

Independent

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091

Vol: 05. No. 361 Jamadi-us-Sani 29, 1445 AH Friday January 12, 2024

Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

Whosoever does not accept law of Pakistan should go out: PM

Says we will have to fight with wisdom and proper strategy; Vowes to take the fight against terrorism in the country to the logical end

PESHAWAR (Online): Care taker Prime Minister (PM) Anwaar ul Haq Kakar has said the terrorists brow-beat people in the name of Islam but we don't fear from the terrorists.

"If terrorists carry out 10 attacks on us we will carry out attacks on them for 10000 times. We have won war against terrorism. Only announcement for our win has to be made.

We will not bow before them, Whosoever does not accept Pakistan law he should go out from here, he said this while addressing Police Darbar

here Thursday.

The heirs of Police martyrs are not ordinary people. They are the greatest people, he added.

Who sides with evil are very degraded people. Innocent children were martyred in APS.

Mentioning the Army Public School Peshawar tragedy in which innocent students and faculty members along with police personnel were targeted by the terrorists, the Prime Minister said the state will not spare the coward terrorists.

He said correct approach is the main factor,

required in fighting terrorism and we firmly believe that we are on right path.

He said terrorists cannot shatter our resolve by carrying out terrorists attacks in the country. He said we have won war on terrorism morally.

The Prime Minister reiterated government's resolve to continue war against terrorism till complete elimination of terrorists from the country.

He assured that all the requirements of the police force would be fulfilled in consultation with the provincial government.



KARACHI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in meeting with Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori.

SJC gives ex-judge Naqvi another chance to present his case

All institutions including SC accountable to people: CJP

Would've asked for Naqvi's dismissal if claims were proven: SJC Chairman Justice Isa

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) on Thursday gave Justice (ret) Sayyed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi — who faces complaints of misconduct — another chance to present his viewpoint before the body. The development came a day after Naqvi stepped down from his post due to "circumstances which are a matter of public knowledge and to some extent public record".

The SJC served an intimation notice on Naqvi, whose resignation was accepted by President Arif Alvi earlier today, asking him to appear before the body tomorrow if he wants to give his viewpoint

against the complaints lodged against him.

During the course of proceedings, SJC Chairman Justice Qazi Faez Isa remarked there could be two reasons behind the judge's resignation: the complaint against the judge was false and he stepped down under pressure or the allegations were true and he did not want to face them. "The question of judge's dismissal is now irrelevant," he stated, adding that the council had just sent a report to the president.

"If allegations had been proven, then the council would have requested the president for the judge's dismissal." All institutions, including SC, were accountable

to the people, remarked Justice Isa, adding: "If everyone learns this thing, all the problems will be solved." Meanwhile, the SJC, noting that Naqvi's lawyers would be heard if they requested, adjourned the proceedings till 11am today (Friday). The former judge submitted his resignation hours after a three-member bench of the apex court rejected Justice (ret) Naqvi's plea seeking halting of the SJC's proceedings. Several complaints of misconduct were filed against Justice (ret) Naqvi with the SJC by lawyers as well as the Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) seeking his removal, particularly after his name surfaced in connection with an alleged audio leak.

Only PPP can steer country out of crises, claims Bilawal

Says PPP only political party to drag country out of prevailing crises

FAISALABAD (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari claimed on Thursday that only his party could steer the country out of current crises, as it had a very clear manifesto for people's welfare.

Addressing a public gathering at Tandlianwala here, he said the PPP enjoyed masses' support because of its public welfare agenda and unprecedented sacrifices, offered by its leadership for democracy in

Pakistan. He said the PPP would re-emerge as a leading force in the general election 2024.

He said the PPP had a 10-point agenda for ensuring public welfare and betterment after coming to power. He said PPP founder chairman Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had created awareness among masses about protection of their legitimate rights whereas his mother Benazir Bhutto embraced martyrdom but never compromised on democratic norms.



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister, Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar visits the control room of Karachi Water Board, at Shahrah-e-Faisal in Karachi. Minister Local Government, Mubin Jumani, Minister for Information, Ahmed Shah and Mayor Karachi, Murtaza Wahab are also present.

CM distributes 8 snorkels to KMC, HMC, Mirpurkhas, Larkana, SBA MCs

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (ret) Maqbool Baqar handed over eight snorkels, purchased for Rs1.35 billion, to the municipal corporations of Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur and Larkana.

During a ceremony, the Chief Minister addressed the audience and highlighted a grave issue related to the high-rise buildings in Karachi. He pointed out that many of these buildings lack proper firefighting systems, equipment, and fire exits.

In the event of a fire, the residents living on higher floors are at great risk of getting trapped, which can lead to the loss of both life and property.

Justice Baqar emphasized the importance of having a proper firefighting mechanism in place. To achieve this, the Sindh government has already ordered a fire safety audit of buildings.

The ceremony was attended by Minister Information Ahmad Shah, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Secretary Local Govt Manzoor Shaikh, Mayor Hyderabad Kashif Shoro, CEO Water Board Salahuddin, CEO Water Board Asadullah Khan and other officers and mayors.

The chief minister handed over three snorkels to KMC and each one to Hyderabad, Nawabshah, Mirpurkhas, Sukkur and Larkana.

KARACHI (APP): Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf conferring Gold medals and presenting Degrees to students during the annual convocation of Altamash Institute Of Dental Medicine at local hotel in Provincial Capital.

355 dentists graduated at AIMD Convocation

KARACHI (APP): The Convocation Ceremony of Altamash Institute of Dental Medicine, (AIMD) Karachi was held here at a local hotel on Thursday.

The session was chaired by the Chief of the Naval Staff/Admiral Naveed Ashraf NI(M) TBt), Vice Chancellor Jinnah Sindh Medical University, Karachi Prof. Dr. Amjad Siraj Memon, and President College of the Physician and Surgeon Pakistan, Prof. Dr. Khalid Masud Gondal (Sitara-e-Imtiaz and Presidential pride of performance). The ceremony was also attended by senior officials from the Pakistan Navy, Registrar Jinnah Sindh Medical University, and notables from medical, dental, allied health sciences fraternity, and other distinguished guests.

Addressing the audience, Chief/Guest, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf (NI(M) TBt), congratulated the students, parents and faculty on their diligence and commendable performance. He further emphasized to the audience that this convocation marks the entering of graduates into their practical lives. It is the time to return what they have received and deliver the benefits of your knowledge to the community and nation. He expected that graduates would embark upon their professional careers and remain focused on the golden rules of ethics and nation. He expected that graduates would embark upon their professional careers and remain focused on the golden rules of ethics.

Earlier Prof. Dr. Mohammed Hasnain Sakrani, Principal AIMD, gave his welcome address in which he expressed his immense pleasure and satisfaction that in a short span.



FAISALABAD: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses to his supporters during public gathering meeting held at Hockey Stadium Tandlianwala in Faisalabad.

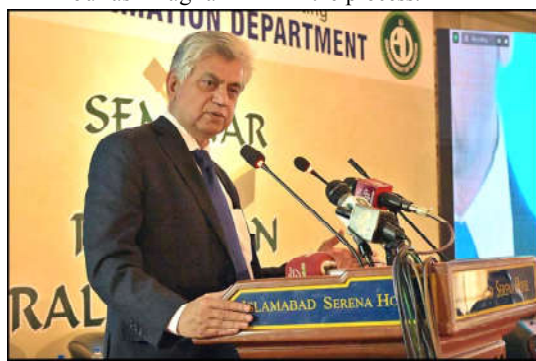
Minister for completion of digitization process at the earliest

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Minister of Revenue, Industries and Commerce, Muhammad Younas Dagha, Thursday directed to complete the digitization process at the earliest while ensuring linkage of the record with the NADRA database.

The minister was presiding over a virtual meeting with officers of the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) here regarding the digitization of records of different departments of the Sindh government. Chairman Punjab Information Technology Board Faisal Yousaf and other PITB officers attended the meeting on Zoom while Sindh government officers of Revenue, Industries and Commerce departments were also present.

Younas Dagha in-

structed to arrange a demonstration of the digitization process for relevant departments so that the officers concerned could comprehensively implement the digitization process. The minister asked PITB to provide its own team of trainers for imparting proper training of the digitization process to Sindh officers and workers. On which Chairman PITB informed that the team of trainers of PITB will reach Karachi on Thursday, January 12, 2024. The minister said that the arrival of PITB trainers' team would provide an opportunity to resolve the issues being encountered in the digitization process of Revenue and Industries and Commerce through mutual consultation so that the process could be completed without any hindrance and user does not face any problem in the process.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi addressing during a seminar on "Pakistan Election 2024: The Economic Reforms Agenda of Political Parties" organized by Press Information Department.

IGP for compilation of data of criminals on bail

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Riffat Mukhtar Raja, led a meeting at the Central Police Office (CPO), Karachi, to discuss the status of criminals on bail, with a focus on those involved in street crime and property offences.

Present in the meeting, the AIGP Legal provided a briefing, emphasizing the importance of maintaining detailed records and statuses of criminals involved in street crime and property cases who had been released on bail.

IGP Sindh Riffat Mukhtar Raja directed the IT department of CPO Karachi to liaise with all legal branches across the province to compile centralised and daily data on released criminals and conduct regular checks. He stressed the need for legal branches to compile comprehensive data on these criminals.

The IGP Sindh further announced that inspection teams would visit legal branches, starting with the Karachi range in the first phase.

SC senior judge Justice Ijazul Ahsan steps down

ISLAMABAD (INP): Supreme Court senior judge Justice Ijazul Ahsan tendered his resignation on Thursday over unknown reasons.

The third senior most judge of the apex court, Justice Ijazul Ahsan who was set to become chief justice in October this year sent his resignation to President Arif Alvi.

The development comes a day after Justice (ret) Naqvi stepped down from his post as SC judge.

Supreme Court Justice Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi tendered his resignation on January 10, as the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) was hearing a reference against him over the misconduct allegations revolving around amassing wealth beyond his resources.

Pakistan, KSA sign various hajj related agreements

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) have signed different agreements and Memorandums of Understanding to provide better facilities to Pakistani pilgrims during this year's Hajj.

Director General Hajj Abdul Wahab Soomro signed these agreements on behalf of the government of Pakistan.

In a memorandum of understanding, both nations committed to providing enhanced facilities for Pakistani pilgrims.

Karachi records season's coldest day

KARACHI (INP): Karachi witnessed the lowest temperatures of the season on Thursday, marking an intensified cold wave reported by the Department of Meteorology. The official weather station at Pahlwan Goth recorded a chilly 10 degrees Celsius, signifying the deepening impact of the cold spell that began last week.

In the Gulistan-Johar area, the minimum temperature hit 8 degrees Celsius.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addresses the Tech Destination Pakistan Rejuvenated Ceremony.

Solangi reiterates govt's commitment to combat terrorism on Pakistan's soil

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Thursday that the government was resolute in its commitment to combat terrorism on the soil of this country.

He was delivering his speech as chief guest at the launching ceremony of the Annual Security Assessment Report by the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS).

SHC orders to use modern technology, social media for missing persons recovery

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court (SHC) has mandated the adoption of modern technology and the dissemination of photos on social media platforms in efforts to locate missing individuals. The directive was issued by a two-member bench, with Justice Nimatullah Phalphoto presiding over petitions related to the recovery of missing persons.

During the hearing, Justice Nimatullah Phalphoto questioned the investigating officer about the measures taken to trace the missing persons. The officer reported that 21 Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) and 16 provincial task force meetings had been conducted to address the issue.

Despite these efforts, family members expressed their distress, citing the case of Muhammad Zubair who went missing from Baghdad in 2014.



HYDERABAD: Peoples Party (PPP) Leader, Aseefa Bhutto Zardari being welcomed by party workers upon her arrival in Hyderabad.

Two shopkeepers shot dead, another injured

KARACHI (INP): Two shopkeepers were killed and another injured firing of unidentified armed men in Saudabad area of Karachi, police said on Thursday.

According to details, three shopkeepers were returning home from their shops when unidentified gunmen riding a motorcycle sprayed bullets at them.

As a result of firing, two shopkeepers were killed on the spot while another sustained critical bullet wounds and attackers fled the scene.

Mary Gold Festival will be inaugurated today

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab will inaugurate the 4th Mary Gold and Plant Festival at Bagh-e-Jinnah Frere Hall on Friday.

He said that the Horticulture Department of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation has prepared marigold flowers in its nurseries this year as well and they have been decorated in a unique way.

The citizens will be getting an opportunity to participate in constructive activities, which will improve the society and awaken the spirit of making our city better, he added. The Mayor Karachi said that along with developing the basic infrastructure of Karachi, the parks of the city are also being made green and beautiful.

Liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan reach \$13.256 bln

KARACHI (INP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan have increased to US\$ 13,256.6 million while in the week that ended on January 05, 2023, the reserves held by State Bank reached \$ 8,154.8 million.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, the State Bank of Pakistan informed that the Central Bank's reserves decreased by \$ 66 million to \$ 8,154.8 million due to debt repayments during the week under review. Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks stood at \$ 5,101.8 million, it added.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Musharraf's sentence

At a time when the constitutional order in Pakistan is — yet again — facing a variety of threats, the Supreme Court has upheld military ruler Pervez Musharraf's death sentence.

The decision can serve as an inflection point where Pakistan's constitutional history and future are concerned, offering lessons for those willing to learn about the perils of veering from the democratic course, and respecting the country's basic law. The general, who ruled over Pakistan for nearly a decade, was given the death sentence by a three-judge special court in 2019. A month later, the LHC had overturned the death sentence. The SC had last year taken up a set of appeals related to the case, and on Wednesday, the apex court set aside the LHC decision ruling that it was "not sustainable".

Though this paper opposes the death penalty as a matter of principle, and it would have been better if the decision had come while the military strongman was still alive — Mr Musharraf passed away last year — the ramifications of the SC judgement are considerable, just as those of the special court's original sentence were.

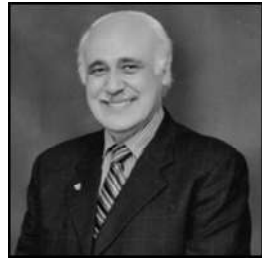
Though some may say that the decision is an afterthought, and that it will not stop military interventions should the proponents of martial rule decide to go ahead with it, the decision is highly symbolic. Mr Musharraf was sentenced for imposing his second emergency in 2007, yet it is fair to ask why he wasn't punished for the 'original sin': the 1999 coup. Rather than precipitating any clash of institutions, or targeting any individuals, the SC judgement should initiate a journey of soul-searching and self-reckoning within all pillars of the state, to see where we as a nation have gone wrong by abandoning the Constitution, and embracing autocratic tendencies.

Moreover, there should be an honest appraisal of history: Pervez Musharraf was not the first military strongman to rule Pakistan, though it is hoped he will be the last. Much before, in 1958, Iskander Mirza and Ayub Khan had thwarted Pakistan's democratic evolution by imposing this country's first martial law. Next, Yahya Khan's period of military rule led to the separation of East Pakistan.

The forays launched by Ziaul Haq on the constitutional order are also well-documented. But their lordships should also consider the role of their brother judges in propping up dictatorships. Many a learned jurist played a key role in validating military rule, guided by the dubious 'doctrine of necessity'.

Today, as Pakistan struggles with upholding the constitutional order, and protecting fundamental rights, all institutions need to review our chequered history — including the Musharraf period — and realise that national salvation lies only in all pillars of the state staying within their constitutional bounds, and working to stop any further adventurism.

The last Pakistani



F.S. Aijazuddin

Mani Shankar Aiyar is the last Pakistani left in India. It is his 'second favourite country'. It was once an option available to millions of Indian Muslims. Since 1947, Indian Muslims have witnessed with disappointment Pakistan's descent into democratic dementia and irresponsible insolvency. They would prefer (like the Buddhists in medieval times) to quit the subcontinent and migrate to more hospitable shores.

Two periods in Mani's long life (he is 83 years old) have conditioned his personality, his career, and his literary output. The first was the stint he spent as India's consul general in Karachi (1978-82). It provided a seemingly bottomless reservoir of material which he has used in various books. His *Memoirs of a Maverick: The First Fifty Years (1941-1991)* — was released last year.

He intended his next book to be an autobiographical sequel. His publisher, though, felt it was dominated by the second Himalaya in his life — the late prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. They suggested a biography of Rajiv instead. Hence, Mani's fresh book *The Rajiv I Knew And Why He Was India's Most Misunderstood Prime Minister (2024)*.

Ever since 1992, when Mani wrote his affectionate memoir *Remembering Rajiv* within a year of Rajiv's assassination, Mani has been more loyal to the memory of Rajiv Gandhi than Rajiv's widow Sonia and her Congress party have been to him.

The book opens with a chapter on Rajiv's domestic successes: The accords with Punjab, Assam, Mizoram, and Darjeeling. The second discusses the internal controversies that plagued Rajiv's political career: the Shah Bano case, the communal Pandora's box of Babri Masjid, Operation Brasstacks, IPKF, and the Bofors imbroglio.

Most leaders prefer to cruise in international waters than to be buffeted by domestic squalls. Rajiv was no exception. In the third chapter on Rajiv's foreign policy initiatives, Mani lauds Rajiv's efforts on nuclear disarmament, improving relations with China and Pakistan, Indian intervention in the Maldives in 1988, and the establishment of the AF-R-ICA Fund in 1986. Mani provided Rajiv with the catchy acronym: 'Act-ion For Resis-t-ing Invasion [in Mozambique], Colonialism [in Namibia], and Apartheid [in South Africa]'.

The fourth chapter — *Innovative Domestic Initiatives* — is a checklist of Rajiv's radial interest in technology missions, Zonal Cultural Centres and Apna Utsavs, Island Development Authority, drought-proofing and the economy.

The concluding fifth chapter is on the Panchayat(i) Raj initiative. Mani's untiring efforts as India's first ever cabinet minister for panchayat raj and as chairman of the Expert Committee on the Panchayats (2011-13) reached its apogee when the committee produced a five-volume report. He dubs it 'an Encyclopaedia Panchayatica.' To Mani's chagrin, that report now "moulders in forgotten cupboards", ignored by Modi's government.

Mani tried to bring the panchayats centre stage. Instead, in 2013, Mani was eased off-stage by Congress president

Sonia Gandhi. To Pakistanis, Mani's comments about Pakistan will be of primary interest. He deals openly with Operation Brasstacks, lauded with Rajiv's approval and conducted in 1986/7.

That provocative operation — "bigger than any Nato exercise — and the biggest since World War II" — took place on "the vicinity of the Pakistan border, involving half a million troops — half the Indian Army within a hundred miles of Pakistani territory — and the deployment of Indian naval forces for an amphibious naval trial assault in the Korangi creek that led from the sea to Pakistan's commercial capital, Karachi".

On January 28, 1987, President Ziaul Haq retaliated smokelessly by allowing Dr A.Q. Khan to reveal to the *Indian Journalist Kuldip Nayar* that Pakistan had gone nuclear. Na--yar (hoping to earn more than kudos for this explosive disclosure) deliberately withheld publication of this till March 1, by which time confrontation had cooled to consultation.

Mani's recollection of that speech bulges with pride: "It was the distilled essence of all I had learned of Pakistan and Pakistanis in my three years in Karachi. And here it was pouring forth from the mouth of the prime minister!"

Despite Mani's unquenchable optimism, his dream of "an uninterrupted relationship between India and Pakistan will remain unfulfilled. Certainly, as long as his nemesis PM Modi and the BJP co--ntinue to rule India. That could go on until 2039, when Mani will be all of 97 years old. Mani's janambhumi is Lahore, in Pakistan — both magnets he finds impossible to resist. -- Courtesy Dawn

Championing SDGs



Furqan Hyder Shaikh

Pakistan is one of the countries which adopted the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 — also called 'global goals' — in order to attain lasting development, peace, and prosperity for its people. It is a matter of much pride that Pakistan was the first country to adopt the SDGs at the country level when it officially passed a parliamentary resolution to this effect in 2016. The Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives has since established SDG Support Units through provincial planning and development departments to provide guidance on their implementation and track the progress made.

Implementing the SDGs in spirit promises to end poverty and inequality, ensure the protection of the Earth, and ensure that all people on this planet have access to the enjoyment of health, justice, and prosperity. Pakistan has spent eight years engaging with the SDGs and streamlining and localising them. But though it was proactive in adopting the SDGs, their implementation could be better. One wonders how many people know about the SDGs in, for example, Sindh's Tharparkar and coastal belt. How many SDG-driven schools have been operationalised? How many children at Sindh's high schools and colleges know about the SDGs? How many introductory sessions have been organised at schools and colleges in Hyderabad? In mid-2023, I moved

to Mithi, Tharparkar, where I asked a member of a local business association about the SDGs. Puzzled, he asked, "What is an SDG?" The reply made me think that if the business community in Sindh was not aware of the SDGs, how could the SDGs be localised and streamlined? An honest, meaningful commitment to achieving SDGs entails localising them on the ground level. The business community, academia, health sector, food entities, builders, exploration and production companies, universities, development sector, transportation sector, and parliamentarians all need to educate themselves on SDGs and think about what practical initiatives they can take in this regard.

A much-needed step in streamlining and localising the SDGs is to translate them into local languages. For example, in Sindh, these languages would include Sindhi, Urdu, Marwari, Brahvi and Dhatki. In Tharparkar (as well as a large portion of the areas that comprise the Mirpurkhas division), Dhatki is the most common language spoken locally. Access to a Dhatki version of the SDGs would greatly help the locals as they go about planning their future business and non-business activities.

There is a pressing need for the Sindh Education and Literacy Department, in consultation with the Sindh SDG Support Unit, to develop an object-oriented edutainment booklet that can help make students and teachers aware of the SDGs and their practical applications in real-world scenarios. A weekly session on SDGs and what possible ideas can be drawn from SDGs should be discussed, evaluated, and projected.

If one is to think opportunistically, the Sindh government is currently reconstructing the flood-damaged houses of those affected by the 2022 mon-

soon in different districts, including Mirpurkhas, Badin, Sanghar, and Tando Mohammad Khan, through a dedicated entity called Sindh People's Housing for Flood Affecteds (SPHF). There is a unique opportunity to turn this reconstruction project into a showcase for SDG localisation. If the houses and their attached communities can be used to demonstrate the benefits of the 17 SDGs, this will facilitate others' understanding of what the SDGs could look like at the rural level. It will encourage local children to ask their teachers and elders questions about their importance. Word will spread by mouth, opening new avenues for sustainable development and good governance in the country's vast rural areas.

To implement the SDGs effectively, governments at all levels need to understand their importance in their provinces' everyday affairs. All policies need to be consciously driven by at least one of the 17 SDGs in alignment with each government's administrative targets. This will ensure that governments will remain dedicated to streamlining the SDGs into their development agenda.

It is also imperative that an SDG forum be established by provincial governments at the district level. This forum could invite researchers, economists, engineers, NGOs, teachers, university faculty, representatives of the business community, chambers of commerce and industry, and the youth to contribute to the implementation of SDGs at the district level. Informed input and novel ideas will open up innovative mechanisms to achieve global goals by 'acting locally and impacting globally'. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

President directs insurance company to refund Rs 100,000 with profit

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has directed EFU Life Assurance Ltd to refund Rs 100,000 along with profit to a poor lady who had been misled to obtain the insurance policy.

According to a press release issued by the President House Press Wing on Thursday, Zubaida Begum had obtained an amount of Rs 100,000 by participating in a local "committee" and intended to deposit the amount in her bank account, but she was fraudulently issued an insurance policy at the bank.

Being a poor lady, when she expressed her inability to pay an annual premium of Rs 100,000 and asked for a refund of her deposit, she was told that she'd only be refunded an amount of Rs 40,000, being the prevailing cash value of the policy.

Feeling aggrieved, she approached the Federal Insurance Ombudsman (FIO) but her grievance was not addressed. Later, she filed a representation with the

President against the decision of FIO. The president personally heard the case of the aggrieved lady, and after going through the record, decided the matter in her favour.

In his decision, he observed that the complainant was entitled at least to the refund of the principal amount as her claim was just and fair.

He added that the mis-selling of the policy to a poor lady who never opted to purchase the policy in the first place and thereafter the denial of the refund of the deposited premium amount by the company constituted maladministration.

The president noted that FIO had directed the insurance company to refund Rs 40,000 to the woman, without appreciating the fact that an amount of Rs 60,000 was remaining to be paid by the company.

He said that as per Insurance Ordinance 2000, FIO was to ensure the protection of the interests of insurance

policyholders, and non-refund of even the deposited amount by the insurance company was a sheer violation of the spirit of the Ordinance.

He stated that FIO had failed to follow the spirit of the Ordinance and had not realized that Rs 100,000 had been kept by the company since 2020.

and they must also have earned considerable profit on it by investing it.

The president wrote that the equitable principle of enrichment envisaged that no one should unjustly enrich themselves at the expense of others.

He added that it would be unjust to deprive the lady of her share in respect of the profit earned on her money.

The president, therefore, accepted the representation of Ms Zubaida Begum and directed EFU Life Assurance to refund the full amount of Rs 100,000 with profit to the complainant within 30 days of the order.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Khalida Ateeb, Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Industries and Production presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

EU Ambassador visits FPCCI: GSP+ status enabled 108% export growth in a decade

Independent Report
KARACHI: Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has stressed that the 27-country economic alliance of European Union — with a cumulative GDP of almost \$20 trillion — can help Pakistan steer out of the chronically dilapidated state of the economy of Pakistan; and, enhancing our exports to the EU nations should be the cornerstone of broader economic relations.

Pakistan has achieved an encouraging 108 percent growth in exports to EU over a period of 10 years; however, in order to retain our GSP Plus status, we must not be complacent and, be vigilantly continuing to fulfill EU criteria, he added. It is pertinent to note

that H.E. Dr. Riina Kionka, Ambassador of EU in Pakistan, has paid a detailed visit to the FPCCI Head Office in Karachi; along with her senior team members; aimed at offering the apex body their full support in fulfilling GSP+ opportunities and requirements.

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI, explained that Pakistan is, indeed, a major beneficiary of GSP Plus since 2014 as it has facilitated our exports to European Union. Under this scheme, Pakistan is eligible to export around two third of products at zero tariff rate or at preferential tariff rate; and, Pakistan's GSP+ status has been extended to 2027 as of now.

Finance Minister advocates climate action & embraces carbon market initiatives

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: The caretaker Finance Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ahmed Rasul Bangash, took center stage as the Chief Guest at a workshop on 'Navigating Voluntary Carbon Markets in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa', emphasizing the critical role of climate finance in sustainable development.

The session was organized by UK-Aid funded Sustainable Energy and Economic Development (SEED) Program with the aim to explore how Khyber Pakhtunkhwa can realize its significant capacity for carbon projects, particularly those centered around

nature-based solutions and renewable energy projects. In his address, Finance Minister Mr. Bangash underscored the urgency of addressing climate change challenges, recognizing them as a global imperative that demands collective action. He highlighted the adverse impacts already affecting communities and ecosystems, emphasizing the need for innovative approaches to mitigate environmental risks and build resilience.

The Finance Minister acknowledged the significance of voluntary carbon markets in unlocking climate finance and at the same time building resilience.

Freelancers to start receiving payments from PayPal in February: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif on Thursday said that under the pilot project, 10,000 freelancers would start receiving payments from PayPal in February.

Addressing a Tech Destination Pakistan event that featured the launch of E-Rozgar Centers in the country, he said, "In February, we are going to start the first pilot project in which 10,000 freelancers in Pakistan would be able to start receiving payments through PayPal."

The minister further mentioned that in March, the program would be scaled up and everyone

would have access to payments from PayPal and Stripe across the country.

He clarified that while PayPal itself is not coming to Pakistan, an agreement has been reached where remittances would be channeled through PayPal via a third party.

Under the newly devised program, the freelancers will not need to open a PayPal account. Instead, individuals outside the country will make payments from their PayPal accounts, and the funds will be promptly deposited into the freelancers' accounts, the minister explained.

The minister said that the government has

devised a mechanism for the opening of bank accounts for freelancers. He mentioned that only freelancers would have to provide evidence that they have an account on Fiverr, Upwork, Elance, Toptal, or Crosswork. The minister added, "The IT industry would have a 50 percent dollar retention policy, which means that whatever you earn, you can keep 50 percent of that in dollars. You will get a debit card from that bank so that you can freely spend that money domestically or internationally." He highlighted that the government has allocated enough funds for the establishment of E-Rozgar centers across the country through a public-private.

No plans to hand over DISCOs to any institution

ISLAMABAD (APP): In response to recent news circulating in the media, the Ministry of Energy, Power Division, on Thursday, categorically denied any plans to hand over Distribution Companies (DISCOs) to any institution. The statement issued by the Ministry of Energy, Power Division, clarified that the news circulating in the media about DISCOs being handed over to the army is incorrect. The ministry further said, "Neither is there any change in the management of DISCOs nor are they being handed over to any other institution."

'Empowering women can ensure sustained economic growth'

LAHORE (APP): Coordinator to Minister of State and Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis on Thursday said that empowering women at grassroots level in Pakistan had great significance for fostering sustainable economic growth. Addressing a round-table conference on "Impact of Empowering Women in Economic Growth" here, he added that women had a pivotal role to play in the economic and overall development so prioritising their empowerment became paramount.

Kashif Meher was of the view that investing in women's education, healthcare and economic opportunities not only enhanced their well-being but also propelled the nation towards prosperity. He said economic empowerment involved creating opportunities for women to enter and thrive in various sectors. Micro-finance initiatives, vocational training programmes, and support for women entrepreneurs could boost economic growth by tapping the potential of women in the workforce, he suggested.



Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI, is presenting the commemorative shield to H.E. Dr. Riina Kionka, Ambassador of EU in Pakistan. Mr. Asif Sakhi & Mr. Aun Ali Syed, VPs FPCCI; Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, former SVP FPCCI; Mr. Shabbir Mansha, former VP FPCCI; Mr. Adeel Siddiqui, President HCCI and Sahibzadi Mahin Khan were also present on the occasion.

KP Governor lends support to Civil Society's call of banning e-cigarettes, vaping

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali Thursday extended support to Civil Society's call for banning e-cigarettes and vaping while keeping in view its harms to public health and increasing use of modern tobacco products among youth.

He expressed these views while talking with a delegation that called on him under the chairmanship of Qamar Naseem, Programme Manager Blue Veins, a non-governmental organization.

Other members of the delegation included Ajmal Shah, Coordinator Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tobacco Control Cell, Dr. Ihtisham, Chest Specialist LRH, Dr. Qazi Shahbaz, Chairman Provincial Doctors

Association, Mohammad Rizwan, Provincial Coordinator National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) and Sana Ahmad, Program Coordinator Blue Veins.

Speaking during the meeting, Qamar Naseem apprised Governor Haji Ghulam Ali that new tobacco products are emerging in the whole world at a very fast speed.

In our country, he continued, these products are available very easily in markets and due to deceiving slogans of harm reduction or 'Quit smoking and start vaping' is attracting a large number of people towards consumption of smokeless tobacco.

Qamar said due to lack of latest legislation in the

country, the existing laws on tobacco control cannot be enforced on the use or sale of modern smokeless tobacco products which use is increasing due to easy availability in markets and advertisement in media.

The delegation members requested the Governor for measures to impose a ban on vapes and all forms of e-cigarettes. In this regard, they also suggested legislation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Responding to the points, Governor KP Haji Ghulam Ali while expressing his agreement to the call extended support for imposition of ban on these products with the purpose of protecting public health, especially youth.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Mohsin Naqvi distributing laptops amongst the students of King Edwards Medical College.

'Pneumonia cases rises in Punjab' Minister advise citizens to maintain a healthy diet, use face masks

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Health and Population Welfare Dr Jamal Nasir Thursday urged people to remain vigilant while maintaining a healthy diet and using face masks as 'pneumonia cases' were continuously rising due to smog weather.

Talking to a private news channel he pointed out that people with weak immunity due to chronic cardiac, kidney and liver diseases or diabetes could easily contract the respiratory disease in cold weather.

Health experts warned of an acute rise in pneumonia cases among elderly people and children, adding, citizens asked to use plenty of rest, warm beverages, steam baths or the use of humidifiers in houses for air moisture and timely consultations with doctors.

He said that the major cause of increased cases was undiagnosed influenza and pneumonia cases, adding, citizens to immediately consult doctors and receive treatment after having respiratory issues.

May 9 incident Court approves 14 days judicial remand of PTI founder in 12 cases

RAWALPINDI (Online): 14 days judicial remand of PTI founder Imran Khan in 12 cases related to May 9 incident has been approved.

12 cases pertaining to May 9 incidents were heard in Adiala Jail against former Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan Thursday. The case came up for hearing before Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) led by judge Ijaz Asif.

Imran Khan was presented in the court on completion of two days physical remand.

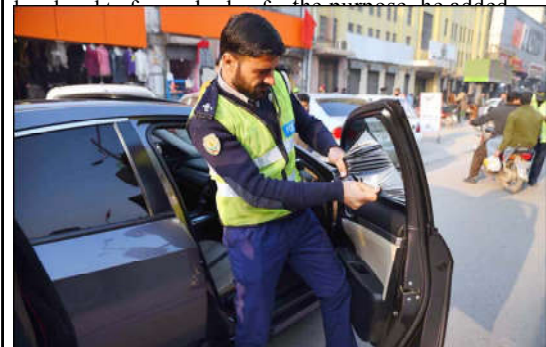
Malik Faisal and Shahbaz Khosa represented PTI founder in the court. The investigation officers requested the court during hearing of the case to extend physical remand of Imran Khan for further 30 days.

The court however rejected the plea for further physical remand of Imran Khan. The court sent Imran Khan to jail on judicial remand for 14 days in 12 cases related to May 9 incidents.

KP Govt decides to launch major literacy campaign in merged districts; Dr. Aamer

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Industries, Commerce and Technical Education Dr. Aamer Abdullah has said that the provincial government has decided to launch a major literacy campaign of "Ilam Da Tolo Dapara" (Education for All) to increase literacy rate in the merged districts. He said that the aim of this campaign was to promote the boys and girls education in these districts, adding that in order to make this campaign successful, it had been decided to establish a task force at the district level.

While introducing technical education and skills training courses in general educational institutions, the Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) has been assigned the task of conducting a feasibility study about identification of suitable institutions for



PESHAWAR: Traffic Warden Officials are removing tinted sheet from a car at Cantt Bazar.

Lawyers Grand Alliance organizes event

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations across the country managed to recover 250 kg of drugs and arrested four accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday. He informed that 637 grams of weed was recovered from a parcel sent from Thailand at the courier office in Rawalpindi while three accused were arrested.

In an operation, 128.5 kg hashish and 53.5 kg opium were recovered near Swabi Interchange.

36 kg hashish was recovered from an accused rounded up from Ring Road Peshawar.

Rana Shahid Mehmood KOTADDU: According to the details, on the last day of the campaign of District Bar Association Kot Addu Annual Elections 2024,25, an event was organized by the Lawyers Grand Alliance in which the presidential candidate Munir Ahmed Korya Advocate, Deputy President Jam Naeem Akhtar Advocate, General Secretary Imran Mustafa Bhatti Advocate, Joint Secretary Waqar Ahmed Dogar, Finance Secretary Shahzadul Haque, Library Secretary Noman Ali Chaudhry, Editor Furqan Majeed and other candidates also organized lunch for the participants of the event on behalf of the members.

Punjab Bar Council Ijaz Ahmad Khan Gormani said that the bar association was given the status of district so that by activating the district courts, the citizens do not have to travel miles to solve the problems faced by them. I played a role in providing facilities by activating the dispensary. He said that the candidates for the national elections should stop criticizing the Bar Association. By creating a pleasant atmosphere between the bar and the bench, solve the problems of the petitioners and lawyers on priority basis and make the Grand Alliance group successful.



LARKANA: A woman busy is selecting used warm clothes at Old Bus Stand Road.

Health minister advocates raising age limit for girl marriages

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Dr. Jamal Nasir Thursday emphasised the necessity of increasing the age limit for girl marriages.

In a consultative session, organised by the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) here, he cited hormonal changes during adolescence that often lead to physiological disorders. The minister highlighted the potential health risks

faced by young brides. Dr. Nasir pointed out that subjecting minor girls or those not physically or emotionally mature to marriage could result in multiple problems for them. He emphasised the importance of protecting the fundamental rights of females, backed by medical evidence showing their genetic and natural vulnerability. Early marriages, he warned, could lead to a drastic deterioration in the physical health of young brides, contributing to societal issues surrounding infertility.

Bid to smuggle heroin abroad foiled; 3 held

PESHAWAR (APP): The Excise police station, Mardan Region on Thursday foiled a bid to smuggle heroin abroad and arrested an international drug smuggler along with two facilitators while recovering 57 swallowed capsules. According to the spokesman of Excise, the Excise police acting on a tip-off conducted an operation on Ring Road Chamtar Chowk, district Mardan and intercepted a suspected vehicle with three persons onboard and going to Islamabad International Airport.

The police took the main accused Naveed, a resident of Kot Radha Kishan, district Kasur, to MMC Hospital where a health team recovered 57 swallowed capsules of heroin from his stomach.

The Excise police arrested the international drug smuggler along with the real owner of the drug Habib-ul-Haq, and co-facilitator Fazl Muhammad, residents of Bara.

International News

Abbas agrees to reunite West Bank, Gaza: Blinken

US supports establishment of independent Palestinian state

MANAMA: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Wednesday that Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas was committed to reforming the Palestinian Authority in a way that could "reunite" Gaza and the occupied West Bank under its leadership.

In a related development, Egypt and Jordan warned against any Israeli reoccupation in the Gaza Strip. Blinken was speaking to reporters in Bahrain after meeting with Abbas in the West Bank city of Ramallah during a tour of the Middle East aimed at preventing an escalation of the Israel-Hamas conflict.

"We talked [...] about the importance of reforming the Palestinian Authority,

policy and governance so that it can effectively take responsibility for Gaza... so that Gaza and the West Bank can be reunited under a Palestinian leadership," he said.

"It's very clear to me for president Abbas that he's prepared to move forward and engage in all of these efforts."

Blinken said Abbas was committed to reforming the Palestinian Authority. "What I take away from this meeting is that he is committed to that and is very much prepared to move forward," Blinken told AFP in response to a question about Abbas's commitment to reforming the PA.

Egypt and Jordan while warning against any

Israeli reoccupation in the Gaza Strip appealed for the uprooted residents to be allowed to return to their homes as the Arab countries' leaders met Abbas.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has demanded the Yemeni Houthis to immediately stop attacks on ships in the Red Sea.

According to media reports, 11 of the 15 permanent members of the Security Council voted in favor of the resolution, 4 countries including Russia and China did not participate in the voting, and no country opposed the resolution.

The Security Council resolution endorsed a US-led task force to protect ships from attack.



Al Jazeera journalist Wael Al-Dahdouh attends the funeral of his son, Palestinian journalist Hamza Al-Dahdouh, after Hamza was killed in an Israeli strike, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

Oil tanker involved in U.S.-Iran dispute boarded by armed guards near Oman, diverted

DUBAI (Internews): An oil tanker caught up in a dispute last year between the United States and Iran was boarded by armed individuals off the coast of Oman on Thursday and appeared to have changed course towards Iran, according to UK maritime sources.

The Marshall Islands-flagged tanker St Nikolos was boarded by armed intruders as it sailed close to the Omani city of Sohar, according to British maritime security firm Ambrey, and its AIS tracking system was turned off as it headed in the direction of the Iranian port of Bandar-e-Jask.

In 2023 the St Nikolos was seized by the United States in a sanctions enforcement operation when it sailed under a different name, Suez Rajan.

The United States said at the time that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) had been trying to send contraband Iranian oil to China, in violation of U.S. sanctions.

The ship loaded 145,000 metric tonnes of oil in the Iraqi port of Basra and was heading to Aliaga in western Turkey via the Suez Canal.

Afghan women detained over 'improper' hijab

KABUL: A Taliban official has said several girls and women were detained recently in Kabul for not covering themselves properly, after reports circulated of a crackdown in the Afghan capital.

In a video posted on on Wednesday, security official Ehsanullah Saqib told a gathering of religious scholars in Kabul's western Dasht-e-Barchi neighbourhood that in the past week "we have detained a number of women and girls who were without hijab, with the help of women police".

Women have been squeezed from public life, barred from travelling without a male relative.

Israel army claims two journalists slain in Gaza strike were 'terror operatives'

TEL AVIV (INP): Israel's army claimed on Wednesday that two Al Jazeera journalists it killed in an air strike in Gaza were "terror operatives".

Hamza Wael Dahdouh and Mustafa Thuria, who also worked as a video stringer for a foreign news agency and other news organisations, were killed on Sunday while they were on an assignment for the Qatar-based channel in the city of Rafah.

The army said in a statement on Wednesday its "intelligence has confirmed that both the deceased were members of Gaza-based terrorist organisations actively involved in attacks against IDF (army) forces".

"Prior to the strike, the two operated drones, posing an imminent threat to IDF troops," the army said.

There was no immediate reaction available from the television channel and families of the two men.

When asked on Wednesday reporters about what kind of drones were used by the two men and the nature of the threat the drones posed to Israeli troops, the army said it was "checking".

It said Thuria was identified in a document found by troops in Gaza to be a member of Hamas's Gaza City Brigade, while Dahdouh was identified as a "terrorist" belonging to Islamic Jihad.

The army statement included a copy of a document it said was a list of "operatives from an electronic engineering unit of the Islamic Jihad, including Dahdouh and his military number".

Dahdouh and Thuria were killed when the car they were travelling in was hit by two rockets on a street in Rafah, according to witnesses. A third journalist and the driver of the car were wounded.

Brazil expresses support for South African genocide case against Israel

SAO PAULO (Internews): Brazil expressed its support for the case filed by South Africa at the International Court of Justice against Israel's attacks on the Gaza Strip, which have caused more than 23,000 deaths since Oct. 7.

The Brazilian decision was taken hours after President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva met in Brasilia with Palestinian Ambassador Ibrahim Alzeben.

Although Lula emphasized that his administration immediately condemned the Hamas attack of Oct. 7, he affirmed that "such acts do not justify Israel's indiscriminate, recurrent and disproportionate use of force against civilians."

Brazil's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that considering "the flagrant violations of international humanitarian law," Lula expressed support for South Africa's case with the goal of ordering "Israel to immediately cease all acts and measures that may constitute genocide or related crimes under the terms of the Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide."

The statement emphasized that Lula has been making efforts in the international community for a ceasefire, the liberation of Hamas-held hostages, and the creation of humanitarian corridors to protect Palestinian civilians. "The Brazilian government reiterates its defense of the two-state solution, with an economically viable Palestinian state living side by side with Israel, in peace and security, within mutually agreed and internationally recognized borders."



A demonstrator holds a sign during a protest as judges at The International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Hague, hear a request for emergency measures to order Israel to stop its military actions in Gaza, in Amman Jordan.

Soldiers on the streets as Ecuador declares war on cartels

QUITO: Hundreds of soldiers patrolled near-deserted streets in Ecuador's capital Wednesday after the government and drug mafias declared war on each other, leaving residents gripped with fear.

On Tuesday, officials said another narco boss — Los Lobos leader Fabricio Colon Pico — also escaped since his arrest last Friday for alleged involvement in a plot to assassinate Ecuador's attorney general.

Ecuador President Daniel Noboa said on Wednesday that his country was "at war" with drug gangs who are holding more than 130 prison guards and other staff hostage and who briefly captured a TV station live on air and set off explosions in a surge of violence that has left city streets deserted.

America's announcement of relaxation in visa conditions

WASHINGTON (Online): United States (US) has announced relaxation of visa conditions, the US Department of State has changed the preconditions for all non-immigrant visa interview waivers.

US has announced relaxation of visa requirements for foreigners. The United States has changed the prerequisites for all non-immigrant interview waivers. The US State Department has changed the prerequisites for all non-immigrant visa interview waivers.

With the new changes, applicants will be able to get study and visit visas without appearing for an interview. Washington attracts a large number of international students, and is among the top destinations for higher education due to its excellent academic institutions, diverse academic programs and research opportunities. The State Department added that applicants may be eligible for a visa interview waiver if they obtain a nonimmigrant visa.

WHO cancels sixth aid mission to Gaza over security concerns

LONDON: The World Health Organisation (WHO) cancelled another planned medical aid mission to Gaza on Wednesday over security concerns, the sixth such cancellation in two weeks, and sounded a fresh alarm over the spread of infectious disease there.

The UN body's director general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said it was the sixth mission to northern Gaza cancelled by the UN agency because requests to visit had not been approved or assurances over security provided since its last visit, on Dec 26.

"Intense bombardment, restrictions on movement, fuel shortage and interrupted communications make it impossible for WHO and our partners to reach those in need," he told a virtual press conference from Geneva. "We call on Israel to approve requests by WHO and other partners to deliver humanitarian aid."

CM grants Rs133.5 million to 28 Bar Associations

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar in a meeting held here on Thursday with leaders of 28 Bar Associations, issued a grant of Rs. 133.5 million after listening to their issues.

The meeting was attended by Caretaker Law Minister Omar Soomro, Information Minister Ahmad Shah, Special Assistant to CM Advocate Moiz Baig, Secretary Law Ali Ahmad Baloch and elected representatives of various high court and district bar associations.

At the outset, the CM welcomed the elected representatives of the high court and district bar associations and appreciated the role of lawyers in the supremacy of law and constitution.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that main function and purpose of the Caretaker government were to ensure free, fair and transparent elections and for this, we have made all necessary arrangements to

achieve the objectives. The CM said that being lawyers we must have good interactions and liaisons with other segment of the society, especially legislators. He added that lawyers must keep a close eye on society and extend their full support to the marginalised segment of society.

The CM handed over cheques of Rs. 10 million each to High Court Bar Associations of Hyderabad, Sukkur and Larkano, Rs. 20 million to Karachi Bar Association, Rs. 10 million each to District Bar Association Hyderabad and Sukkur, Rs. 7.5 million to Malir, Rs. 5 million each to Nawabshah and Khairpur, Rs. 4 million Shikarpur, Rs. 2 million each to Badin, Dadu, Jamshoro, Ghotki, Mithi, Sanghar, Umerkot, Jacobabad, Kashmore, Shahdadkot, Sujawal and Naushahro Feroze, Rs. 3 million to Thatta and One million rupee each to Tando Mohammad Khan, Matiari, and Tando Allahyar district bars.



KARACHI: CM Gilgit Baltistan Gull Barkhan meeting with Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at governor house.

IHC withdraws stay order on cipher case, annuls in-camera proceedings

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) while withdrawing stay order in respect of cipher case trial has annulled the proceedings occurred after December 14.

The appeal plea of PTI founder Imran Khan against in camera trial of cipher case came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb here Thursday.

AG gave his arguments.

Later Suleman Akram Raja took the plea in the court that the proceedings after December 14 order be annulled. They have admitted that December 14 order was not correct.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb remarked "AG Sahib if you want to take back proceedings then you should do it from when the order was passed. Order will also be issued in this regard."

The AG while assuring to do in-camera proceedings affish said we are ready to record statements of 13 witnesses.

The court had stayed the trial of cipher case.

Attorney General (AG) Mansoor Usman Awan and counsel Suleman Akram Raja appeared in the court.

PML-N leaves 11 provincial, 7 NA seats vacant for seat adjustment with IPP

LAHORE (INP): The Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) has left 11 provincial and 7 National Assembly (NA) seats vacant for seat adjustment with the Istekham-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) in the upcoming general elections which are slated to be held on Feb 8.

There is a possibility that IPP leader Aleem Khan will contest on NA-117 Shahdara Lahore, Aun Chaudhry from NA-128 Lahore, Jahangir Khan Tareen from NA-149 Multan, Nauman Langrial from NA-143

Chichawatani. Similarly, there is a possibility of seat adjustment with Aamir Kayani from NA-47 Islamabad, Ghulam Sarwar Khan from NA-54 Taxila, and Engineer Gul Asghar from NA-88 Khushab.

Ammar Siddique Khan from PP-12 Rawalpindi, Raja Yawar Kamal from PP-24 Jhelum are likely to be adjusted. Amir Haider Singha from PP-81 Khushab, Ajmal Cheema from PP-98 Faisalabad will also expected to adjust seats.



HYDERABAD: Candidate for PS-60, Jam Khan Shoro addresses to his supporters during election campaign, in Hyderabad.

Current weather causes viral infections: Health experts

SUKKUR (APP): The number of patients with viral diseases like flu, chest infection and pneumonia has increased during last month as government and private hospitals and clinics witnessed rush of the patients especially infants and children.

According to the doctors, the current very cold weather is the causes of viral infections especially chest infection and fever in rural and urban parts of the northern Sindh.

chest infection, pneumonia, dry cough and scabies. Flu-related diseases have caused a large number of people particularly children and infants as patients with such diseases are seen in great number at the government as well as private hospitals.

Chil Specialist, Dr Zulfiqar Soomro told APP on Thursday, the common cold and flu in children should not be taken lightly as these might lead to lower respiratory tract infections including pneumonia, while stressing the need to take additional care of the health of children in winter.



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister, Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar addresses during the inauguration ceremony of an indoor sports facility, organic farming facility and a cafe run by children with autism, at Centre for Autism Rehabilitation and Training (C-ARTS) located on Korangi area in Karachi.

PM for harnessing true IT potential through HR training, enabling environment:

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday said that with a focus on training of human resources as per contemporary requirements, enabling environment and imbuing the spirit of entrepreneurship in the youth, the true potential of Pakistan's IT sector could be harnessed.

"This will turn around and uplift our economy in the short to medium term, Inshallah... I assure you of the government's full support to help you explore the untapped potential in Pakistan's IT sector," he said addressing a Tech Destination Pakistan event

which featured the launch of E-Rozgar Centers in the country.

He said the government through its Digital Policy envisioned bringing economic prosperity and citizen empowerment through digital transformation as it was working on the vision of "Digital Pakistan" through multiple cross-sectoral digital transformation initiatives.

He said the government was taking every step possible to facilitate the IT sector by creating an enabling environment and an ecosystem through a broad range of legislative, policy, regulatory and operational initiatives with a focus on inclusion to help reap full benefits of digitalization.

He said the IT sector was the government's focus for achieving a sustainable economic development and realize the full potential of technological advancement.

The prime minister said that Pakistan had experienced significant growth in the information and communication technology sector in recent years. The country's ICT industry has become an important contributor to the economy, generating revenue, attracting FDI and creating jobs, he added.

"We are exporting IT

and IT-enabled services to more than 190 countries. Our IT industry is an integral part of the knowledge economy thereby earning its reputation as a leading off-shore outsourcing destination through innovation, availability of talent, government incentives and other initiatives for the IT sector. With over 90% Teledensity, Pakistan was recently ranked as the 2nd most financially attractive destination in the world for offshore outsourcing of IT and IT enabled Services (ITeS). Pakistan was also ranked as the third most popular country for freelancing," he said.

President Arif Alvi has accepted the resignation of Supreme Court Justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi. Petition was filed against Justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi in Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) which was to be heard on January 13.

Proceedings on Reference over the misconduct allegations, mainly revolving around amassing wealth beyond his hold on the city's politics after the divisions it faced after 2013, leading to disappointing results in 2018.

At the same time, details are emerging about how the different parties will try to weaken the PPP in Sindh with a final decision expected later today

6.0 magnitude quake jolts Islamabad, Lahore, other cities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 6.0 magnitude earthquake on Thursday afternoon caused panic among residents of the twin cities and other part of the country.

According to Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), the seismic activity was felt in the Federal Capital Islamabad, Rawalpindi and neighboring regions, Lahore, Muzaffargarh, Peshawar, Chilas, Quetta, Zhob, Charat and other cities at 2.20 pm.

FO expresses regret over unleashing of Pakistan bashing narrative in India

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has expressed regret over the unleashing of a Pakistan bashing, jingoistic and militaristic narrative in India ahead of the next Lok Sabha elections.

Responding to a query regarding the book of former Indian diplomat Ajay Bisaria, at her weekly news briefing in Islamabad, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said it is a matter of common knowledge that the ruling dispensation in India used Pulwama episode for domestic political gains. She said the book of the former Indian diplomat appears to advance India's fictitious narratives around the developments of February 2019.

President accepts resignation of SC judge Mazahar Naqvi

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Arif Alvi has accepted the resignation of Supreme Court Justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi. Petition was filed against Justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi in Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) which was to be heard on January 13.

Proceedings on Reference over the misconduct allegations, mainly revolving around amassing wealth beyond his hold on the city's politics after the divisions it faced after 2013, leading to disappointing results in 2018.

At the same time, details are emerging about how the different parties will try to weaken the PPP in Sindh with a final decision expected later today

President accepts resignation of SC judge Mazahar Naqvi

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Arif Alvi has accepted the resignation of Supreme Court Justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi. Petition was filed against Justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi in Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) which was to be heard on January 13.

Proceedings on Reference over the misconduct allegations, mainly revolving around amassing wealth beyond his hold on the city's politics after the divisions it faced after 2013, leading to disappointing results in 2018.

At the same time, details are emerging about how the different parties will try to weaken the PPP in Sindh with a final decision expected later today

Mayor Karachi grieved over death of Naveed Kamal's son

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab and Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad have expressed deep sorrow over the death of senior journalist Naveed Kamal's son.

They prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace.

Keamari police nab 10 in sweeping operations

KARACHI (APP): The Keamari district police in three different operations busted 10 accused allegedly involved in smuggling, gambling and gutka trade.

According to a spokesman for district Keamari Police on Thursday, in the first raid, 150 kg of smuggled betel nuts seized; delivery man Ikramullah arrested.

Rangers monitoring and complaint cell activated at KCCI

KARACHI (APP): President Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh Thursday announced that 'Rangers Monitoring and Complaint Cell' had been activated at the Chamber's premises, where two Rangers officials will remain available at the cell from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM everyday to facilitate the members of the business community in dealing with law and order issues.

He thanked the Director General Pakistan Rangers Sindh Major General Azhar Waqas for extending his support and cooperation in this regard.

He was talking to a delegation of Alliance of Arambagh Markets Association led by the Association's Chairman Asif Gulfam, which called on him here.

"Rangers Cell along with already operational Police Chamber Liaison Committee (PCLC) can

Kurram man shot dead in Karachi over money row

KARACHI (INP): A man was shot dead over a money dispute in Sultanabad area of Mangopir in Karachi, police said on Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Hawaldar who was 55 years old. His rivals put him to death by firing.

Police said that the murder was a result of old enmity and money dispute. Sain Hawaldar was a labourer by profession and belonged to Kurram Agency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Police said that they recovered six empty shells of 30 bore from the crime scene. They said they were investigating the incident.

Separately, a man was critically injured by the firing of dacoits near Dilpasand Suites in Sarjani Town, Sector 7 in Karachi.

According to police, victim Azeem was waylaid by two dacoits who were mounted on a motorcycle.

Five gutka suppliers held with 33 kg gutka

KARACHI (INP): The police arrested five accused involved in gutka supplying besides recovery of 33 kilogram gutka during operation in the metropolis.

According to details, the Soudabha police on a tip-off launched crackdown against gutka suppliers in its jurisdiction.

During raid, five accused involved in illegal business of supplying gutka and mawa were apprehended besides recovery of 33 kilogram gutka.

Sukkur Fire Brigade official urges people to avoid misuse of gas, electric appliances

SUKKUR (APP): Sukkur Fire Brigade official on Thursday urged the people to avoid misuse of gas and electric appliances to warm themselves in the prevailing cold weather. An official of the Sukkur Fire Brigade, said that illegal use of gas cylinder, and compressors in the houses could create trouble for residents of the area.

Solangi asks political parties to give vision for economic revival of Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Thursday that major political parties would have to give vision for the economic future of the country.

Delivering his speech at the seminar on "Pakistan Elections 2024: Economic Reforms Agenda of Political Parties", hosted by Press Information Department here, he said, "Political parties should give a vision for the betterment of the country." The minister said emphatically that improvement of the economy and economics was the need of the hour.

There was no ban on politics, but there should be no politics on the future of the country, Murtaza Solangi maintained.

The minister opined that politics was the concentration of economy and economic interests. "Our main issues are education, health, gender equality," Murtaza Solangi remarked.

The minister requested the future rulers and political parties to bring realistic economic reform agenda and do not make promises that were difficult to be fulfilled. The minister said that 2024 was the year of elections which would be held on February 8. "No one should have any doubt about holding of elections in the country," he said.

Stressing the need to discuss the country's issues openly, he said that everyone should agree on the economic direction of the country.

There was no ban on politics, but there should be no politics on the future of the country, Murtaza Solangi maintained.

The minister opined that politics was the concentration of economy and economic interests. "Our main issues are education, health, gender equality," Murtaza Solangi remarked.

The minister requested the future rulers and political parties to bring realistic economic reform agenda and do not make promises that were difficult to be fulfilled. The minister said that 2024 was the year of elections which would be held on February 8. "No one should have any doubt about holding of elections in the country," he said.

Stressing the need to discuss the country's issues openly, he said that everyone should agree on the economic direction of the country.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan Georg Steiner called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwana-e-Sadr.

MQM-P names contestants from Karachi, leaves 15 national and provincial seats for allies

KARACHI (INP): In a major development, the MQM-P has decided not field candidates in 15 constituencies - five national and 10 provincial - of Karachi to accommodate the allied parties, mainly the PML-N, as the February 8 elections are now less than a month away.

On the other hand, the MQM-P also announced the list of candidates for National Assembly from Karachi as it is eyeing to regain its hold on the city's politics after the divisions it faced after 2013, leading to disappointing results in 2018.

At the same time, details are emerging about how the different parties will try to weaken the PPP in Sindh with a final decision expected later today

(Thursday) after their leaders hold a final meeting. Most of the candidates in Kashmir, Jacobabad and Shikarpur will reportedly be from the JUI-F with the PML-N providing in some constituencies.

Rashid Soomro - the JUI-F provincial chief - will challenge PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in Larkana for the national legislature, as the party will field the majority of candidates for provincial assembly in Ghotki, Kashmir and Shikarpur.

However, the likeminded parties have decided to give PS-5, PS-6 and PS-9 to the PML-N which will also enjoy their support in NA-205 Naushahro Feroze I with Asghar Ali Shah being its candidate.

SANA to organize seminar for higher studies, employment opportunities in Canada

HYDERABAD (APP): A delegation of SANA Canada chapter visited Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tandojam and announced to hold a seminar for university students regarding higher education and employment opportunities in Canada.

According to the spokesperson of SAU, a delegation of SANA Canada chapter visited Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) under the leadership of Dr. Khair Muhammad Kolachi. The delegation including Mubashir Malik, Abdul Jabbar Lashari and others who met the Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Mari, deans of various faculties and heads of different departments. The delegations discussed matters of mutual interest during meeting with university high officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the VC Dr. Fateh Mari said that Sindh Agriculture University has established connections with leading national and international educational and research institutions for research and technology exchange projects. He highlighted the university's efforts in implementing new curricula and conducting experiments to address new crop varieties and seasonal changes.

The SANA delegation praised the educational, research and development initiatives of the University.

Speaking on the occasion, the VC Dr. Fateh Mari said that Sindh Agriculture University has established connections with leading national and international educational and research institutions for research and technology exchange projects. He highlighted the university's efforts in implementing new curricula and conducting experiments to address new crop varieties and seasonal changes.

The SANA delegation praised the educational, research and development initiatives of the University.

Kurram man shot dead in Karachi over money row

KARACHI (INP): A man was shot dead over a money dispute in Sultanabad area of Mangopir in Karachi, police said on Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Hawaldar who was 55 years old. His rivals put him to death by firing.

Police said that the murder was a result of old enmity and money dispute. Sain Hawaldar was a labourer by profession and belonged to Kurram Agency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Police said that they recovered six empty shells of 30 bore from the crime scene. They said they were investigating the incident.

Separately, a man was critically injured by the firing of dacoits near Dilpasand Suites in Sarjani Town, Sector 7 in Karachi.

According to police, victim Azeem was waylaid by two dacoits who were mounted on a motorcycle.

SFA seals bakery for selling expired food items

HYDERABAD (APP): The Sindh Food Authority (SFA) team in Hyderabad paid a surprise inspection of a well-known bakery in Qasimabad, where an excessive amount of expired food items was found, leading to the sealing of the bakery.

According to a hand-out, a team led by Deputy Director Fida Hussain Khoso inspected the bakery and found an abundance of expired food items, and the cleanliness conditions were also found to be inadequate.

As a result, the bakery was sealed, and a fine of 100,000 rupees was imposed on the bakery management.



SUKKUR: Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Leader, Munawar Chaudhary addresses to media persons during press conference after joined Peoples Party (PPP), in Sukkur. Mayor Sukkur, Arsalan Shaikh is also present.

Universities have to produce strong business community: VC SMU

KARACHI (APP): The Vice Chancellor of Sindh Madressatul Islam University (SMIU) Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai has said that universities have to produce a strong business community that could flourish their business on the lines of modern-day business trends and needs of the country to make the land and the nation prosperous.

He said this while visiting the "Start-Up Summit: From Concept to Success," which was organised by 26 groups of students

of SMIU's Department of Business Administration under the supervision and guidance of Assistant Professor Obaid Shahid at the Talpur House.

The Vice-Chancellor said universities must encourage their students to participate in business activities at micro level, as after graduation they could easily run their own businesses.

At the Start-Up Summit, students had set up 26 stalls of a variety of products including food items.