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World Court orders Israel to prevent acts of genocide in Gaza

International Court of Justice fails to order ceasefire, says it would not throw out the case, as Israel requested; Pakistan welcomes provisional measures by ICJ in Gaza

Monitoring Desk
THE HAGUE: The World Court ordered Israel on Friday to prevent acts of genocide against the Palestinians and do more to help civilians, although it stopped short of ordering a ceasefire as requested by South Africa.

While the ruling denied Palestinian hopes of a binding order to halt the war in Gaza, it also represented a legal setback for Israel, which had hoped to throw out a case brought under the genocide convention established in the ashes of the Holocaust.

The court found that Palestinians were protected under the convention, and that there was a case to be heard about whether their rights were being denied in a war that the court said was causing grievous humanitarian harm. It also called for Palestinian armed groups to release hostages captured in the Oct. 7 attacks that precipitated the conflict.

Palestinian officials largely hailed the decision. The Palestinian Foreign Ministry said it was a welcome reminder "no state is above the law". Sami Abu Zuhri, a senior Hamas official told Reuters the decision would contribute to "isolating the occupation and exposing its crimes in Gaza."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that the court had "justly rejected the outrageous demand" to deprive Israel of what he called the "basic right to defend itself", by ordering it to halt fighting.

"But the mere claim that Israel is committing genocide against Palestinians is not only false, it's outrageous, and the willingness of the court to even discuss this is a disgrace that will not be erased for generations."

Israeli Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir mocked the ruling in a two-word social media post with a Yiddish-style putdown: "Hague shmague".

South Africa brought the case to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) earlier this month, asking it to grant emergency measures to halt the fighting, which has killed more than 26,000 Palestinians and displaced the majority of the population in a more than three-month campaign of intensive bombardment.

It accused Israel of state-led genocide in its offensive, begun after Hamas fighters stormed into Israel killing 1,200 and kidnapping more than 240. Israel sought to have the case thrown out. The judges ordered Israel to take all measures within its power to prevent its troops from committing genocide, punish acts of incitement, take steps to improve the humanitarian situation and report back on its progress in a month.

It did not decide the merits of the genocide allegations, which could take years. Although the ruling cannot be appealed, the court has no mechanism to enforce its decision.

APP adds: Pakistan Friday welcomed the provisional measures ordered by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), whereby it had concluded that, prima facie, it had the jurisdiction to entertain the case against Israel and that South Africa's claims of genocide were "plausible".

The Foreign Office in a statement said that the ICJ had ordered Israel to urgently undertake a series of measures in relation to Palestinians in Gaza to prevent the commission of acts prohibited by the Genocide Convention, including killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; and imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Rotary International calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Feb 8 election to bring political stability, says PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Friday said that the general election on February 8 would bring political stability in the country.

The prime minister, in an interview with a private television channel, said after the elections, the new government would work to achieve political and economic stability.

He said his government successfully achieved most of the targets set by it and a white paper would be issued to enlist those successes.

"The biggest challenges were economic issues," he said, adding the next government would have to work with the International Monetary Fund and bring reforms in the taxation system to take the economy forward.

He said the government carried forward the process of privatisation of state-owned entities, including Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). The process of privatisation was almost complete, he added.

The prime minister said the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) led the effort to sign \$ 25 billion worth of memorandums of understanding with the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. The SIFC was formed by the previous government after enactment of a law in the Parliament, he recalled.

He said the social media would be regulated and some people would have to stop the wrong use of the medium.

The previous governments worked to control negative aspects of the social media and in future a "national firewall" through use of technology would be created to subdue the negative tendencies, he noted.

He said May 9 was an attack on the concept of the State of Pakistan and from the very start he was very critical of the elements involved in the incidents.

However, the whole of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf could not be kept away from Pakistani politics, he said, adding only some specific people of the PTI were involved in the incidents of May 9. He clarified that his government did not target any political party. He remarked that undermining social order created anarchy which was not acceptable in any society.

"Social order is the guarantor of political order," he added.

PM Kakar said the political parties needed to democratise themselves and decrease influence of individuals.

The Supreme Court's decision on the intra-party elections of PTI was a welcome step and would increase the opportunities for politicians from the middle class to make a mark on the political landscape, he opined. He said veteran politician Maulana Fazlur Rehman undertook a private visit to Afghanistan and the State of Pakistan was not involved in it, however, the Foreign Office did brief him on the situation in the neighbouring country.



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of Tajikistan to Pakistan Ismatullo Nasredin called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President for greater cooperation on Islamophobia, science among OIC countries

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday stressed the need for increasing cooperation among Islamic countries to overcome the issue of Islamophobia in the world.

The president, in a meeting with outgoing Ambassador of Tajikistan to Pakistan Ismatullo Nasredin, who paid a farewell call on him, emphasized greater cooperation among the OIC member states in the areas of science and technology to meet modern day challenges.

He said that Pakistan attached great significance to its relations with Tajikistan as it was Pakistan's closest Central Asian neighbour.

He highlighted that there was great potential to increase bilateral trade and economic cooperation that needed to be fully explored. He called for exploring new avenues of economic cooperation for the mutual benefit of the two brotherly countries.

Interim Govt. determined to provide quality health facilities to masses at official level: Ali Mardan Domki

CT CM inaugurates freelance training programme in Mir Chakar Rind University; Says technical training being imparted to youth of province in different fields

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the interim government is determined to provide quality healthcare facilities to the masses at public sector level.

The caretaker Chief Minister was speaking on occasion of the inauguration of Mir Hazoor Baksh Domki dialysis Unit, new ward of Pediatrics and Intensive Care Unit established in the District Headquarter Hospital Sibi on Friday morning.

Mr. Domki reached Sibi on one-day official visit to Sibi. He formally inaugurated the Mir Hazoor Baksh Domki dialysis Unit, new ward of Pediatrics and Intensive Care Unit in the DHQ Hospital.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister said that the government is endeavouring to provide quality healthcare facilities to the masses.

He said that the patients suffering from the kidney diseases would get the facility of dialysis unit at the DHQ Hospital Sibi.

In addition to this, the children patients would also get the quality healthcare facilities with establishment of the pediatric ward in the Hospital, adding he believed.

Meanwhile the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has inaugurated the freelance training programme "DigiBizz" in the Mir Chakar Khan Rind University Sibi on Friday.

While speaking at inauguration of the freelance training programme, the Chief Minister said that technical training is being imparted to youth of all over of the province in different sectors.

He mentioned that the freelance digital programme has been launched in Quetta, Sibi, Zhob and Loralai.

He said that better results could be acquired by imparting technical education to the youth.

The Chief Minister said that it is very necessary to provide guidance and opportunities to youngsters in the right direction.



SIBI: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki addressing inaugural ceremony of DigiBizz Freelance Training Program

Big challenge to overcome severe energy crisis in Balochistan: Governor

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that there is a severe energy crisis in the country including Balochistan, and it is a big challenge for us to overcome it.

In this regard, we have to adopt scientific innovation, just because we would be able to overcome the energy crisis by adopting modern means.

For the purpose, we have to adopt modern means to generate solar energy.

The Governor was speaking on occasion of the ceremony of signing of memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) and Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP), here on Friday.

It may be mentioned here that the Vice Chancellor of BUITEMS, Professor Dr. Khalid Hafeez and Chief Executive of BRSP, Rahir Rasheed signed the MoU under leadership of the Governor Balochistan.

Under the MoU, BRSP would convert Balochistan Center of Excellent established in the BUITEMS on the alternative renewable solar energy by getting it rid of the conventional electricity system. On the occasion, Pro-Vice Chancellor of BUITEMS, Dr. Abdul Rehman Khan, Registrar Zahid Rauf and Professor Dr. Nazir Durrani as well as the Chairman BRSP, Malik Anwar Saleem Kasi, members board of Directors, Mrs. Roshan Khursheed Bharucha, Nasrullah Baraich, General Manager BRSP Programmes, Dr. Shah Nawaz Khan and Programme Coordinator Naseebullah Agha were also present.

Section 144 imposed owing to security threats in Quetta

Independent Report
QUETTA: In view of the security threats, section 144 has been imposed in the provincial metropolis.

According to the caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai, the section 144 has been imposed for two weeks in the metropolis.

Jan Achakzai said that public gatherings would not be held under the section 144.

All the concerned departments and agencies have been directed to ensure protection of the life and property of the common men.

The caretaker Minister Information announced that it would be essential for all the political parties to get No-Objection certificate (NOC) before holding the public meetings in Quetta.

Jan Achakzai said that it is top priority of the interim government to maintain law and order in the province.

Nawaz pledges massive job & income opportunities to mitigate inflation effects

Independent Report
BUREWALA (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Friday said that there had been great transformation since his ouster from power with massive inflation and price hike disrupting the social fabric of society and pledged to fully mitigate their effects by ensuring job and income opportunities for all following the mandate on February 8.

Addressing a public meeting in Burewala, the thrice elected prime minister said that "Roti" (bread), which was available for Rs 4 per piece during the last PNL-N government, was now priced at Rs 20, while the electricity bill of Rs 500 had now jumped to Rs 20,000, with no gas supply.

Similarly, vegetables were available at Rs 10 per kilogram during his tenure, he added. Likewise, a urea fertilizer bag was now being sold for Rs 5,000 against Rs 1,200 during his tenure, while the price of a tractor had risen to Rs 3.8 million from Rs 900,000. The situation would not have worsened had he not been expelled from the government for not taking any salary from his son, Nawaz regretted.

It was the result of a bunch of people who disrupted the country's social fabric like brutally axing a body, he said in an apparent reference to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf regime. Nawaz said that he loved the younger generation and would take steps for their betterment.

CEO cancels leaves of doctors, paramedical staffs in view of election

Independent Report
QUETTA (APP): Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Saeed Ahmed Mirwani on Friday chaired a meeting of hospital consultants and doctors under the implementation of medical emergency regarding the upcoming elections.

In the meeting, an emergency was imposed in the hospital regarding the general elections, leaves of doctors, medical and paramedical staff were canceled.

In this regard, instructions were issued to the doctors and other staff of the hospital.

They were directed to take emergency measures to deal with any unpleasant incident.

At the same time, instructions were also given to keep the ambulances on standby. The administration was also directed to ensure the presence of doctors, paramedical staff and all kinds of medicines in the hospital, during the meeting.



Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony & Islamic Countries and chairman Pakistan Ulema Council Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi offering special Dua for Rain after Namaz e Istasqa prayer on the special directions of caretaker Prime Minister, Friday observed to offer Namaz e Istasqa.

No one can be restrained from contesting election on basis of abscondment: SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) while allowing PTI leader Umar Aslam to contest election has remarked no one can be stopped from contesting the election on the basis of being absconder.

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah took up the case for hearing Friday.

The counsel said nomination papers of Umar Aslam were rejected being absconder in May 9 cases.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah remarked tell us where it is written the absconding person cannot contest election. How can any one be deprived of basic rights without law.

Justice Athar Minallah remarked people have to decide the election. Contesting election is fundamental right. People have to decide who will contest election and who will not and not the Election Commission (EC). He further remarked let people of Pakistan decide. The petitioner who has come before us is not important.



QUETTA: A MoU being signed between BUITEMS and BRSP in presence of Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

PPP to bring CM from South Punjab if voted into power: Bilawal

MULTAN (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto on Friday pledged to bring chief minister (CM) from South Punjab if his party came to power in the upcoming general elections 2024 while outlining the party's plans for governance.

Addressing a public gathering in Multan in connection with elections 2024, Bilawal Bhutto - who is contesting from Lahore NA-127 - urged the voters to support his party to end the "politics of hatred and division".

Highlighting the unprecedented levels of inflation and unemployment, the PPP chairman claimed, "At present, no party, except the PPP, has a comprehensive plan to tackle these issues. Other political entities are solely focused on elections for their own gains, neglecting the well-being of the people."

"I have personally crafted PPP's economic plan, and our first priority upon assuming power will be their swift implementation to curb inflation and unemployment," he added.

Bilawal also lauded the sacrifices made by the military and police to eradicate terrorism but pointed out, "The resurgence of terrorism today is a consequence of the social division sown by old politicians. It's time to bury the politics of hatred."

The former foreign minister also said that 17 federal ministries had become redundant after the 18th Amendment, and would be abolished if his party came to power.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Historic address of COAS to youth

The Pakistan National Youth Conference held at Jinnah Convention Center, Islamabad recently turned out to be a historic event mainly because of address of the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir to the youth there.

Indeed, it was a historic address delivered by the Army Chief. In his key-note address at the National Youth Conference, General Syed Asim Munir spoke passionately about the crucial role of the youth in shaping the future of Pakistan.

During the address, General Syed Asim Munir stated that he was greatly pleased to address the future builders of Pakistan. He further said that the purpose of creating Pakistan was that its religion, culture, and civilization were different from those of the Hindus in all respects, instead of the citizens adopting Western civilization and culture.

In his address, the Army Chief said that youth were the guardians of the bright and sublime traditions of the nation and country, the epitome of Allama Iqbal and Quaid-e-Azam's visionary leadership.

Addressing the National Youth Conference, COAS said: "It gives me great pleasure to address the future builders of Pakistan and Shaheen of Iqbal."

The Army Chief said the establishment of Pakistan highlighted the core issue that Islamic culture and civilization were different from Hindus in all respects and Muslims might not adopt Western civilization and culture. The youth, he said should have immense confidence in their country, nation, culture, civilization and themselves. "The youth should be sure that they are scion of a great homeland and nation," he added. He said Pakistan Army could fight against terrorists, but the cooperation of the entire nation was imperative in that regard.

The COAS said that the main objective of social media and propaganda was to spread uncertainty, chaos and despair, whereas social media news verification was critical as without research and positive thinking, society remained chaotic. Citing verses of the Holy Quran on disinformation, he said, "Allah Almighty says: 'O believers! If a transgressor brings news, you should firstly confirm it'."

The establishment of Pakistan was just like the Tayyaba state (referring to Islamic State of Medina), that were founded under the sublime banner of Kalima-e-Tayyaba, the Army Chief said. "Allah Almighty has blessed Pakistan with abundant natural resources, agriculture and young manpower," he added.

He said that a Muslim always offered gratitude to Allah Almighty for patience in turbulent and good times adding, "Our forces are always ready against any kind of threat and conspiracy. If Pakistan exists, so we do, if there is no Pakistan then we are nothing."

He said that Pakistan would not compromise on its sovereignty. "We need to have full faith in the bright future of Pakistan and maintain the legacy of our ancestors," he added.

He urged the youth for having full faith in the bright future and maintaining the legacy of the ancestors.

During the address of COAS, the students kept on raising slogans of Pakistan Army Zindabad, Pakistan Zindabad and Quaid-e-Azam Zindabad.



Rogue India and Benevolent China

By Qamar Bashir

Press Secretary to the President (Rtd); Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC

The inauguration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22, 2024, is a highly abhorrent and agonizing event, particularly for the Muslim community in India and globally. The event was a symbol of the neglect of secular principles in the Indian Constitution and a disregard for the religious and communal sentiments of Muslims. The demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992 and the subsequent legal and political developments leading up to the temple's inauguration are a painful and humiliating chapter in the Muslim history. The Ram Temple, for many, will remain a symbol of ongoing agony and a deep sense of injustice, reflecting broader tensions and challenges in the multicultural and multi-religious fabric of Indian society.

Pakistan has raised concerns in international forums such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the United Nations about the agonizing crime of building the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, describing the event as a symbol of growing majoritarianism in India. It highlighted the event as an affront to the Muslim community and expressed apprehensions about the safety of mosques, churches and worship places of other religious minorities in India. It called upon international organizations to ensure the protection of Islamic heritage sites and uphold the rights of minorities in India.

But the list of Indian state sponsored crimes are countless not only within

India, in the region and globally. It has reduced Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJ&K) into a large prison. It persecutes religious, linguistic and ethnic minorities with impunity. It intimidates neighboring countries, foments border disputes with almost all neighbors. It is suppressing genuine and bonafide separatist movements by use of brute force and has resorted to a global killing spree with total impunity.

India's actions in IIOJ&K particularly following the revocation of the region's special status, have drawn international scrutiny and criticism. Human rights organizations including Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Amnesty International (AI) have documented a range of serious rights violations in the region. These include arbitrary detentions, a communications blackout, and severe restrictions on freedom of movement and peaceful assembly, alongside the suspension of internet and telecommunication services.

The reports from AI and HRW also highlight a crackdown on media and civil society, with cases of relentless interrogation of journalists, lawyers, and human rights defenders, as well as arbitrary travel bans and detentions. The rampant and arbitrary use of laws like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Public Safety Act (PSA), and Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) has led to pre-trial detentions and arrests without judicial review, coupled with unlawful killings lacking accountability. These developments have damaged India's reputation as a state committed to ethical practices and human rights, drawing parallels to historical instances of oppression and leading to significant international outcry.

The story does not

end here, HRW and other international HR organizations have recorded mistreatment of religious minorities under the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s government. They have documented horrendous incidents of communal violence, such as the outbreak in Nuh district in Haryana, where state retaliation against Muslim residents, including illegal property demolitions and detentions, lynching, raping and mob killing. In Manipur, inter-community violence led to deaths, displacement, and destruction of property. There are countless incidents of violence and discrimination against religious minorities, including Muslims and Christians, with some states implementing "anti-conversion" laws and others engaging in actions like property demolitions without legal authorization. The Universal Periodic Review process by the United Nations Human Rights Council has raised serious concerns over regression in human rights under the Modi government, with increased attacks and discrimination against religious minorities and marginalized communities like Dalits and Adivasis.

The state sponsored majoritarianism in India has created wide spread discontentment amongst the populace belonging to minority groups which has given rise to over twenty five separatist and insurgency movements including the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN), Bru National Liberation Front (BNLF), Mizo National Front (MNF), Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), Hizbul Mujahideen, Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), Kamtapur Liberation Organization (KLO), Bodoland People's Front (BPF) and

Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF).

Belligerent and hegemonic India does not enjoy good relations with any country of the region. It has border disputes with China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), which resulted in increased tensions and military buildups from both sides. The India-Nepal dispute, reignited by India's road construction in a region has become politically charged, fueling nationalist sentiments in Nepal. During Doklam Standoff (2017) Bhutan and India armies came face to face when India started building hydro electric projects to divert water which was a lifeline for Bhutan. India was ward off only when China sided Bhutan. Maldives has been wary of India involvement in its internal affairs specially India's effort to change the Islamic character of Maldives has resulted in downgrading the relations.

Earlier, Indian hegemonic designs were confined to the region, but now emboldened by its economic upsurge and becoming darling of the USA as a counterbalancing force to China, it has enlarged its criminal ambit globally. Several countries are raising allegations about its involvement in extraterritorial activities. Canada has accused India of being involved in the killing of Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar. This was followed by the United States implicating India in the assassination of another Sikh leader, a development significant enough to influence President Joe Biden's decision to cancel a planned visit to India as the chief guest for the Republic Day celebrations. In the aftermath, India invited French President Emmanuel Macron to fill this role, a decision that was soon overshadowed by controversy when India revoked the visa of a long-serving French journalist. Adding to these

diplomatic challenges, Pakistan has recently accused India of being behind the killing of Pakistani citizens on the basis of tangible evidence of India's involvement. These incidents point to a growing concern about India's foreign policy and its actions on the international stage, reflecting a shift from regional to broader global implications. China, as a global power, presents a contrasting approach in its regional and international relations compared to India. With its status as a nuclear power, the world's second-largest economy, significant military capabilities, achievements in space exploration, and industrial prowess, China has adopted a strategy of collaboration and support with its neighbors. The country is heavily investing in infrastructure projects across the region, including the construction of roads, highways, ports, bridges, and airports followed by deeper cooperation in space exploration, research and development, education and health, mining and agriculture and industrialization. This investment is part of a broader strategy to enhance regional connectivity and economic development. Furthermore, China has shown a willingness to provide financial support to neighboring countries in times of need, often extending generous loans and financial aid. These efforts have fostered strong relationships with most of its neighbors. China's approach reflects its ambition to position itself as a benevolent and cooperative regional leader, contrasting with perceptions of India's criminal, unethical, hegemonic and belligerent state sponsored policies.

China's global investment strategy, particularly under its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), encompasses a vast and diverse range of development

projects across various regions. In Pakistan, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) represents a significant commitment with an investment of \$65 billion. The strategic partnership with Iran, valued at approximately \$400 billion over 25 years, spans numerous sectors, reflecting China's deep economic involvement in the Middle East. In Afghanistan, China focuses on infrastructure and mining with an initial investment of \$7 billion. The relationship with the Maldives has been strengthened in 2024 with an investment portfolio of \$1.57 Billion. China's investment in Sri Lanka, including the Hambantota Port development, amounts to \$4.5 billion. In Africa, Chinese investments range from \$126 billion to \$273 billion, emphasizing its substantial economic presence on the continent. The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region sees China's involvement reach \$6.7 billion in investments with a significant trade volume. In Central Asia, Chinese investments lie between \$35 billion and \$60 billion, highlighting strategic interests in this region. Europe experienced a massive range of investments from \$1 trillion to \$3 trillion, covering various economic activities, while Latin America saw investments between \$150 billion and \$250 billion, indicating China's expanding global influence and diverse economic partnerships. These extensive investments reflect China's ambition to enhance global connectivity, create win-win situations, increase the capacity, capability and resource base of its partner and bring about prosperity across the board without bringing regime changes and meddling into the internal affairs of its partners, without having any desired to use its investment to force the partners to take decisions which serve its vested interests.

Commerce News

FBR Chairman praises Customs Dept KP for increasing tax revenue

PESHAWAR (APP): Chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Malik Amjad Zubair Tiwana here Friday highly praised Pakistan Customs Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for increasing tax revenue besides countering illegal trade and contraband goods. Addressing as a chief guest in a function organized by Pakistan Customs Peshawar in connection with International Customs Day, Chairman FBR said the theme of this year of the International Customs Day was "customs engaging traditional and new partners with purpose".



LAHORE: US Consul General Kristin Hawkins in a group photograph during signing ceremony between Jullundur (Pvt) Ltd, Pakistan and Agmor Inc. USA.

Kristin oversees seed technology agreement

LAHORE (APP): The United States Consul General to Lahore Kristin K. Hawkins on Friday oversaw agriculture seed technology distributorship signing ceremony between a Pakistani firm Jullundur and US based Agmor at a local hotel on Friday.

Under the agreement, Agmor Inc. USA will sell organic seeds to Jullundur (pvt) Ltd. Agmor Inc. is a Montana based company which deals in the manufacturing and export of organic fertiliser products with the brand name 'NEB'.

The distribution and First Purchase Agreement was signed between Kyle Robert of Agmor and Usman Bashir of Jullundur (Pvt). Speaking on the occasion, US Consul General Kristin Hawkins welcomed the agreement, adding that the collaboration is a testament to long-standing commitment of the US government to help Pakistan fight climate change and challenges to food security.

that technological advancement has created extra challenges such as the menace of money laundering and great responsibilities rest on Pakistan Customs officials to utilize technology effectively for countering all kinds of smuggling and illicit trade besides promoting better service delivery and increasing tax revenue for Govt kitty.

He thanked Pakistan Customs Peshawar for organizing an impressive function in connection with International Customs Day. The smartly turned-out contingent presented a

salute to Chairman FBR Malik Amjad Tiwana who also paid a visit to Yagdar Shuhada at Customs House Peshawar where he laid a floral wreath.

Chief Collector Customs Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Saeed Akram said that during the first half year of the current financial year, the KP Customs Department has collected Rs21569 million of customs duty against a collection of Rs13,423 million during the corresponding period of the last fiscal year. "This is 60per cent increase in revenue collection year over year."



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman and others cutting cake on the eve of new Chinese year organized by Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Weekly inflation falls by 0.14 pc

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed a decrease of 0.14 per cent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on January 25, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 318.55 points as compared to 319.00 points during the past week.

As compared to the corresponding week of last

year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 43.79 per cent. The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs. 17,732, decreased by 0.33 percent and went up to 313.09 points from last week's 314.12 points. The SPI for consumption groups from Rs. 17,732-22,888, Rs. 22,889-29,517, Rs. 29,518-44,175 and above Rs. 44,175.

NESPAK achieves UN 2030 SDGs

LAHORE (APP): NESPAK, a leading global consultancy firm, has taken a significant step towards achieving the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by securing five projects and signing two Long Term Agreements (LTAs) with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

It was stated by Zargham Eshaq Khan, Managing Director NESPAK, in a press statement issued here on Friday. The LTAs,

awarded to NESPAK, span across the Asia Region and Pacific/Oceania Region, leading to the firm's presence in its 40th country, Papua New Guinea. In a groundbreaking move, NESPAK has actively pursued projects contributing to the UN's SDGs both within Pakistan and globally. The comprehensive LTAs with UNOPS cover a wide spectrum of initiatives aimed at sustainable development, with a particular focus on infrastructure.

OGRA urged to ensure safety standards as petrol pumps, storage facilities

LAHORE (APP): The Oil Marketing Association of Pakistan (OMAP) has asked Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) to ensure safety standards and regulations compliance at petrol pumps and storage facilities. In a letter written to OGRA Chairman Masroor Khan, OMAP Chairman Tariq Wazir Ali requested him to treat the matter as a top priority and should implement it across the board as being a matter

of prime concern. He said, "First and foremost, safety is of paramount importance in our industry, and ensuring compliance with rigorous safety standards is crucial to protecting both our employees and the communities in which we operate. We commend OGRA's efforts in establishing and enforcing safety regulations, but we believe there is still room for improvement to further enhance safety measures

across the industry. One area of concern is the safety of petrol pumps, which serve as critical points of interaction between consumers and petroleum products. We urge OGRA to conduct regular inspections of petrol pumps to ensure compliance with safety protocols, including proper maintenance of equipment, adequate fire safety measures, and employee training in handling emergency situations.

Gold rates up by Rs.400

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.400 and was sold at Rs.214,200 on Friday in the local market compared to its rates of Rs.213,800 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat also increased by Rs.342 to Rs.183,642 from Rs.183,300 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat declined to Rs168,338 from Rs.168,024 respectively, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

SECP proposes anti harassment measures for listed companies

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a bid to promote safety and respect in the workplace, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued draft amendments to the Listed Companies (Code of Corporate Governance) Regulations, 2019 for public consultation. The proposed amendments require the board of directors of listed

companies to implement robust anti-harassment policies that align with the protection against harassment of women at the Workplace Act, 2010, and relevant provincial laws, said a news release issued here on Friday. These policies will uphold the rights and well-being of all employees, fostering a more inclusive and equitable work environment.

Communication to foster global understanding: Governor

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that in the realm of media, communication plays a pivotal role in shaping societies and fostering global understanding.

He gave this message at the concluding ceremony of the 2nd International Media and Communication Conference organised by Punjab University Department of Communication and Media Research and University of Management and Technology.

On this occasion, Chairman PHEC Prof Dr. Shahid Munir, PU VC Prof Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Rector UMT Dr. Asif Raza, Leads University VC Dr.

Nadeem Ahmad Bhatti, DG PEMRA Ikram Barkat, Director School of Communication Studies Prof Dr. Nosheena Saleem, Dean School of Media and Communication Studies, UMT Dr. Anjum Zia, researchers, eminent journalists, alumnus, faculty members and a large number of students were present.

Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that intersection of academia and media is crucial for nurturing critical thinking and fostering innovation and he believes the insights gained here will pave the way for a more informed and interconnected world.

He stated that the conference has been a

testament to our commitment to exploring the dynamic landscape of media in the 21st century.

He said the diverse perspectives shared by esteemed speakers from around the world have undoubtedly contributed to a wealth of knowledge that will guide our future endeavors. He said the recommendations and discussions from this conference will serve as a roadmap for enhancing media communication practices, promoting ethical journalism, and addressing the evolving challenges in this digital age.

Dr. Shahid Munir said that the transformative power of technology



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah presiding over the Governing Body meeting of Iqbal Academy Pakistan at Aiwan-e-Iqbal.

Judges not caring how the case is running: Aleema

RAWALPINDI (Online): Aleema Khan sister of PTI founder has said it is worrisome situation that judges are not caring how the case is running.

Judge Dilawar awarded illegal sentence to PTI founder. We say to Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa that our appeal be heard, she said this while talking to media men outside Adiala jail here Friday.

She went on to say that judges are not caring case is running how. It

seems as if they have been given date that they have to announce decision at such and such date. Judge Dilawar awarded sentence to PTI founder illegally. PTI founder was arrested on August 15 illegally. Election Commission has disqualified PTI founder. What punishment was awarded by Judge Dilawar was suspended by high court judge Aamir Farooq.

She went on to say it was also joke that judgment was not suspended.

46 children died of pneumonia in three hospitals in city so far

PESHAWAR (APP): With the increase in the severity of the cold, the infection is becoming viral, and so far, 46 children have died of pneumonia in three major hospitals in the city.

Hospital officials told mediamen here on Friday that pneumonia was affecting children with low immunity, and a total of 46 children died of pneumonia in three hospitals in the city, including 20 patients each in Lady Reading and Khyber Teaching Hospitals and six in Hayatabad Medical Complex.

The hospital's officials said that more than 700 children affected by pneumonia are being brought to OPD on a daily basis, and more than capacity children are being treated at Lady Reading Hospital.

"Most of the affected children belong to adjoining areas," the officials confirmed.



PESHAWAR: Group photo after the meeting of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali with the representative delegation of Young Doctors Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at Governor House.

Governor urges doctors to work with dedication, assure cooperation to solve problems

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali Friday reiterated his commitment to address the problems of young doctors urging them to serve the ailing community with utmost dedication and professionalism.

He was talking to a 15-member delegation of the Young Doctors Association that called on

him at Governor House. The delegation included Dr. Faisal Barakzai, Dr. Adnan, Dr. Karamat and Dr. Mudassar Khan. The delegation apprised the governor about their issues including depriving them of training and inadequate facilities of induction in Post Graduate Medical Institute. The governor listened to their concerns patiently and assured them of cooperation and

assistance. He said that the significance of doctors could not be undermined owing to their profession adding their problems would be addressed promptly with the help of the provincial government.

He also urged doctors to work compassionately to help out ailing community and treat them politely abiding by the principles of their profession.

Jamal chairs Iqbal Academy governing body meeting

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah hoped on Friday that the guidance and recommendations of the Iqbal Academy governing body members would help the academy pursue its mission of promoting Iqbal's works and messages among the young generation.

Presiding over a meeting of the Iqbal Academy Pakistan governing body here at Aiwan-e-Iqbal, he said that it was due to efforts of scholars that the tradition of

understanding of Iqbal's works was progressing in a good way, adding that all concerned want to see Iqbal Academy, a national institution for promotion of Iqbal's thoughts, more strong and active and in this regard it would be provided all kinds of support so that it could play its role in a better way.

The governing body members offered Faheha on the demise of renowned scholar, former member governing body Prof Dr Rafiuddin Hashmi and paid him tribute over his services regarding Iqbal Studies.



RAWALPINDI: SAPM Jawad Sohrab Malik lays foundation stone of new academic block of OPF School.

LHC stops planting of palm trees along highways, motorways

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday stopped planting of palm trees along highways and motorways.

Justice Shahid Karim passed the orders while hearing petitions, filed by Haroon Farooq and others against ineffective measures for controlling smog.

During the proceedings, the Environment Protection Department (EPD) director general appeared before the court and submitted that palm trees were ineffective barriers against pollution, adding that they did not prove successful on Islamabad motorways and highways.

The court questioned the bizarre renovation of

underpasses in the city, criticising the unconventional lighting that malfunctioned on the first day. The court also stressed the urgency for water conservation and observed that there were predictions about water scarcity by 2026-2027, envisioning a future where water tankers become a common sight in Lahore.

The court addressed the provincial law officer and asked what steps had been taken by the Water and Sanitation Agency for installing water meters.

To which, a member of the Judicial Water and Environment Commission stated that a one-year timeline had been given for installing water meters.

Punjab to introduce first social welfare policy: Minister

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Health and Social Welfare Minister Prof Dr. Javed Akram revealed on Friday that the provincial government would introduce its first social welfare policy.

Addressing a dialogue on the policy draft at LUMS here on Friday, he highlighted the significance of the initiative for enhancing departmental services and performance. The minister, attending as the special guest, emphasised the

policy's potential for welfare of people. Secretary Social Welfare and Baitul-Mal Zahoor Hussain outlined plans for seeking cabinet approval post-consultation. DG Social Welfare and Baitul-Mal Mudassar Riaz Malik underscored the policy's alignment with Pakistan's Constitution, existing laws, and international agreements. Stakeholder, including Amin Bait ul Mal Jubir Ghani, participated in a comprehensive presentation.

Killers get death penalty on two counts

FAISALABAD (APP): A sessions court handed down death penalty on two counts to each of five convicts for killing former president District Bar Association and his driver.

According to the prosecution, five accused including Suleman, Sajjad, Abdullah, Naem and Hasan Ali shot dead former President District Bar Naveed Mukhtar Ghumman and his driver Binyamin over an old enmity on January 10, last year.

Batala Colony police registered a case and submitted challan in the court.

International News

Gaza's Health Ministry blames Israeli troops for deadly shooting as crowd waited for aid

Monitoring Desk
RAFAH: Gaza's Health Ministry and witnesses said Israeli troops opened fire as a crowd of Palestinians gathered for humanitarian aid in Gaza City on Thursday, killing at least 20 and wounding dozens.

The Israeli military said it was looking into the reports. The Associated Press could not independently confirm the details of what happened.

Witnesses and health officials said the shooting took place at a roundabout on Gaza City's southern edge, where a large crowd had gathered for distribution of food. Footage posted online and confirmed to have been taken on the main road near the roundabout showed hundreds of people fleeing,

some carrying boxes of aid, as fire rang out in the background. Men loaded wounded Palestinians onto horse and donkey carts that took off charging down the avenue. At Shifa Hospital, where casualties were treated, Mohammad al-Reafi lay on the floor, his bloodied leg bandaged, as medics worked on other wounded around them. He said Israeli troops fired into the crowd.

"We were going to get flour... young people were martyred and other young people were injured," he said. Health Ministry spokesperson Ashraf al-Qidra said 20 people were killed and 150 others wounded by the shooting.

A number of aid agencies distribute food and

other supplies in Gaza. It was not immediately known which one was operating in the area at the time of the incident. The UN refugee agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, and the UN World Food Program both said they were not involved.

Israeli troops and tanks pushed into Gaza City shortly after the ground invasion began in October and have been battling Palestinian militants there for nearly two months. The military says it has largely dismantled Hamas in northern Gaza but is still facing pockets of resistance, and large swaths of Gaza City and surrounding areas have been reduced to rubble by Israeli bombardment.



Injured people receive treatment in Gaza City's Al-Shifa hospital, following a reported Israeli strike, that according to Gaza's Health Ministry, killed at least 20 and wounded more than 150 as they waited for humanitarian aid.

India fetes France's Macron at annual military parade

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: President Emmanuel Macron was guest of honour Thursday for India's pomp-filled annual military parade, in a state visit aimed at bolstering France's strategic ties with the world's fifth-largest economy.

The annual Republic Day event in the heart of New Delhi is a highly choreographed spectacle featuring tank columns, fighter jet fly-pasts, acrobatic motorbike stunts and mounted camel units. This year it coincides with a two-day diplomatic tour that reflects a growing partnership between India and France, after Macron hosted Prime Minister Narendra Modi at last year's Bastille Day celebrations in Paris. Macron has pushed for greater French involvement in the Asia-Pacific at a time when Washington and its Western allies are courting India as a military and economic counterweight to China.



Judges at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) rule on emergency measures against Israel following accusations by South Africa that the Israeli military operation in Gaza is a state-led genocide, in The Hague, Netherlands.

Ukraine invites China's Xi to 'peace summit'

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine has invited Chinese President Xi Jinping to participate in a planned "peace summit" of world leaders in Switzerland, a top diplomatic adviser to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, as Russia's invasion approaches its second anniversary.

China has close ties with Russia and has refrained from criticising its invasion of Ukraine but has also said the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries must be respected and has offered to help mediate the conflict.

"We are definitely inviting China to participate in the summit, at the highest level, at the level of the President of the People's Republic of China," the adviser, Ihor Zhovkva, told Reuters in an interview this week.

"China's participation will be very important to us. We are working with the Chinese side. We involve our partners in the world so that they convey to the Chinese side how important it is to participate in such a summit."

US assails Israeli attack on UN facility in Gaza

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The United States has condemned the Israeli assault on a UN facility in Khan Yunis, emphasising the protection of civilians and the need to respect the sanctity of UN facilities.

"You've heard me say it before, you've heard [Secretary of State Antony Blinken] say it before [...] civilians must be protected, and the protected nature of UN facilities must be respected."

Japan's craft makes successful, pin-point Moon landing

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Japan's "Moon Sniper" craft made a pin-point lunar landing despite three-minute engine problems, the space agency said on Thursday as it released the first images from the mission. A photo taken by a mini-rover showed the boxy yellow lander sitting intact at a slight angle on the rocky grey surface, lunar slopes rising in the distance.

The unmanned Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) — dubbed the "Moon Sniper" for its precision technology.

Canada to re-start Turkey arms exports

Monitoring Desk
ISTANBUL: Canada and Turkey have reached a deal to restart Canadian exports of drone parts in exchange for more transparency on where they are used, and it would take effect after Ankara completes its ratification of Sweden's NATO bid, two sources told Reuters.

After 20 months of delay, Turkey moved swiftly this week to endorse Sweden's membership in the Western military alliance, including a parliamentary vote and presidential sign-off, leaving Hungary as the sole ally yet to ratify it.

Turkey is expected to send the final documents to Washington as soon as Friday, which would clear the way for Canada to immediately lift the export controls that it adopted in 2020, the two sources said, requesting anonymity.

The agreement was reached in early January after months of talks, said one person familiar with the process. A second person familiar with the plan said the sides agreed it would take effect after Sweden's ratification was complete.

Turkey's foreign ministry declined to comment. Canadian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Charlotte MacLeod told Reuters that while the export controls currently remained in place, Ottawa aimed to resolve the issue with Turkey given its status as a NATO ally.

As Trump handily beat his sole remaining primary challenger, Nikki Haley in New Hampshire on Tuesday, some 67% of respondents polled Monday through Wednesday said they were "tired of seeing the same candidates in presidential elections and want someone new."



Ecuadorian authorities place drug packages in a container, as part of the more than 20 tons of seized drugs to be destroyed at an undisclosed location, in Ecuador.

Trump opens up lead over Biden in rematch many Americans don't want

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Donald Trump leads Democratic President Joe Biden by six percentage points in a Reuters/Ipsos poll that showed Americans are unhappy about an election rematch that came into sharper focus this week.

The nationwide poll of 1,250 US adults showed Trump leading Biden 40% to 34% with the rest unsure or planning to vote for someone else or no one. The poll had a margin of error of three percentage points.

That represented a gain for Trump after a

Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted earlier this month showed him and Biden tied, though a nationwide survey does not capture the subtleties of the electoral college contest that will be decided this fall in just a handful of competitive states.

As Trump handily beat his sole remaining primary challenger, Nikki Haley in New Hampshire on Tuesday, some 67% of respondents polled Monday through Wednesday said they were "tired of seeing the same candidates in presidential elections and want someone new."

China-US talks: Taiwan reports Chinese 'combat patrols'

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: Taiwan's defence ministry said it detected 23 Chinese air force planes operating around Taiwan and carrying out "joint combat readiness patrols" with Chinese warships on Friday, ahead of high-level China-US talks in Thailand.

China, which views Taiwan as its own territory, has over the past four years regularly sent warplanes and warships into the skies and waters around the island as it seeks to assert sovereignty claims that the Taipei government rejects. Taiwan's defence ministry said that starting around 4 p.m. (0800 GMT) on Friday it had detected 23 Chinese aircraft including Su-30 fighters and drones operating off northern and central Taiwan and to the island's southwest.

Thirteen of those aircraft crossed the Taiwan Strait's median line, or areas close by, working with Chinese warships.

Thirteen of those aircraft crossed the Taiwan Strait's median line, or areas close by, working with Chinese warships.

Minster urges political parties to prioritize education in their election manifestos

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindi on Friday urged all the political parties to prioritize education and governance agenda in their election manifestos for the next five years to improve the quality of education in the country. We need to focus on developing educational infrastructure, improving learning system, framing sustainable policy and initiatives as well as ensuring training of teachers and enrollment of out of school children to achieve objectives of quality education for all, he underscored.

The minister expressed the views while

presiding over meetings during visits to the regional offices of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) and Inter Board Coordination Commission (IBCC) at Karachi and talking to media persons on the occasion. The minister visited different sections of the regional offices where he received the briefing on the working, role, functions and issues being faced and future strategies of the organizations.

Madad Ali Sindi observed that over 25 million out of school children, the dilapidated condition of public sector educational institutions, disconnection between teachers and parents, non-utilization of ear-

marked funds and other issues indicate that the education sector could not get proper attention of political parties in the past and remained excluded from their manifestos while bureaucracy also failed to play a positive role in the regard. Now it has been inevitable that whichever political party comes into power after the upcoming general elections must dedicate its five year term to improve the education in Pakistan as it was the only option for development of the country, he maintained and emphasized that people should also urge their representatives for taking measures in the regard.

The minister said that

during the short tenure of the caretaker government, he had adopted a proactive approach to improve the educational standards and deal with the issues and 20 out of 50 schools of federal capital were selected for reforms. Those educational institutes were being transformed as model schools with provision of missing facilities and improvement of their management, he said and added that the caretaker government was also focusing on universities and boards and measures were taken to resolve their issues while chairmen of educational boards were directed to improve the system and ensure transparency in examination and assessment processes.



MUZAFFRABAD: Students of school and college hold placards during protest as they observe Indian Republic Day as Black Day during an anti-Indian protest in the city, to show their solidarity with people of Indian-administered Kashmir.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Interior Minister and Commerce Dr. Gohar Ejaz & Federal Minister for National Health Dr. Nadeem Jan visited PIMS Hospital.

Siraj seeks electoral support of public for JI's candidates in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD (APP): The Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Sirajul Haq has urged the people to cast their votes over the election symbol scale (Tarazoo) if they want accountability of the corrupt rulers. Addressing the party's public meeting in Latifabad here on Friday Haq vowed to change dispensation of government which replicated the Western governance model and to replace it with an Islamic system if JI formed the government.

"We don't accept the monarchy of 2 political families in Pakistan," he said.

He argued that the time of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Pakistan Peoples Party and PPP's Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for their efforts to become elected as the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

"The people of Pakistan are brave but their leadership is in the hands of cowards," he asserted.

He claimed that JI was the only political party which practically supported Palestinians when they were facing brutal and inhuman Israeli onslaught.

The JI's Ameer asked did the Sindh government establish a public sector university or an advanced tertiary care hospital in Hyderabad during the last 15 consecutive years of their government?

"The people were deceived in the name of Karachi-Hyderabad motorway," he alleged.

Pakistan's UN envoy, WIPO DG discuss promoting IP ecosystem in Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva Bilal Ahmed had a meeting with Director General World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Daren Tang and discussed ways and means to promote IP ecosystem in Pakistan.

During the meeting, the envoy appreciated the DG's people-centric vision, WIPO's IP projects in Pakistan and IP awareness programmes for youth besides incentivizing a culture of innovation.

PM told PTA revenue surges to Rs 850b; access to cellular services reaches 90pc

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA) Major General (Retd) Hafeezur Rehman on Friday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar here.

In the meeting, the PTA chairman presented to the prime minister the annual report 2023 of the Authority.

The prime minister was informed that the PTA's revenue increased by 17 percent to Rs 850 billion comparing the last year while the access to cellular services in the country had reached 90 percent.

The PTA chief said that the number of cellular consumers had touched 192 million and high-speed broadband users reached 130 million during 2023.

The prime minister lauded the services of the PTA chairman and his team in extending mobile phone and Internet services to the common man.

226 staff found absent in various districts: Departmental action initiated against absentee polling staff, maintains PEC Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Provincial Election Commissioner (PEC) Balochistan, Muhammad Farid Afridi has stated that departmental action has been initiated against the polling staff who remained absent from the training process continued in different parts of the province.

According to the PEC Balochistan, the departmental action has been started against the absentee staff in different parts of the province.

It was mentioned that

'Pak effectively highlighting Ram temple issue at every global forum': Munir Akram

ISLAMABAD (APP): Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, Ambassador Munir Akram Friday strongly condemned the recent consecration of 'Ram Temple' on the demolished Babri Mosque's site and expressed commitment for effectively highlighting the gross rights violations in IIOJK and temple issue at every global forum.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) countries were supporting the efforts for preserving universally recognized and regionally important sacred sites, meetings with high level UN representatives were also being conducting to highlight the issue.

The ambassador said that Pakistan urged the top official for the U.N. Alliance of Civilizations to play their active role for the protection of Islamic sites in India.

The OIC Ambassadors had also acknowledged the importance of the issue, he said, adding, we were writing letters to seek urgent intervention for the protection of religious sites in India.

He further said "We are also demanding action plan over protection of religious sites," adding, Indian friendly countries also needed to mobilize more diplomatic efforts to control Hindua-like policies in India. He said UN officials were encouraging Pakistan's efforts for raising Kashmir cause at world forums, adding, the right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination had been acknowledged.

Kashmir Day: Public holiday announced on Feb 5

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government has declared February 5 (Monday) a public holiday on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day, stated a notification issued on Friday.

The State of Pakistan will observe a one-minute silence at 10am on February 5 (Monday) - public holiday - in a show of solidarity with the people of Kashmir in their struggle for freedom from India, according to the notification.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman PTA, Major General (R) Hafeez-ur-Rehman calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Kashmiris observed India's Republic Day as Black Day

SRINAGAR (INP): Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) and across the world observed India's Republic Day as a Black Day amid complete strike in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in protest against India's persistent denial of their right to self-determination.

According to Kashmir Media Service, call for the observance of the Black Day was given by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) and other Hurriyat organizations.

In the occupied territory, a complete strike was observed, while anti-India demonstrations and rallies planned in Azad Kashmir, Pakistan, and various world capitals. Jailed APHC Chairman Masarat Aalam Butt and incarcerated senior leader Shabbir Ahmed Shah, both detained in India's Tihar jail, reiterated the call for a Black Day in every corner of the territory. APHC leaders and affiliated parties condemned India for a reign of terror, including widespread repression, frequent cordon and search operations, random arrests, and restrictions on businesses and social activities.

They called upon the people to boycott all Indian celebrations.

ANP to support IPP in Punjab for Feb 8 polls

LAHORE (INP): The Awami National Party (ANP) has committed its support to Istehkam e Pakistan Party (IPP) candidates in the upcoming polls on February 8.

Ameer Bahadur Khan, the general secretary of ANP Punjab, met with IPP President Abdul Aleem Khan and announced ANP's decision to support IPP in Punjab. Bashir Ahmed, the chairman of the Hazara Welfare Association, has also pledged support for IPP.

SPL is a welcome initiative: Aseefa

KARACHI (APP): Former President Asif Ali Zardari's daughter Aseefa Bhutto Zardari has said that Sindh Premier League (SPL) will not only convey the potential possessed by the youngsters of Sindh to the nation, but also the entire world.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the SPL here as a chief guest on Friday night, she said that the Sindh Premier League is a welcome initiative in the province.

The youth of Sindh were capable of reaching

Illegal weapons recovered

QUETTA (INP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), in a targeted operation against drug trafficking has recovered a significant cache of weapons along the coastal belt of Gwadar. The operation, carried out in the Padizar area, unfolded when an ANF team observed individuals unloading goods near the shoreline. Despite the team's prompt response, the suspects managed to escape in the cover of darkness. Upon inspecting the shipment left behind, the ANF discovered a trove of sophisticated weapons, leading to their confiscation.

Among the seized items were 259 9mm Glock pistols. The ANF spokesperson highlighted that these operations exemplify the agency's unwavering commitment to addressing threats to national security, extending beyond counter-narcotics efforts. This successful mission underscores the crucial role of ANF in safeguarding the region, demonstrating their determination to combat multifaceted challenges endangering the nation.

ECP decides to make SMS service 8300 free of charge from Monday next

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has decided to make SMS service 8300 free of charge from Monday next. The announcement was made by ECP's Spokesperson, Syed Nadeem Hyder, Additional Director General Nighat Sadique, and the Project

ECP decides to make SMS service 8300 free of charge from Monday next

Director of Project Management Unit whilst participating in Suno FM network's talk show 'Forum' this morning.

They said the voters can check details of their constituencies and polling stations by sending the number of their computerized identity cards to 8300.

Yousafzai says "Provision of facilities in Balochistan historic achievement of Jam"

Independent Report UTHAL: The former Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan is a progressive Nawab and political leader and provision of the basic facilities to the people in all districts of the province is his historic achievement.

This was stated by the leader of Jam Group, Umarzada Khan Yousafzai while speaking on occasion of launch of the election campaign in Revenue Colony, Uthal on Friday.

Mr. Yousafzai praised initiatives of the former Chief Minister Jam Kamal and said that he (Jam) had implemented the projects during his three and half years tenure. These projects are visible on ground.

Jam Kamal Khan is the farsighted and public friendly political leader, who took practical steps for development of the province and prosperity of the people. Following these initiatives, Jam Kamal Khan has great respect and status in the province and the people value him a lot from the core of their heart, Umarzada Khan Yousafzai added. He further said that no can deny the services rendered by Jam Kamal for the province.

Also present on the occasion were the leaders of Jam Group Akram Khaskhaili, Master Imam Baksh Seemab, general councillor Habibullah, Sabir Hussain, Jamil Ahmed besides others.

PTI's Senator Saifullah Abro joins PPP

KARACHI (INP): PTI Senator Saifullah Abro called on Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and expressed his trust in his leadership. On the occasion, Senator Saifullah announced to withdraw from the election race in NA-194 constituency and promised to support candidate of Pakistan People's Party. Abro was elected as senator on PTI's technocrat seat from Larkana for March 2022 to March 2027 term.

PTI candidates from Sukkur announced to quit election race to support Pakistan Peoples' Party candidates in the district. PTI nominated candidate from NA 200 Noman Islam Sheikh planned to withdraw election race and support PPP senior leader Khurshid Shah.

QESCO to hold online open court under Loralai circle on Jan 30

QUETTA (APP): The Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) will organize an open court for the consumers of Loralai and Killa Saifullah circles on January 30, 2024 (Monday) to address their complaints related to the electricity issues.

According to the press release issued here on Friday, Superintending Engineer QESCO Loralai Circle Engineer Syed Abdullah Shah will find out the complaints of consumers on telephone number 0824-400029 and mobile number 03198088024 from 11 am to 1 pm. Executive Engineers, Revenue Officers and Circle SDOs of Loralai and Killa Saifullah Divisions will also be present in the online open court. The QESCO has asked the consumers of Loralai Circle including Loralai, Duki, Ziarat, Mehtar, Musakhel, Rakhni, Kohlu, Zhub, Killa Saifullah and Muslim Bagh to contact the Superintending Engineer QESCO directly on the above mentioned telephone numbers on Tuesday for registering their grievances through the online office and for their redressal.

Mainly partly cloudy weather forecast for Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): The Met Office has forecast mainly partly cloudy weather conditions in most parts of the province with a very cold situation in the northern parts. Fog is likely to remain in southeastern districts during the next 24 hours. However, isolated light rain and drizzle may occur in Makran and its surroundings. According to the Met Office, the minimum temperature in Quetta was recorded at 5.5 degree centigrade and -01.0 degree centigrade in Kalat on Friday.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Local Bodies Sheikh Mehmoodul Hassan meeting with Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jozegai.

Lehri requests people to make successful BNP's candidate from PB-44

QUETTA (APP): A social activist of Killi-Jio Mir Abdul Rahman Lehri on Friday requested the people of Killi-Jio to seal the axe on February 8 and make successful Balochistan National Party (BNP)'s candidate PB-44 Haji Mir Waheed Lehri.

In his statement issued here on Friday, he said that the leader of BNP's nominated candidate for PB-44 Mir Abdul Waheed Lehri has a personality dedicated to the people and the spirit of service.

He said that people of the circle would make it successful by sealing the axe. He said that after his success there would be a complete change in the PB-44 area saying that youth would get employment and peace and order situation would be established in the entire area. He said that we have always done the politics of principles and we were doing it and we would implement the vision of the people of PB-44.



QUETTA: Chief Custom Calculator Abdul Qadir Memon speaks during a ceremony to mark International Customs Day.