an increase of 29.27 points from 60502.00 points to 60531.27 points on Thursday, while the KSE 30 index increased by 13.01 points from 20175.44 points to 20188.45 points.

KSE All Shares Index closed at 40324.28 points from 40272.25 points.

In spite of business fluctuations, an increase of 11 billion 24 thousand 24 lakh 91 thousand 189 rupees was recorded in the market capital, as a result of which the total volume of capital increased from 87 trillion 18 billion 28 billion 7 lakh 75 thousand 42 rupees to 87 trillion 29 billion 52 billion 32 lakh 66 thousand 231 rupees. 46 crore 71 lakh 59 thousand shares worth 18 billion rupees were traded in Pakistan Stock Market on Thursday while 69 crore 22 lakh 20 thousand shares worth 27 billion rupees.



Senator Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on National Food Security and Research presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Parliament House Islamabad.

Rupee gains 22 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Thursday gained 22 paise against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 285.16 against the previous day's closing at Rs 285.38.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 285.25 and Rs 287.8 respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by Rs 1.12 to close at Rs 312.37 against the last day's closing of Rs 313.49, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Tractor production increase 55% in Jul-Oct

ISLAMABAD (APP): The production of farm tractors in the country witnessed an increase of 55.1 per cent to 17,098 units during the first four months of the financial year 2023-24, against the production of 11,027 units during the same months last year 2022-23.

During July-October, the production of trucks witnessed a decreasing trend as it went down from 1,267 units as compared to 597, showing a decline of 52.9 per cent, according to the Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA).

Production of pickups, Light Commercial Vehicles (LCVs) and Jeeps also dipped by 42 per cent to 6,797 units during the months under review from 11,712 units during the fiscal year 2022-23.

The production of buses witnessed a decline of 57.7 per cent from 336 units to 142 units during the fiscal year 2024, the PAMA added.

Meanwhile, the production of passenger cars also declined to 19,861 units against the production of 42,114 units during July-October, the data revealed.

Baligh-ur-Rehman says Pakistan, China bound in a relationship of mutual trust, love

Chinese Jiangsu police delegation calls on Punjab governor

Independent Report
LAHORE: Chinese Jiangsu Police delegation, led by Deputy Director General of Police Security Tan Yongsheng, called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at the Governor's House, here on Thursday. The governor told the delegation Pakistan and China were bound in a relationship of mutual trust, love and unparalleled friendship, adding that the strong friendship was higher than the Himalayas, deeper than the sea and sweeter than honey. He said the Belt and Road Initiative was a revolutionary project of

provide an opportunity for modern policing, he said and added that defence and other agreements between Pakistan and China were a reflection of mutual trust between the two countries. Jiangsu Deputy Director General of Police Security Tan Yongsheng said that in addition to cooperation in the field of policing between Pakistan and China, economic cooperation and people-to-people contacts would also be enhanced. He said that Pak-China friendship would be further strengthened through investment and exchanges at the public level.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, adding the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would open new avenues of development not only in Pakistan and China but in the entire region. He said the ongoing development projects under CPEC would bring a lot of improvement in energy and infrastructure in the country and generate economic development. Balighur Rehman said various training courses and mutual exchanges would increase the efficiency of police personnel. Such exchanges of delegations would



LAHORE: Chinese Jiangsu Police delegation, led by Deputy Director General of Police Security Tan Yongsheng, in a group photo with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at the Governor's House.

Jamal highlights role of journalism in countering adverse effects of media

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Caretaker Minister for Information and Public Relations, Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel on Thursday highlighted the pivotal role of journalism in mitigating adverse effects of social media emphasizing the importance of ethical reporting.

He was addressing a gathering of journalists at Peshawar Press Club. The minister also highlighted the importance of journalism in countering the negative influence of social media. Referring to incidents such as the Kohistan incident, he stressed the need for responsible journalism as a crucial antidote to the

harmful effects of social media. Barrister Feroze affirmed the indispensable relationship between the Department of Information and Press Club and said that efforts are underway to further strengthen press clubs and support unemployed journalists through the Journalists Welfare Endowment Fund.

He visited various sections of the press club underscoring the commitment to providing journalists with a conducive and efficient working environment. Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Secretary Information Syed Abdul Jabbar Shah.

278,000 children vaccinated in 3 days of anti polio campaign

CHINIOT (APP): A total of 278,000 children have been vaccinated during the three days of the anti-polio campaign in the district on Thursday. According to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) office, DC Muhammad Asif Raza presided over the evening meeting of the District Polio Eradication Committee and reviewed the implementation of the anti-polio campaign.

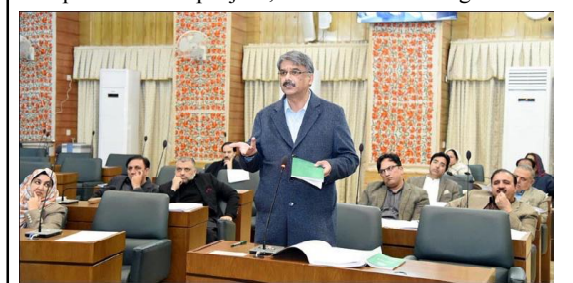
To ensure the success of the campaign, the Deputy Commissioner directed the District Health Authority to take strict departmental action against any negligent supervisory staff. He also stressed the importance of continuing measures to maintain the sense of administration of drops.

CM KP directs completion of computerization land records

PESHAWAR (APP): A progress review meeting of the Board of Revenue (BoR) was held with caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice @ Syed Arshad Hussain Shah in the chair. The meeting took stock of the implementation status of the Chief Minister's directives issued in the previous meeting and was informed that the progress so far made on the project regarding computerization and digitization of land records in the province.

Caretaker Provincial Minister for Revenue and Finance Ahmed Rasool Bangash, Caretaker Minister for ST&IT Dr. Najeeb Ullah, Senior Member Board of Revenue Ikramullah Khan and other relevant authorities attended the meeting. Briefing the participants, it was informed that after the Chief Minister's notice on slow implementation of the land record computerization project,

significant improvement has been made in the process of land records computerization, adding that during the last week, 30 more Mauzas have been operationalized in different districts of the province, and thus, the total number of operational Mauzas has increased from 2356 to 2386. Similarly, the number of manual Mauzas has reduced from 813 to 474 within one week. It was further told that during the last 11 days, a total of 31 Mauzas have been made live which include; 10 Mauzas in Bannu, six Mauzas in Abbottabad, seven in Charsadda, three in Peshawar, three in Kohat and one Mauza each in Swat and Shangla. Whereas, during the same period, a total of 261 Mauzas have been notified for stoppage of manual mutations which include; 15 Mauzas in Haripur, 10 in Swat, 11 in Shangla, 44 in Bannu, 15 in Peshawar, 159 in DI Khan and seven Mauzas in Battagram.



MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar Haq is speaking in the session of the Legislative Assembly.

Minister advocates hemophilia awareness

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister, Professor Dr. Javed Akram, emphasized the urgent need for hemophilia awareness during a seminar at the Children's Library Complex here on Thursday.

Addressing the audience, he highlighted the hereditary nature of hemophilia and the challenges in its diagnosis.

Dr. Javed Akram commended the Hemophilia Society's efforts, providing treatment facilities to over 1,100 patients across the province, with a significant number in Lahore. He stressed the importance of early diagnosis, stating that 40 per cent of complications can be avoided with timely detection.

CM Punjab visits DG Khan cardiology hospital

Independent Report
DG KHAN: Punjab Chief Minister made visit to institute of cardiology along with the provincial ministers, Amir Mir and Ibrahim Murad here on Thursday.

CM ordered to make the hospital functional completely. He directed to appoint medics of the concerned diseases and nurses with paramedics in the institute on a priority basis. Mohsin Naqvi made a detailed visit to the basement, ground and first floors and OPD of the hospital in particular.

He reviewed CT Scan machine, MIR room and ensured that they were working properly.

Later during the visit, he held a little talk with the media where he expressed contentment that the hospital was providing good services to the people across Southern Punjab.



RAHIM YAR KHAN: Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi enquiring about health injured Constable at Sheikh Sheikh Zayed Hospital.

Empowering women dire need of hour

MULTAN (APP): Provincial Woman Ombudperson, Ms Nabila HakimAliKhan, emphasized the need to empower and build confidence in women on Thursday.

While speaking to the media at the Circuit House, she advocated for providing women with a conducive work environment at workplaces. Ms Nabila stressed

that women should not be deprived of their inheritance rights under any circumstances.

Empowering women is a dire need of the time, she said adding that facilities are being provided to women in regional offices. The Woman Ombudperson mentioned that the Punjab government was taking important initiatives for the betterment of women.

One dead, 11 injured in high school truck Collision

ATTOCK (APP): A woman was killed and 11 passengers were injured in a traffic accident in Jand Tehsil of Attock on Thursday. According to Rescue Sources, the incident occurred near Namal village in Jundtehsil when a high school truck carrying female students collided with a stationary Ford loader vehicle.

International News

Nations urged to take 'great leaps' at UN climate talks

DUBAI (AFP/APP): The UN climate conference opens in Dubai on Thursday with nations under pressure to increase the urgency of action on global warming and wean off fossil fuels, amid intense scrutiny of oil-rich hosts UAE.

The two-week-long climate negotiations being held this year in the glitzy Gulf city come at a pivotal moment, with emissions still rising and this year likely to be the hottest in human history.

Britain's King Charles III, world leaders, activists and lobbyists are among more than 97,000 people expected to attend what is being billed as the largest climate gathering of its kind.

The UN and hosts the United Arab Emirates say these talks, known as COP28, will be the most important since Paris in 2015, when nations agreed to limit global warming to well below 2C since the preindustrial era, and preferably to a safer limit of 1.5C.

Scientists say the world is not on track to achieve these targets, and nations must make faster and deeper cuts to emissions to avert the most disastrous impacts of climate change.

"Right now, we're taking baby steps where we should be taking great leaps and great strides to get us to where we need to be," said UN climate chief Simon Stiell on

Wednesday. A central focus will be a stocktake of the world's limited progress on curbing global warming, which requires an official response at these talks.

On Friday and Saturday, about 140 heads of state and government—Pope Francis had to cancel last minute due to the flu—are expected to articulate their ambition after a year of devastating floods, wildfires and storms across the globe.

The UAE sees itself as a bridge between rich developed nations most responsible for historic emissions and the rest of the world, which has contributed less to global warming but suffers its worst consequences.

But the decision for it to host has attracted a firestorm of criticism, particularly after the appointment of Sultan Al Jaber—the head of UAE oil giant ADNOC—to steer the talks as COP president.

The 50-year-old Emirati, who also chairs a clean energy company, has defended his record and resisted pressure from European and US lawmakers to stand aside.

Fears of a conflict of interest were given fresh life on the eve of COP28 when Jaber was accused of using the presidency to pursue fossil fuel deals in meetings with governments—accusations he strenuously denied.



Palestinians check damage following a raid in Jenin in the Israeli-occupied West Bank

Gaza truce is not enough, say residents of bombed-out neighbourhood

News Desk

KHAN YUNIS: Returning home to find their neighbourhood wrecked by bombs, residents of Abu Ta'imah, on the outskirts of Gaza's Khan Yunis, said the Palestinian territory needed a permanent ceasefire, not just an extension of the truce between Israel and Hamas. Local people fled the area on the eastern edge of the city at the start of the fighting and did not return until the truce, which was in its sixth day on Wednesday.

"We were shocked to see this destruction. We were shocked to see our homes, our streets, our lands, our yards and everything demolished," said Gihad Nabil, who was recently married and had been living in Abu Ta'imah with his wife. Standing on a roof with a view of ruined buildings and mounds of rubble as far as the eye could see, he said the area had been home to about 5,000 or 6,000 people before the Hamas raid. He asked where they would go. "My house is completely destroyed. My brother's home, my uncle's, my neighbour's, all of them destroyed. We don't need this truce, we need a complete ceasefire," he said, likening what he was seeing to an earthquake zone.



Tarek al-Anabi, a 25-year-old Palestinian, gives English lessons to displaced children at a school in Rafah, which is used as a temporary shelter.

Ex-US secretary of state Henry Kissinger dies at 100

CONNECTICUT (INP): Former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger, known for his influential role in shaping post-World War II global dynamics, passed away on Wednesday at the age of 100, as announced by his consulting firm. "Dr. Henry Kissinger, a respected American scholar and statesman, died today at his home in Connecticut," Kissinger Associates announced in a statement late on Wednesday.

While the statement did not disclose the cause of death, it noted that the family would hold a private funeral, with a memorial service planned for later in New York.

Kissinger remained active even in his centenarian years, travelling to China in July to meet President Xi Jinping.

China was one of Kissinger's most lasting legacies. Hoping to shake up the Cold War fight against the Soviet Union, Kissinger secretly reached out to China, culminating in a historic 1972 visit by then-president Richard Nixon and later the US establish-

ment of relations with Beijing.

After the Watergate scandal brought down Nixon, Kissinger served under his successor, Gerald Ford. Unprecedentedly, Kissinger served both as the secretary of state and national security adviser.

His involvement in negotiations to end the Vietnam War also earned him the Nobel Peace Prize even though the conflict continued afterward and his North Vietnamese counterpart declined to accept the prize.

However, Kissinger's realpolitik approach and involvement in controversial actions, such as undermining Chile's elected president Salvador Allende and supporting General Augusto Pinochet's coup, have left a lasting and divisive legacy. He is also said to have supported Indonesia, a close anti-communist ally, as it seized East Timor in 1975, and turned a blind eye to Pakistan's alleged mass atrocities as Bangladesh won independence in 1971, seeing Islamabad as a valuable go-between with China.

War-ravaged Gaza City now a 'ghost town', UN aid agency

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Amid hopes of a deal to extend the pause in Israeli attacks on Gaza, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, reported on Wednesday that humanitarian assistance had reached its shelters in northern Gaza for the first time since conflict erupted last month.

"As we drove through Gaza City it was like a ghost town; all the streets were deserted," said Thomas White, Director of UNRWA Affairs in Gaza.

"The impact of heavy airstrikes and shelling was so visible. Roads are riddled with craters, complicating aid deliveries," he said.

Wednesday marks the sixth and final day of a truce between Hamas and Israel that was facilitated by Qatar, a rising diplomatic star at the world stage.

Humanitarian officials have urged the two sides to support repeated international calls to extend the pause in fighting, which has facilitated the reported release of at least 85 hostages by Hamas, and of more than 180 Palestinians detained by Israel.

The pause has also enabled humanitarian actors, primarily the Egyptian and Palestinian Red Crescent Societies and UN agencies, to "enhance" desperately needed aid deliveries into and across Gaza, according to the aid coordination office, OCHA.

The UN office's latest aid update noted that a Palestine Red Crescent Society convoy had reached the north on Tuesday carrying food, medical supplies, water, and non-food items, although the bulk of aid distribution has focused on the south, where most displaced Gazans now live.

In a statement, UNRWA said that on Monday a six-truck convoy had reached Jabalia, the largest and most built-up refugee camp in Gaza, located north of Gaza City.

UNRWA colleagues in Jabalia continue to serve their communities day in, day out, including one of the agency's sanitation services chiefs - "despite the unspeakable grief of his wife and daughter being killed", White said. Some 200 aid trucks have been able to cross into the enclave via

Egypt every day since the pause in fighting came into force on Friday 24 November. Images provided by UNRWA on X on Wednesday showed volunteers unloading sacks of supplies into a warehouse and a static fuel tank being filled.

More than 15,000 Gazans have been killed during Israeli airstrikes, according to the enclave's health authorities, including about 6,000 children. In a related development, the head of the UN health agency issued a fresh warning on Wednesday about the high risk of diseases spreading among those displaced by the violence. Writing on X, formerly Twitter, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus reiterated dire assessments that "given the living conditions and lack of healthcare, more people could die from disease than bombings".

Latest data from the World Health Organization (WHO) pointed to 111,000 acute respiratory infections, 75,000 cases of diarrhoea and tens of thousands of people suffering from scabies, lice, skin rashes and jaundice.

Mushaal says: Indian military involved in genocide of Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Human Rights Mushaal Hussein Mullick on Thursday said Indian military was involved in the genocide of Muslims in illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Addressing a seminar titled "Repression on minorities in India and atrocities in Kashmir," she expressed deep concerns over the human rights violations in the held territory.

She said people of the occupied valley could never be defeated through oppression and negative tactics like jailing the political leadership.

The seminar, was jointly organized by Kashmir International and Kashmir Media Service (KMS).

Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights, Khalil George deploring that India had adopted the same policy in the occupied territory which Israel was following in the Palestine.

He said that the main objective of the Bharatiya

Janata Party government was to turn the majority of Muslims in IIOJK into a minority but the people of the occupied territory would foil all such nefarious designs of the Modi regime.

The minister said that India was a so-called democracy where minorities were being mistreated and victimized by the majoritarian Hindu hardliners.

He said after the unfortunate Jaranwala incident, the government of Pakistan expressed solidarity with the victims, but the Government of India never supported the victims of the atrocities of Hindutva brigade.

Other speakers, including former Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar Yaqoob Khan, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, President of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Party Hasan Ibrahim, All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir chapter Senior Leaders Muhammad Farooq Rahmani, Syed Faiz

Naqshbandi, Chairperson of Friends of Kashmir International Ghazala Habib, Chairman of Kashmir Institute of International Relations Altaf Hussain Wani, former Federal Minister J. Salik, Vice Chairman of Friends of Kashmir International Abdul Hameed Lone, Pakistani-American entrepreneur Abdul Hafeez Khan, Senator Danish Kumar, Anchor, Harmeet Singh and Analyst Waqar Hassan.

They said the Modi regime had usurped the rights of the minorities, especially the Muslims in the country.

Member Kashmir Council Senator Denash Kumar also said that India had emerged as an extremist state where the existing minorities were facing prejudice, violence and oppression on a large scale.

He said the Modi government was making discriminatory policies against all minorities and India had now become a very dangerous country for the people disagreeing with its views.



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed chairs a meeting to review a progress of water Resources Sector & National water policy.

Planning Minister reviews progress on water resource, National Water Policy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed here on Thursday chaired a meeting to review progress on the Water Resource Sector and implementation status of the National Water Policy framework.

The meeting was attended by Member Infrastructure, Chief Water Resources and other relevant stakeholders, according to a press statement issued by the ministry.

During the meeting, a comprehensive briefing was given to the minister over Indus Basin Irrigation System (IBIS), the availability of water in the system, to

tal sectoral water demand and challenges faced by the system due to population growth and inefficient utilization of water resources.

In addition, salient features of National Water Policy 2018, its strategic priorities and national targets set for 2023 were also discussed.

During the meeting, it was informed that IBIS is the fourth largest Irrigation Network in the world. About 20.2 million hectares of land is cultivated through annual flows of 138.4 MAF in Pakistan.

Pakistan has 6668 glaciers more than any country, anywhere on Earth while groundwater contribution is about 50 MAF.

The Agriculture Sector is the major user of available water, 94% of irrigation water is utilized by the agriculture sector whereas domestic use is 5.2 and Industrial use is 0.8 percent.

Furthermore, it was further informed that in order to cope with the challenges of water resources and climate threats, the first ever National Policy was developed and approved by the Council for Common Interest (CCI) in 2018.

The strategic priorities of the policy are Conservation and Efficiency, Storages, Renewable Energy, IWRM and Regulatory Frameworks.



ISLAMABAD: Wafaqi Mohtasib Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi addressing the Seminar on "Threats of Cybercrimes: Growing Vulnerabilities of societies", jointly organized by Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat and COMSATS University.

Growing cybercrimes menace Ejaz calls for developing effective mechanism to protect children

ISLAMABAD (APP): Wafaqi Mohtasib (Federal Ombudsman) Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi has invited all stakeholders to work together for developing effective mechanism to protect children against the growing menace of cyber-crimes and other vulnerabilities rampant in various societies.

In this regard, he assured the international ombuds community of Pakistan's readiness to share its knowledge, experiences and best practices in this field in terms of its commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the objectives of Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA). He was addressing a seminar on "Threats of Cybercrime: Growing Vulnerabilities of Societies" organized here by Wafaqi Mohtasib in collaboration with FIA and COMSAT University.

Besides, participation by the representatives of Federal ministries and the relevant agencies, special arrangements were made for online participation by the members of Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA), the OIC Ombudsman Association (OICOA) and the Forum of Pakistan Ombudsman (FPO).

Qureshi stated that the exploitation of children including the growing cases of cybercrimes was a common feature across the globe and Pakistan was no exception. He added that the Wafaqi Mohtasib has been deeply conscious of its role in pursuing the child rights issues in Pakistan.

The ombudsman further stated that the Office of Grievances Commissioner for Children had been set up in the Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat to redress the individual grievances of children, monitor the overall situation and address the systemic issues faced by them. This office provided the children with a forum to raise their voice in matters relating to them and had to its credit various initiatives including Zainab Alert Response and Recovery Act 2020 and a Bill on Prevention and Control of Cybercrime against Children/Criminal Law Amendment Act.

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ISLAMABAD: Chairperson NCSW Ms. Nilofar Bakhtiar addressing All-Parties Conference on Christian Personal Laws.

Pakistan's first "Seerah Digital Resource Centre" established at AIOU

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal OPEN University (AIOU) has established Pakistan's first "Seerah Digital Resource Centre" in its central library.

The center aims to provide educational support to students conducting research on the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAWW).

The resource center was inaugurated by Dean, Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Prof. Dr. Shah Mohyuddin Hashmi.

He expressed hope that this center will be an important milestone in the field of teaching and research.

Prof. Dr. Shah Mohyuddin Hashmi further added that digitizing Seerat would be a great advantage for the institution.

In today's day and age, younger generations are more inclined towards digital devices than books.

Therefore, it is essential to digitize the work of Seerat to attract young people to this field.

Prof. Dr. Shah Mohyuddin Hashmi congratulated the Chief Librarian, Dr. Sahibzada Shah Farrukh, on establishing the resource center.

Dr. Sahibzada Shah Farrukh announced that this is Pakistan's first Seerah Digital Resource Center.

This center offers a vast collection of digital resources, including images, audios, videos, PDFs, maps, and recently 1342 books on Seerat were purchased for this center.

The library team, with the support and consultation of the Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies and the Department of Seerat Studies, searched for materials, books, audio, videos, etc. from various sites, revised them, and added them to the database.

Int'l mountain day to be observed on Dec 11

ISLAMABAD (APP): International Mountain Day, themed "Restoring mountain ecosystems", will be observed on December 11 across the world to highlight the significance of the mountains and their peoples' lifestyles.

According to details, the United Nations General Assembly nominated December 11 as "International Mountain Day" in 2002. However, beyond their aesthetics, mountains play a crucial role in our planet's well-being, impacting global ecosystems, climate, and communities.

This theme was selected to fully include mountains in the UN decade on ecosystem restoration 2021-2030, co-led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and the UN Environment Programme. The Decade is an opportunity to draw together political support, scientific research and financial resources to significantly scale up restoration and prevent further degradation of mountain ecosystems. It is pertinent to mention here, that mountains cover around 27 percent of the Earth's land surface and host about half of the world's biodiversity hotspots. Mountains are home to an extraordinary range of plants and animals, and many culturally diverse communities with different languages and traditions. From climate regulation and water provisioning services to soil maintenance.

He expressed concern

DC P'abad urges parents to cooperate with polio vaccination teams

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon on Thursday urged parents to cooperate with the polio vaccination teams and ensure that their children receive the necessary two doses of polio drops.

Addressing a review meeting on the fourth day of the campaign, Memon emphasized the importance of achieving the target of vaccinating all children under the age of five in Islamabad.

He expressed concern

that some children were not present for vaccination on the third day and instructed officials to prioritize them for the remaining days of the campaign. The meeting was also attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner General, DHOs, Assistant Commissioners, representatives from the Health Department, and other stakeholders. The participants discussed the performance of the campaign so far and identified areas for improvement.

42 PTI workers granted bail, order to release them issued

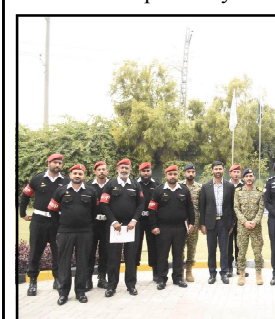
ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) has ordered the release of 42 PTI workers on bail. Terrorism cases were registered against the accused. Hearing of PTI workers petitions against the terrorism cases was held in ATC, Swat.

Advocate Sohail Sultan appeared in court on behalf of PTI.

Court granted bail to 42 workers of PTI and ordered the release of all arrested workers.

Delegation of Naval Headquarters officials visits Safe City Islamabad

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: According to the details, following the special directives of the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the SSP Safe City welcomed the delegation of Naval Headquarters officials, a public relations officer said.



He said that the del-

egation visits the command and control center, the data hub unit, modern technology-equipped cameras, and the Police operations cen-

ter hall. They were fully briefed about the procedures and benefits.

Furthermore, the delegation was informed that Safe City Islamabad is playing a significant role in vari-

ous departments through modern techniques, including the Police Operations Center, Emergency Control Center, Data Hub Unit, Dispatch Control Center, E-Challan System, and the "Pucar-15" helpline.

He emphasized that the delegation was also apprised of the functionality and benefits of the Safe City cameras in the city.

The modern cameras of Safe City are playing a crucial role in ensuring the safety of the city and preventing crimes and safeguarding the lives and property of citizens. 42% of crimes are resolved through the Safe City Command and Control Center.

Pak, Kuwait ties getting stronger with each passing year: Ambassador

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to Kuwait Malik Muhammad Farooq Thursday underlined the importance of the strategic relationship between Pakistan and Kuwait that both countries' leadership was keen to strengthen bilateral relationship in different domains such as food security, trade, investments and people-to-people engagement.

In an exclusive talk with PTV news channel, he elaborated that Pakistan and Kuwait had share a cherished relationship that only grew stronger with each passing year.

"We are seeing greater interest from Kuwait to invest," he added.

He also expressed his satisfaction at close cooperation between the two countries at multilateral fora.

Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar was on a two-day official visit to Kuwait with the primary objective of signing of MoUs in multiple areas geared to transforming the

six decades' long bilateral relations into mutually beneficial economic ties, he said. The two country leadership had a good follow-up conversation where they discussed the prospect of greater investments from Kuwait amid the growing Pakistan' economy, he added. "Both countries enjoying friendly relations, which are rooted in history," he said.

"Pakistan and Kuwait are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries," he added.

"Both nations have also maintained regular high-level contacts in future," he mentioned.

He further highlighted, "Kuwait leadership has serious concern over redress of the dire humanitarian situation in Kashmir and Gaza."

"Kuwait has called on the international community to prevent the use of starvation as a military and political weapon against Palestinians in the Gaza."



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulber Khan chairing the meeting with Awami Action Committee at CM Secretariat.

APHC calls for complete shutdown in IIOJK today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has called for a complete shutdown in Indian's illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir on Friday (today).

According to Kashmir Media Service, the shutdown is meant to protest against the posting of a blasphemous video by an Indian student about Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). It is also aimed at protesting against illegal arrests, booking of seven Kashmiri students under draconian law, dismissal of Kashmiri government employees and confiscation of properties of people.

The APHC in a statement urged the people of the occupied territory to make the strike a success. It also asked them to hold protest demonstrations on Friday against the posting of blasphemous videos by the non-Kashmiri Hindu student.

APHC leaders including Muhammad Khan

Sopori, Abdul Ahad, Advocate Arshad Iqbal, Muhammad Saleem Zargar, Fayyaz Hussain Jafari, Sibte Shabbir Qummi, Khawaja Firdous, Syed Bashir Andrabi, Imtiaz Reshi and Maulana Musaab Nadi in their statements in Srinagar strongly denounced the religious bigotry and terrorism of the Hindutva forces aided and abetted by the Modi government's puppet administration in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

They also asked the territory's people to observe a complete shutdown and hold protest demonstrations on Friday.

It is to be mentioned here that the students at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) in the Hazratbal area of Srinagar held a massive demonstration, yesterday after an Indian student studying at the institute posted a derogatory video clip on social media about the Holy Prophet (PBUH).



ISLAMABAD: Commander West Rear Admiral Adnan Majeed exchanging views with Shahid Ashraf Tarrar Caretaker Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs.

"Modern manuscripts": A journey through profound calligraphy of Jamil Naqsh

ISLAMABAD (APP): Renowned Pakistani artist Jamil Naqsh on Thursday unveiled his masterpieces to immerse art enthusiasts in the captivating world of modern calligraphy at Tanzara Gallery's exhibition, "Modern Manuscripts," featuring the works of contemporary calligraphy maestro that will continue till December 30.

This exclusive exhibit showcases Naqsh's profound exploration of the intricate art of calligraphy, blending tradition and innovation to create a stunning visual narrative.

Jamil Naqsh's brushstrokes dance across the canvas, weaving a mesmerizing tapestry of form, color, and emotion. His deep-rooted understanding of Arabic calligraphy and its spiritual connotations fuels his creative endeavor, resulting in a collection that transcends the boundaries of time.

Naqsh's dedication to pushing the boundaries of calligraphy is evident in each piece. His intricate compositions, born from an in-depth study of lines, invite viewers to delve into the soulful narrative woven by a master artist.

Jamil Naqsh is a Pakistani artist who has been practicing calligraphy for over 50 years. He is considered one of the foremost practitioners of contemporary calligraphy in the world. His works have been exhibited in galleries and museums around the globe, and he has received numerous awards and accolades for his contributions to the art world.

Tanzara Gallery proudly presents "Modern Manuscripts," a testament to Jamil Naqsh's artistic brilliance and his enduring impact on the world of contemporary calligraphy.

The opening reception of the exhibition was held on Thursday from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm at Tanzara Gallery, Islamabad.