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CTD kills three terrorists in Musakhel operation

PM commends successful operation against terrorists in Balochistan

MUSAKHEL (INP): The Counter-Terrorism Department on Sunday eliminated three hard core terrorists in an operation in Musakhel.

In the operation, two terrorists were arrested during the heavy exchange of fire.

According to details, during an intelligence-based operation conducted on National Highway, the CTD personnel killed three terrorists.

The CTD personnel also recovered large quantities of weapons and ammunition from the dead bodies of terrorists.

A few weeks earlier, the CTD apprehended 18 terrorists carrying out 134 intelligence based operations (IBO) across various cities of Punjab. According to CTD officials, the IBOS were conducted in Lahore, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Mianwali, Bahawalnagar, Pakpattan, Gujranwala, Sheikhupura, Mandi Bahauddin and Khushab.

Officials revealed that three most wanted terror-

ists of Fitna Al-Khawarij along with weapons and explosive materials were arrested from Lahore, Faisalabad and Rawalpindi.

APP adds: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has praised the Frontier Constabulary (FC), the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), and police officers for their successful operation against terrorists belonging to banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA).

An official statement issued here on Sunday said the PM lauded the forces for their achievement in eliminating three terrorists and apprehending two others, preventing what could have been a major act of terrorism in Balochistan.

Acknowledging the critical role of the security forces, Shehbaz Sharif highlighted the sacrifices made by these units in combating terrorism. "Security forces have made invaluable sacrifices to eradicate the menace of terrorism in Balochistan," he added.



LAHORE: A delegation of leading businessmen of the United Kingdom calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Commends security forces for successful operation in Musakhel CM Bugti vows to eradicate terrorism across Balochistan

Our brave security personnel are valiantly fighting against terrorism, and their sacrifices, along with those of civilian martyrs, will not be in vain

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QUETTA: The Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has expressed satisfaction over the successful operation conducted by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) and security forces in Musakhel. He praised the personnel involved for their swift action in foiling a potential terrorist attack.

In a statement, CM Bugti affirmed that terrorists would be defeated at every front in Balochistan. Acknowledging the strategic and professional conduct of the operation, he emphasized that security

forces took great care to target only terrorists, minimizing any risk to civilians.

"Our brave security personnel are valiantly fighting against terrorism, and their sacrifices, along with those of civilian martyrs, will not be in vain. CTD and security forces are on the front lines, ensuring peace across Balochistan," he said. CM Bugti reiterated his commitment to restore peace, asserting that the mission would continue until Balochistan is free from terrorism.

Meanwhile Governor Balochistan has praised the Frontier Constabulary

(FC), the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), and police officers for their successful operation against terrorists.

The Governor lauded the forces for their achievement in eliminating three terrorists and apprehending two others, preventing what could have been a major act of terrorism in Balochistan.

Acknowledging the critical role of the security forces, Governor highlighted the sacrifices made by these units in combating terrorism. "Security forces have made invaluable sacrifices to eradicate the menace of terrorism in Balochistan," he added.

Ensuring conducive environment for foreign investment top priority: PM

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has said that ensuring favourable environment for foreign investment in the country is top-most priority of the government.

Talking to a business delegation from the United Kingdom (UK) during a meeting here on Sunday, he said immaculate services are being provided to the business and trader community through 'One Window Operations' under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in the country.

The UK-based renowned business figure Zubair Isa led the business delegation during the meeting.

Inviting the businesspeople to invest in Pakistan, the PM said country's economy had improved due to dedicated efforts of the government in the recent days, adding that the initiatives had increased confidence of the overseas investors to invest in various ventures in Pakistan.

Ways to discover new vistas to enhance business-to-business ties between Pakistan and the UK were also discussed during the meeting.

The delegation hailed the economic policies of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, which had strengthened the economy and put the country on the path to sustainable development.

PIA privatisation to be done in best way: Aleem Khan



LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Privatisation Abdul Aleem Khan said on Sunday he had responsibility of selling Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and the best solution would be made in this regard.

Addressing a press conference here, he said that a framework had been made for privatisation of the PIA by the caretaker govern-

ment. He said that the PIA had a debt of Rs 830 billion, adding that out of that debt, around Rs. 600 billion had been parked in Holco Company, while Rs. 200 billion had been parked in the PIA. He said all these things had happened before he took charge of his office, adding that he could not change the process which had already been initiated.

Governor stresses urgent need for comprehensive welfare measures for laborers

QUETTA: Governor Balochistan, Jaffer Khan Mandokhail, emphasized the critical role of laborers in the nation's economy, calling them the backbone of economic development.

He highlighted the importance of prioritizing the welfare of these workers without discrimination and stressed the necessity of extending comprehensive benefits and support to them.

Speaking during a meeting with a delegation led by Pakistan United Workers Federation Balochistan's General Secretary Pir Mohammad Kakar, the Governor underscored that the registration of mine workers is a crucial first step. He urged both the Labor and Mines Depart-

ments to ensure accurate and regularly updated records for all mine workers, fishermen, and laborers.

Governor Mandokhail stated that these initiatives would uphold workers' rights, guarantee fair wages, and promote safe working conditions. Acknowledging laborers as the "unsung heroes" of society, he said that mine workers are not just laborers but also the primary earners for their families, often working in hazardous conditions to provide daily sustenance. However, he noted that these workers face severe challenges, including poverty, inflation, and lack of basic amenities. In cases of disability or accidental death, their families are left vulnerable and un-



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Moazzam Jah Ansari presenting memorial shield to DIG Special Branch Nazir Ahmed Kurd on his retirement

IG Balochistan praises DIG Kurd's integrity and commitment to public service

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QUETTA: In recognition of his distinguished service, a farewell luncheon was held in honor of DIG Special Branch Nazir Ahmed Kurd, organized by senior officials of Balochistan Police, including IG Police Balochistan Moazzam Jah Ansari, Additional IG Javed Ali Mehr, DIG Headquarters Qamar ul Hassan, and other senior officers.

During the event, IG Moazzam Jah Ansari commended DIG Kurd for his integrity, dedication, and sincerity, highlighting his

unwavering commitment wherever he was posted. Ansari noted that Kurd's contributions have earned him respect not only within the police department but also among the public.

IG Ansari remarked that the Balochistan Police would long remember Kurd's actions that brought honor to the department and the community. At the end of the program, IG Ansari and other senior officers presented Kurd with a commemorative shield and floral bouquets as tokens of appreciation.



SIALKOT: Minister of Defense Khawaja Muhammad Asif listening the problems of people at his residence.

ECP summons Nawaz Sharif, Imran Khan tomorrow

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has summoned two former prime ministers, PTI founder Imran Khan, and Muhammad Nawaz Sharif - to respond respectively in two separate cases to contempt and disqualification on Tuesday (November 5).

The ECP's case list indicated that hearings for matters involving the two political figures are scheduled for Tuesday.

A notice has been issued to the PTI chairman to record evidence in a contempt case initiated by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in 2022 for allegedly using "Intemperate language" against the chief election commissioner and the electoral body. Likewise, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has been directed to submit a reply and provide arguments on a disqualification petition filed against Member of the National Assembly (MNA) from NA-262, Quetta, Adil Bazai.

Indicators show economy looking up in Pak: Nawaz

LONDON (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president Mian Nawaz Sharif has said that indicators show that the economy of the country is looking up.

The PML-N supreme returned to London from the United States on Saturday night.

Talking to the media, the PML-N leader said indicators showed that the economy of the country was looking up, adding Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif left no stone unturned to steer the country out of quagmire of economic crisis.

The PML-N stalwart

said his party knew the economic woes of the people of Pakistan and it would provide them with relief from inflated power bills and inflation.

He said, "We will fulfill our dream of making Pakistan Asian Tiger. PIA is nearing default. Whatever we said about PIA, we have an intention to give it a practical shape. "Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz is doing good work." During his visit to the United States, Nawaz Sharif met the PML-N workers and leaders and urged the American business community to invest in Pakistan.

AJK President calls on Scandinavian nations to advocate Kashmir peace

MIRPUR (APP): President Azad Jammu Kashmir, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has urged Sweden and Scandinavian nations to leverage their political and diplomatic influence to help resolve the long-standing Kashmir dispute, fostering lasting peace in South Asia.

He expressed these views while speaking to a delegation of Kashmir Council Sweden and Stability Pakistan Overseas Forum and Member of Parliament of Sweden

Anders Tiger, which called on him at the Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis on Sunday.

The delegation was comprised of the Chairman of Kashmir Council Sweden and Stability Pakistan Overseas Forum Sheikh Saeed, President of Kashmir Council Sweden Sardar Taimur Aziz Kashmiri, Sheikh Usman Tahir, Raja Bilal Mustafa, Ishfaq Khan, Hafiz Sajjad Ahmed, Sikander Sheikh, Sardar Mushtaq, Sardar Zulfikar Roshan, and others.

UN acknowledges vital role of Pakistani troops in global peace

NEW YORK (INP): Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations Munir Akram has said that Pakistani police personnel have earned respect for their professionalism and devotion to duty under the banner of UN police.

Addressing a ceremony on UN Police Day in Islamabad, he said the story of UN peace keeping is incomplete without recognizing the vital contributions of UN police.

Highlighting the significant contribution of Pakistan to the UN missions, he said Pakistan has deployed two hundred and thirty thousand troops over the years in forty six peace keeping missions.

He said Pakistani Police woman Shahzadi Gulfaam was the first ever recipient of the International Female Police Keeper Award in 2011.

Munir Akram said Pakistan will continue to play its effective role in enhancing the UN peacekeeping capability.

Speaking on the occasion, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix acknowledged the important role of Pakistan in global peace. He stressed on enhancing the capability of police to cope with the current challenges.

NA session rescheduled to 4 pm today

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Assembly session, initially set for 5 PM, has been rescheduled to 4 PM on Monday, November 4, 2024.

The National Assembly secretariat issued a notification regarding the revised timing, made under Rule 49, sub-clause 2(b) of the National Assembly Rules of Procedure, 2007, at the Speaker's discretion.

Commissioner reviews development works, orders to complete within stipulated time

QUETTA (APP): Commissioner Quetta Division Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat has reviewed the progress on development projects initiated in Nawan Killi area and directed to ensure the completion of development works with stipulated time.

The government had allocated a budget of Rs 500 million in the public sector development program for the repair main road of

Nawan Killi and installation of drainage to improve sewerage system to provide better facilities to masses.

He said that a committee has been devised to monitor the progress on the development works in order to ensure that there will be no compromise on the quality of construction work of development projects, adding that waste of funds would not be tolerated at any cost.

He said that the Metropolitan Corporation Quetta, Irrigation and Revenue departments would assist the Communication and Works department for early completion of the Nawan Killi Project.

Hamza Shafiqat said that the government is paying special attention and strict monitoring of development projects including the ongoing roads construction and expansion projects.



QUETTA: Federal Minister for Law Azam Nazir Tarar in a group photo with member Balochistan Bar Council Khalil Panezai Advocate, Najamuddin Mengal Advocate and Mir Attaullah Lango Advocate

PTI Govt befooling masses on hallow slogans: Amir Muqam

SHANGLA (APP): Federal Minister for SAFRON, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs Engr Amir Muqam here Sunday said that PTI Government was befooling masses on hallow slogans and indulged them in lies based politics.

He was addressing at peace jirga after turning the 30 years old enmity into friendship between families of Poran Sandori here.

The families of Ayub Khan and Ameer Zareen Khan announced an end of a 30 years long enmity due to reconciliation efforts of Engr Amir Muqam.

Engr Amir Muqam expressed proud of an im-

mense respect given to him by the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa especially Shingla and that he always preferred people welfare over his personal interests.

The Minister said that he served people in all difficult times whether it was flood, terrorism incidents or earthquake and has never left them alone. He said the record development projects worth billions of rupees were approved by the Government during last four months for the area.

The Minister said the people problems related to NADRA, electricity, gas and national highway authority were addressed.

Pakistan's ports set for growth and global partnerships: Qaiser

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Sunday said that Pakistan's ports were on a promising trajectory, poised for significant growth in the near future.

Speaking to a private news channel, he said that Pakistan's plans was to establish business partnerships by supplementing nearby ports, with Karachi Port expected to play a pivotal role in bolstering the country's economic position.

"Leading global companies have shown interest in investing in Pakistan's ports, which speaks to the potential for economic growth," he added. Commenting on PTI's protest call, he said that has relied heavily on protest-driven politics over the past decade. The government, he asserted, remains focused on economic progress and providing relief to the public, rather than engaging in negative political propaganda.

Daily Voice of Masses
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Concerning measures

An old law is being resurrected. Why? It is a question that the government must answer.

On Friday, the law minister quietly introduced a bill in the National Assembly to give military and civil armed forces the power to 'pre-emptively' detain any individual facing terrorism charges for a period of up to three months. The bill, which proposes several amendments to the Anti-Terrorism Act, was quickly referred to the relevant committee by the deputy Speaker without any discussion of its salient features. It aims to resurrect several amendments to Clause 11EEEE of the ATA which had lapsed in 2016.

Specifically, the bill seeks power for the authorities to detain any individual for up to three months if they "pose a threat to national security". The detained individual may not have actually committed a wrong: under the law, "reasonable suspicion" will be good enough for the state to deprive them of their liberty.

The rationale provided for preventive detention has long been the same: in times of insecurity, drastic measures are 'necessary' for maintaining order. Lately, there has been a sharp resurgence in terrorist activity, which has resulted in the loss of many lives, particularly among security personnel. As a result, there is growing pressure on security forces to restore peace in the affected areas and clamp down on militants and miscreants.

Unfortunately, Pakistan's legal system lacks versatility and often appears inadequately equipped to deal with the various challenges faced by security forces and the state while conducting counterterrorism operations and prosecuting dangerous terrorists. For example, it has been a long-standing complaint from security forces that they catch dangerous terrorists after much effort, only to see the courts set them free again. It is in this context that legal cover is repeatedly sought for 'emergency measures' that violate fundamental rights.

But it is hardly as simple as that. There are countless examples of preventive detention laws being used for much more than simply combating terrorism. They have proven extremely useful, for example, for punishing political opponents and dissidents. It cannot be ignored that the language of the amendments proposed by the law minister is vague enough for the law to be used against anyone whom the state wants to put behind bars for a short period. "Reasonable suspicion" can mean anything in a country where ordinary citizens are routinely charged with terrorism merely for participating in unruly protests.

Given how frequently the ATA is used when political opponents are to be taught a lesson, any measure that enhances its potential for abuse should be a cause for alarm. It is for this reason that the government must seek political input and consensus on the changes it is seeking to make and be open about its intentions.

Paper tiger?

Muna Khan

I was a graduate student during the 2016 presidential elections where I learned a lot about American media's coverage of elections. We don't generally make newspaper endorsements in Pakistan but it is a big deal in the US with long histories, dating back to Abraham Lincoln.

Two newspaper endorsements from that time stand out for the reactions they elicited. One, the Chicago Tribune endorsed libertarian candidate Gary Johnson. I happened to be Facebook friends with a leader writer at the paper and witnessed the anger directed at her for the Tribune's decision, which they explained in a lengthy editorial, as endorsements often do.

The Arizona Republic endorsed Hillary Clinton, backing a Democrat for the first time in its 126-year history. That endorsement drew media attention and elicited the same excitement that PII supporters felt at 'capturing' Qazi Fazal Isa on video in London. Both editorials led to anger, feelings of betrayal, and conversations about the worth of endorsements, exactly what we're seeing today with two newspapers.

The first is the Los Angeles Times, owned by Patrick Soon-Shiong, a biotech tycoon, who said the paper would not endorse any candidate because it wanted to remain impartial. This led to staff resignations and hundreds of cancelled subscriptions but also put the spotlight on his daughter, Nika, who tweeted about the family's "joint decision" not to endorse. "As a citizen of a country openly financing genocide, and as a family that experienced South African Apartheid, the endorsement was an opportunity to repudiate justifications for the widespread targeting of journalists and on-going war on children."

Her father has denied her involvement, saying she spoke in a personal capacity but she doubled down by tweeting a screenshot of a quote from Ta-Nehisi Coates' interview to The Guardian wherein he says "this is about apartheid" and "I don't have much hope from a [Kamala] Harris presidency". She then followed up with a thread addressing the controversy, saying "I trust the editorial board's judgment. For me, genocide is the line in the sand."

LA Times has endorsed a Republican candidate since its founding in 1881 but stopped after the Watergate scandal in 1976. It resumed endorsements when it backed Barack Obama in 2008, and subsequently all Democrats. It has continually written editorials saying Donald Trump poses a threat to democracy so it's understood the paper is pro-Harris; would an endorsement change anything? And that too days before the election?

Shortly thereafter came the news about the Washington Post's owner Jeff Bezos withdrawing the paper's planned endorsement of Harris. Staff resignations and thousands of cancelled subscriptions followed. There was no family drama here, just Bezos saying endorsements create a sense of bias at a time many Americans distrust the media.

The American Presidency Project wrote that 56 of the largest 60 newspapers that endorse presidential candidates sided with Clinton in 2016, compared to eight of any size for Trump. So, we know that these endorsements don't really sway voters. Perhaps they have outlived their purpose. Maybe editors need to step outside their elite silos and see how they serve their audiences.

Most of the conversation has centred on the problem of billionaires owning the

media — the New York Times family, John Henry of Boston Globe, Rupert Murdoch of NewsCorp, etc. (The Guardian is reader funded and "is unafraid of potential consequences" for endorsing Harris.)

I don't think the problem is their money but the value they place on making money over the purpose of journalism. I suspect the Soon-Shiong family did not want to support Harris' genocidal policies but sent out conflicting messaging because they, like Bezos, perhaps fear reprisal from Trump should he win.

What I've learned from subscription cancellations is that readers value an endorsement for Harris more than the consequences of her support for Israel's maniacal war on Gaza. Since watching the 2016 elections, each one since has been framed as important to democracy's survival and certain communities (women and minorities) are painted as spoilers who don't know what's at stake. This time it's Arab Muslims who are "agonised" by the decision, as Vox put it, "to punish Democrats or stop Trump?" Why must they be portrayed as carrying this "burden" of a difficult choice? Palestine is not just a Muslim or Arab issue, as Nika Soon-Shiong has articulated.

A YouGov poll conducted on Oct 29 saw 47 per cent of respondents say newspapers should not endorse candidates and 28pc saying they should, while 25pc said they did not know. I'm not surprised at the latter because people still don't know the difference between news and opinion. Maybe that's a problem that media owners and editors need to address. -- Courtesy Dawn

Jabalia death march

Muhammad Ali Siddiqi

It will live in history: the Jabalia death march. As reported by Al Jazeera, the fleeing Palestinians were carrying white flags while going through checkpoints, but the Israeli bombardment continued. Correctly did Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi tell US Secretary of State Antony Blinken that what was going on in Gaza was "ethnic cleansing", while the Jewish Voice for Peace has compared it to the Holocaust and asked the American administration to halt arms supplies to Israel.

This paper's issue of Oct 23, 2024, is archival material and tells us more about the misery of the Palestinian people than all words put together. The picture on the front page shows the wreckage of a house. In the background are masses of people forcefully displaced from their north Gaza homes as Israeli planes had rained bombs. They have had no food and water for weeks. Unless I missed it in the voluminous literature on the Der Führer era, I do not think the Luftwaffe ever rained bombs on fleeing Jewish people. The time-yellowed 1,400 pages of John Toland's Pulitzer Prize-winning classic Adolf Hitler contain every act of bestiality perpetrated on the Jews by the Nazi regime but it mentions no such horrifying drama, which I am sure must have satisfied the sadistic instincts of racists like Yoav Gallant in the Benjamin Netanyahu cabinet.

The north Gaza trauma coincided with Israel's latest choice of a war theatre — Lebanon. Such is Israel's fixation with showing off its military power that it used no less than 100 jets on tiny Lebanon. The targets hit included a hospital named after one of Lebanon's most popular prime ministers, Rafic Hariri. This was not a mistake. As I wrote in one of my pieces, it is Israel's official policy to hit hospitals and places of worship to tell the world it doesn't care about what the world thinks of its crimes, with the categorical support it enjoys from Western powers. (In Nuseirat in northern Gaza, Israeli forces hit a school, killing 17 people, including children. Instead of expressing regret it said it was a Hamas command and control centre which was previously a school!)

he said were "completely blocked by debris".

On the very first day of the blitz, codenamed 'Northern Arrows', 558 people, including 50 children and 94 women, were killed while 50,000 fled to Syria. No wonder Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati called the Israeli attack "a war of destruction". However, so thorough is the Zionist control of the international media that on Oct 24, when I googled to check casualties in Tyre what I got was this: "There were no reports of casualties in Tyre, where the Israeli military had issued evacuation warnings ahead of the strikes."

According to Da-niel Levy, president of the US/Middle East Project, there is little possibility of peace in Palestine. According to him: "The game plan — sadly declared openly and publicly by Israel's leaders from the get-go — was an intensification and continuation of the displacement and the denial of Palestinian rights that has gone on for decades, but in a far more gruesome way."

He told Al Jazeera: "We are at a new place in the north of Gaza where the intention is apparently to entirely depopulate that area using war crimes of starvation, of allowing disease to spread; even the prevention of polio could not be continued." According to him, Israeli authorities are implementing the 'General's Plan' aimed at starving, bombing, and forcibly extracting civilians out of the north of the Gaza Strip.

Postscript: Z.A. Bhutto once remarked only Islam can give peace to the holy land because it is the only religion which recognises the rights of the three communities to Jerusalem. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Pakistan eyes enhanced trade, economic ties with Uzbekistan amid investment push

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan is in Uzbekistan on a three-day visit aimed at enhancing bilateral trade, commerce and economic ties with the Central Asian state, his ministry confirmed on Sunday, amid Islamabad's efforts to attract foreign investment to improve its economic prospects.

Pakistan has increasingly sought to enhance regional connectivity to landlocked Central Asian states by providing them access to its warm water ports. It recently offered Central Asian states to become part of the China-Pakistan

Economic Corridor project, under which Beijing has pledged around \$65 billion in energy, infrastructure and other projects in Pakistan. Khan arrived in Tashkent on Saturday evening marking the start of his three-day visit to Uzbekistan, the commerce ministry said.

"Key agenda items include strategic meetings with top Uzbek officials such as Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Jamsheid Khujiev and Transport Minister Mr. Ilkhom Makhkamov to discuss pivotal projects in trade, investment, and logistics," the ministry said.

Khan's visit will

feature the ninth session of the Pakistan-Uzbekistan Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) on Trade-Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation, and the fourth Uzbekistan-Pakistan Business Forum, the commerce ministry said. The session will be co-chaired by Khan and Uzbek Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade Mr. Laziz Kudratov. The ministry said that the Business Forum will host 33 Pakistani business delegates across various sectors for B2B meetings aimed at fostering new partnerships and enhancing trade.



RAWALPINDI: People are busy buying fruits and vegetables in Sahulat Bazaar outside Allama Iqbal Park in the city.

Technology integration key to sustainable development, economic growth: Meher Kashif

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan which strives to accelerate its progress and enhance the quality of life. He said in today's rapidly evolving economic landscape, technology serves as a crucial driver of growth, fostering business transformation and creating development opportunities.

Speaking at a seminar on "Integration of Technology" here on Sunday, he said technology for development was a crucial necessity for

Pakistan's greatest assets was young and dynamic population, constituting almost 64 percent of total population. He said one of the primary areas where technology could make a significant impact was education. With a substantial portion of the population residing in rural areas with limited access to quality education, e-learning platforms and digital classrooms can bridge the gap.

Its positive impacts include productivity enhancement, market expansion and GDP growth. He said one of

Pakistan carpet industry seeks govt support to boost exports

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) Chairman Mian Atiqur Rehman said on Sunday that increasing exports is impossible without removing unnecessary obstacles and securing government support. Addressing a review meeting of the Association here, he said organizations like SMEDA should provide financial and technical assistance for establishing carpet production centers in rural areas to increase production. "The 41st

International Exhibition, scheduled for 2025, will be designed according to new trends, for which proposals will be solicited in advance," he added.

PCMEA Patron-in-Chief Abdul Latif Malik, Vice Chairman Riaz Ahmed, Carpet Training Institute (CTI) Chairperson Ejaz-ur-Rehman, senior leaders Usman Ashraf, Major @ Akhtar Nazir, Saeed Khan, Shahid Hassan Sheikh, Akbar Malik, Saad-ur-Rehman, Faisal Saeed Khan, and others attended the meeting.



HYDERABAD: All Pakistan Wapda Hydro Electric Workers Union President, Abdul Latif Nizamani addresses during the workers session, at Labour Hall in Hyderabad.

Pak solar boom gains momentum amid rising electricity costs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan is undergoing a rapid energy shift resulting in solar energy adoption among different consumer classes.

The Great Solar Rush in Pakistan by Renewables First explores this shift, highlighting Pakistan's growing prominence in the renewable energy landscape of developing nations.

Pakistan imported around 15 GW (worth \$2.1 billion) of solar panels from China over the past fiscal year, the study highlights. Contributing to this transition is the increased electricity tariffs—driving high consumption

households and industries to shift toward solar energy solutions.

In the past year this has resulted in a 10.4% drop in grid electricity demand, with projections indicating further decline emphasizing the need for grid modernization and revised demand forecasts to support decentralized energy generation.

In parallel, falling battery prices are also likely to boost solar adoption, making urgent grid adaptation essential for maintaining the financial viability of Pakistan's utility model.



LAHORE: Artisans making ready-made clothes on a machine in the provincial capital.

FPCCI appoints Sohail Talat chairman special committee on cotton revival

MULTAN (APP): In a significant development aimed at revitalizing Pakistan's agriculture and cotton industry, the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) appointed senior leader Malik Suhail Talat as the chairman of a Special Committee on Cotton revival. A formal notification was issued, and a ceremony was held in Multan to mark this important appointment.

The event was attended by FPCCI Patron-in-Chief and former caretaker provincial

minister of Punjab, S.M. Tanveer, Task Force Chairman Dr. Gohar Ejaz, Regional Chairman Zaki Ejaz, and senior business leader Malik Tanveer Arshad, who together presented the official notification to Malik Suhail Talat.

Speaking at the occasion, S.M. Tanveer emphasized the FPCCI's success in reducing interest rate and outlined the organization's commitment to restoring the country's cotton production. He noted that Malik Suhail Talat's appointment as chairman was strategic.

KP Food Authority conducts operations

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority (KP FS&HFA) on Saturday conducted operations in various locations at DIKhan.

According to the information, on the direction of Deputy Director Halal Food Authority, Dera Muhammad Asif, different teams of KP FS&HFA checked the quality of food items at various shops.

The teams of KP FS&HFA conducted raids on dairy shops, grocery stores, bakeries, milk shops, food and drink points in different localities of the city. The Authority's team inspected various food items and checked these items at mobile laboratory on the spot besides sending some samples to the laboratory for further examination. The inspection team seized counterfeit and substandard food items including biscuits, cakes, drinks and milk from grocery stores, bakeries and milk shops during the operation.

Ambassador Hashmi Pak China write new chapter in agricultural industry development

BEIJING (INP): Pakistan, China are writing a new chapter in agricultural industry development," said Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan's Ambassador to China.

"We hope both parties seize the opportunity to further expand cooperation in agriculture, food, and related fields, and work together to write a new chapter in agricultural industry development," said Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan's Ambassador to China. According to Gwadar Pro, he stated this on the

occasion of a promotional and matchmaking conference for Pakistan's agricultural enterprises took place in the Yangling Demonstration Zone. The event served as a pilot for the 31st Yangling Agricultural High-Tech Fair. Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. Key officials from both Pakistan and the Yangling Agriculture Demonstration Zone, along with representatives from various enterprises, gathered to discuss development and explore collaborative opportunities.

Smuggled cigarettes worth Rs. 8 lakh recovered

MULTAN (APP): Police thwarted smuggling attempt of non-Custom paid cigarettes worth around Rs. 800,000 after arresting the bootlegger here at suburban area of Muzaffargarh district. Official source claimed that SHO of Sadar police station foiled the smuggling attempt quite tactfully.

The cigarettes being labelled as platinum, termed a big brand of tobacco were attempted to smuggle out through rickshaw in southern parts of the province at the wee hours. It was dumped underneath the bulk quantity of chaff on floor of the front seat used for the driver.

Governor expresses concern over non release of funds to local government

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Faisal Karim Kundi, criticized the provincial government's failure to provide funding to a local government department, labeling it an undemocratic approach. He said this during a meeting with Ejaz Surani, the elected Nazim from Bannu, who briefed the governor on the challenges faced by local representatives. Governor Kundi emphasized that local governments are the "nurseries of democracy," highlighting a disconnect between the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) claims of empowering grassroots governance and the provincial

administration's actual behaviour towards local bodies and their representatives.

In response to Surani's concerns regarding issues related to federal departments, Kundi instructed relevant authorities to address these matters promptly.

Meanwhile, the Provincial General Secretary of the All Pakistan Central Muslim League, Atiqur Rehman Chauhan called on Governor Faisal Karim Kundi and discussed the province's political situation. Governor Kundi emphasized that the resolution of issues can only be achieved through dialogue, asserting that confrontation and violence

are not solutions. He stressed the importance of political parties uniting on a single platform despite their ideological differences, saying that this unity is crucial for the welfare of the province's citizens.

During the meeting, Chauhan provided the governor with a briefing on the political and welfare activities of the All Pakistan Central Muslim League and extended an invitation for him to visit the party's central office.

Similarly, Shoaib Alam Khan, the Provincial Vice President of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, along with his son, Hassam Khan, met with Governor Faisal Karim Kundi.



PESHAWAR: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) KPK Chief, Professor Ibrahim Khan addresses during the Jamiat Talaba Arabia Convention held in Peshawar.

Patwari suspended for dereliction of duties & misuse of powers

MIRPUR (APP): Mirpur Deputy Commissioner Yasir Riaz suspended Qamar Abbas, Patwari of Jangian constituency of Mirpur sub division, it was officially stated.

The DC took the action on the instructions of Commissioner Mirpur Division Ch. Mukhtar Hussain.

And appointed Revenue Officer Mirpur as an inquiry officer to conduct a complete investigation into the

matter and submit the report to the higher authorities, official sources told APP here on Sunday.

According to details, the authorities took the action in response to the board of revenue Azad Jammu and Kashmir Muzaffarabad standing order on receipt of a move from the state police department to identify a concerned site of area and refer the report to the concerned police.

Kohat police arrest killer within 24 hours

KOHAT (APP): Kohat Usterzai Police on Sunday apprehended the killer of 62-year-old Syed Kazim Hussain, a resident of Metha Khan Sherkote, within 24 hours of the incident.

According to sources of Kohat Police, the accused, Israr Hussain, son of Muhammad Khan from Orkazai, was taken into custody by police under the leadership of SHO Usterzai Rehmatullah and ASI Usman Afridi.

Sources further revealed that the motive behind the killing was previous enmity, with the accused shooting and killing the victim in the Kucha Pakka area.

A case of murder has been registered at Usterzai Police Station against Syed Nasir Abbas, the son of the victim.

DPO Mohammad Umar Khan on this occasion, assured that justice will be served, stating that the case will be investigated on its merits.



LAHORE: Participants are coming back after participated in Annual Tablighi Ijtima 2024 in Raiwind, at Thokar Niaz Baig in Lahore.

Minister inspects work on Pajagai Park

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Local Government Minister, Arshad Ayub Khan has said that to provide maximum recreational opportunities to the people, provision of all missing facilities at public parks would be ensured on an urgent basis.

For this purpose, he said necessary work on ensuring recreational facilities at Pajagai Park has been completed to provide a refreshed environment to the local people.

He said this during a visit to Pajagai Park along with Secretary Local Council Board, Wahid ur Rehman and TMO Azhar Ali Shah here.

On the occasion, the Minister urged the people to take their children to the newly renovated park for recreational activities and refreshment. He said during the busy life routine, a visit to a recreational park will provide the minds with a new energy. Besides, he said jogging and playing different games at the park will also maintain their good health.

Rs 1 billion approved for KP police' modern vehicles

PESHAWAR (APP): For the capacity building of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police, faced with shortage of modern arms and vehicles, the provincial government has decided to release an advanced grant of Rs one billion rupees for police department to overcome their shortcomings.

A document on Sunday said the grant will be utilized in acquiring B-6 level security vehicles. On procurement of B-6 level protective vehicles, a sum of Rs 800million would be spent while

Rs200 million for the purchase of mine-resistant vehicles.

The document said the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police were facing an acute shortage of required arms and modern anti-crime vehicles.

To overcome this situation, the document said the KP government has decided to release Rs one billion as an advanced grant. It further confirmed that the provincial cabinet has accorded approval to the release of this advance grant.

6 outlaws arrested, arms, liquor recovered

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested six outlaws and recovered illegal arms, liquor from their possessions during crackdown here on Sunday.

According to a police spokesman, Gujjar Khan Police held Roman and recovered 1 rifle 12-bore from his possession and 2 pistols 30-bore were confiscated from Saad and Humayun. Similarly, Civil Lines Police recovered 01 Kalashnikov from Naveed.

Breast cancer awareness seminar

MULTAN (APP): The Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO), in collaboration with Minar Cancer Hospital, organized an awareness seminar focusing on breast cancer prevention and timely treatment here on Sunday.

The seminar saw a large number of female employees working across various MEPCO departments and women residing in MEPCO Colony join the seminar.

In the event Dr. Sidra Mahmood Ali, Consultant Radiologist at Minar Cancer Hospital, highlighted the alarming statistics regarding breast cancer in Pakistan.

Easterly winds from Indian cities pushing polluted air into Lahore: Senior minister

LAHORE (APP): Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb addressed the worsening smog situation during a press conference today, explaining that easterly winds coming from India are pushing air from Amritsar and Chandigarh into Lahore.

This has caused the city's air quality index (AQI) to spike close to 1000 over the past two days. Marriyum Aurangzeb noted that since the air speeds up while crossing the eastern corridor and then stagnates over Lahore, it intensifies the pollution already present in the city, creating critically high AQI levels in the morning, which gradually decrease to below 200 by midday. Further deterioration of AQI is expected in the coming week.

Marriyum Aurangzeb announced that due to these factors, all private and public educational institutions, from playgroup to grade five, will remain closed from November 4 onward. This includes private schools, which are also mandated to comply. Authorities will use the week to conduct research, mapping, and studies to reassess and determine if extended school closures are needed. Preparations for two additional "green lockdowns" are also underway.

Workshop on training of teachers from merged areas held

PESHAWAR (APP): A two days' workshop conducted under the Special Emphasis Programmes (SEPs) of the Accelerated Implementation Plan II (AIP II) of KP government for the Merged Areas (MAs), was held at Abbottabad.

Masood Ahmed, Secretary E&SED, Faiz Alam, Additional Secretary (R&I), Ms Samina Altaf, Director Education, Mutahir Director DPD, Dr Safia Noor, Anjum, Addl Dir DoE&SED participated in the event along with senior officials of the department. Munir Ali Shah, Senior Instructor DPD was the Master Trainer of the workshop while UNDP-MAGP team included Mr. Bilal Ahmad Sector Expert and Mr. Imran Malik Implementation Specialist.

Secretary E&SED emphasized that teachers should focus on morality and character building of

students. It is indeed our national obligation and duty to produce a generation which should believe in hard work and speak the truth to themselves. We wish that the student who is entering our system today at the age of 5 should become a role model & honest person at the age of 21 in 2040.

He also appreciated the role of Master trainers of the program for conducting the program efficiently. This SEP is focused on Transforming Teachers training system. It targets 135 randomly selected primary schools in district Khyber, Mohmand and North Waziristan. The objective of the SEP is to enhance the students learning levels and teaching skills of the teachers of Grade 1-5 in English, Maths and Science. Under this SEP a Tele Learning ecosystem for the coaching and mentoring of teachers was developed to provide them.

International News

Israel kills 52 in northeast Lebanon after a night of strikes in Beirut

Monitoring Desk

NEW YORK: Rescuers searched for survivors Friday after Israeli airstrikes killed at least 52 people and wounded 72 others across northeastern Lebanon, the country's Health Ministry reported. The wave of bombings pounded villages that had previously been spared the worst of Israel's air campaign against the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.

Israeli warplanes also destroyed dozens of buildings in Beirut's southern suburb of Dahiyeh, but it appeared most residents had evacuated and there were no reports of casualties.

Despite growing pressure from the United States and others in the international community for a cease-fire in Gaza and Lebanon, intensified Israeli strikes against the Hezbollah militant group are expanding beyond Lebanon's border areas. Is-

rael is also fighting a seemingly endless war against Hamas in northern Gaza.

Since the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah erupted last year, at least 2,900 people have been killed and 13,150 wounded in Lebanon, the Health Ministry reports, not including Friday's toll. Health authorities say that a quarter of those killed were women and children.

More than a year of Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza has killed more than 43,000, Palestinian health officials say, without distinguishing between civilians and combatants. The war began after Palestinian militants stormed into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people — mostly civilians — and abducting 250 others.

Meanwhile, Israel again carried out deadly air strikes on north Gaza, where the UN calls condi-

tions "apocalyptic", as Lebanon's Hezbollah intensified rocket fire near Israel's capital of Tel Aviv.

Since late September Israel has been engaged in full-scale war against Hezbollah in Lebanon while fighting continues against the Palestinian group Hamas in Gaza.

Israel's military on Saturday said dozens of fighters were killed around Jabalia "in aerial and ground activity". Troops were also operating in central Gaza and Rafah in the territory's far south, it added, while witnesses said Israeli drones and boats opened fire on Al-Mawasi in south Gaza.

Medics and Gaza's civil defence rescuers on Saturday reported three people killed in a strike on Nuseirat, in central Gaza, a day after AFP images showed the blood-stained shrouds of several people killed there in an Israeli strike.



Palestinians view the damage after Israeli forces withdrew from the area around Kamal Adwan hospital, amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, in Jabalia, in the northern Gaza Strip.

Protests over Spain flood response interrupt visit by king to stricken Valencia suburb

Monitoring Desk

VALENCIA: Hundreds of residents of a Valencia suburb particularly badly hit by last week's deadly floods protested on Sunday during a visit by Spanish King Felipe and Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, with some throwing mud at them.

Chanting "Murderers, murderers!" they vented pent-up anger over what has been widely perceived by local residents as tardy alerts from the authorities about the dangers of Tuesday's storm and flooding in the Valencia region, and then a late response by the emergency services when disaster struck.

Taiwan reports rise in Chinese military activity as US election nears

Monitoring Desk

TAIPEI: Taiwan's defence ministry said on Sunday it had spotted 35 Chinese military aircraft, including fighters and bombers, flying to the island's south on the way to exercises in the Pacific, a second day in a row it has reported such activities.

China, which views democratically governed Taiwan as its own terri-

tor despite the strong objections of the government in Taipei, regularly sends its military in the skies and waters near the island seeking to enforce its sovereignty claims.

China's defence ministry did not respond to a request for comment on the missions, reported just days before Tuesday's US presidential election.

Israeli naval force detains person after landing in Lebanese coastal town, sources say

Monitoring Desk

BEIRUT: An Israeli naval force mounted a "special operation" in the northern Lebanese coastal town of Batroun early on Friday and captured one person, a security source said. Another source confirmed the incident, but did not say who was responsible. Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said security forces were investigating the incident.

Austria's Europe Minister to step down from office

Monitoring Desk

ZURICH: Austria's Minister for Europe and Constitutional Affairs, Karoline Edtstadler, is stepping down from government and will not seek a ministerial post in the country's next administration.

A spokesman confirmed the decision to news agency APA after the news was first reported in newspaper Kronen Zeitung late on Saturday. Edtstadler, a member of the conservative Austrian People's Party (ÖVP), is a member of the negotiating team trying to set up a coalition government after Austria's recent election.

US flies long-range bomber in drill with South Korea, Japan in reaction to the North's missile test

Monitoring Desk

SEOUL: The United States flew a long-range bomber in a trilateral drill with South Korea and Japan on Sunday in response to North Korea's recent test-firing of a new intercontinental ballistic missile designed to strike the U.S. mainland, South Korea's military said.

North Korea on Thursday tested the newly developed Hwasong-19 ICBM, which flew higher and stayed in the air longer than any other missile it has fired. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called it "an appropriate military action" to cope with external security threats posed by its rivals.

On Sunday, the U.S. flew the B-1B bomber to train with South Korean and Japanese fighter jets near the Korean Peninsula, demonstrating the three

countries' firm resolve and readiness to respond to North Korea's advancing nuclear and missile programs, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

The trilateral aerial training was the second by South Korea, the U.S. and Japan this year, the statement said.

The U.S. often responds to major North Korean missile tests with temporary deployments of some of its powerful military assets such as long-range bombers, aircraft carriers and nuclear-powered submarines to and near the Korean Peninsula.

North Korea typically responds angrily to such U.S. actions, calling them part of a U.S.-led plot to invade the North and performing additional weapons tests.

Harris campaigns in Michigan, Trump hits eastern battleground states

Monitoring Desk

DETROIT: Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris campaigns in Michigan on Sunday while her Republican rival Donald Trump will stop in three eastern battleground states in the final days of an election that could be decided by a small slice of American voters.

Opinion polls show a historically close race, and both campaigns say they are not sure who will prevail in the seven states that are likely to determine the outcome on Tuesday.

A poll showing Harris leading in Iowa—a state Trump won easily in the past two elections—raised the possibility of an unexpected outcome, though another poll showed her trailing in that state.

Harris is due to campaign in East Lansing, Michigan, a college town in an industrial state that is viewed as a must-win for the Democrat.

She faces skepticism from some of the state's 200,000 Arab Americans who are frustrated that the sitting vice president has not done more to help end the war in Gaza and scale back aid to Israel. Trump visited Dearborn, the heart of the Arab American community, on Friday and vowed to end the war in the Middle East.

Trump is due to hold rallies in three smaller cities that could help him galvanize the rural voters who make up an important part of his base. He starts the day in Litzitz, Pennsylvania, before heading to Kingston, North Carolina in the afternoon and ending with an evening rally in Macon, Georgia. It will be the first day since last Tuesday that the two candidates are not campaigning in the same state. On Saturday, their planes shared a swath of tarmac in Charlotte, North Carolina, where both candidates held rallies.



LAHORE: Citizens heading towards their destinations in the provincial capital in the early hours of the morning, during dense fog.

PMYP and SIA unite to empower Balochistan's Youth

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) has partnered with the Social Innovation Academy (SIA) to empower the youth of Balochistan through innovative approaches to social entrepreneurship.

The Letter of Intent (LOI) was signed in a ceremony attended by Rana Mashhood, Chairman of PMYP, marking a significant step in the region's commitment to fostering a new generation of change-makers.

This partnership will focus on developing social

enterprises, engaging youth in meaningful projects, and facilitating knowledge sharing across various sectors.

Through targeted skills training, mentorship and access to essential resources, PMYP and SIA aimed to equip young people to effectively address pressing social challenges in Balochistan.

"Empowering our youth is crucial for the sustainable development of Balochistan," Rana Mashhood said adding, "Through this collaboration, we aim to inspire young minds to become

proactive problem-solvers and innovative leaders in their communities."

The Social Innovation Academy's commitment to social innovation aligns perfectly with PMYP's vision of a thriving, empowered youth population.

"By combining our strengths, we can create impactful opportunities for young entrepreneurs," said a spokesperson from SIA, adding, "We believe that through social entrepreneurship, the youth of Balochistan can drive positive change and contribute to the region's growth."

Govt. focuses on judicial integrity: Barrister Aqeel

ISLAMABAD (APP): Advisor to the Prime Minister on Law and Justice, Barrister Aqeel Malik, on Sunday said that the government is committed to maintaining the integrity of the judicial system.

Speaking to a private news channel, he added that the government was focused on reforms that enhance its effectiveness and independence of judiciary.

He rejected the misconceptions surrounding the government's intentions regarding the judiciary, stating that "there is a false impression that the government wants to appoint its own judges."

Answering a question, he said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has made it a habit to find negative aspects even in positive developments.

He said that constructive criticism was welcome, but misinterpretations of the government's actions only serve to undermine the progress being made in legal reforms. He said that the government wanted to keep the 26th Amendment focused on legal and judicial reforms. Adding that, the judicial package was in that regard only, not anything else."



NEW YORK: Pakistan Ambassador to US Rizwan Saeed Sheikh addressing during community event held at the Consulate General of Pakistan.

Report reveals major damages in KP house Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (INP): A joint report by the Communications and Works Department revealed major losses incurred at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House in Islamabad.

As per detail, the report revealed that furniture worth Rs 10 lakh, digital video recorders, cameras, and laptops valued at Rs 15 lakh, and Rs 6 lakh in cash are missing.

Additionally, licensed arms, mobile phones, and other items worth Rs 64 lakh have vanished. MPAs and police personnel's cash totaling over Rs 16 lakh is also unaccounted for. Several important belongings of the Chief Minister are

missing as well.

The report estimates that renovating Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House will cost Rs 96.93 lakh.

It is important to note here that the Capital Development Authority (CDA) sealed different blocks of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) House Islamabad following Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest in the capital city.

The sealing operation was led by Special Magistrate Sardar Muhammad Asif. During the operation the CDA, sealed KP House blocks A and B. The authorities said C block was not sealed as the families were staying there.

Missing PTI lawyer Intizar Punjutha returns home

LAHORE (INP): Missing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawyer Intizar Punjutha, on Sunday returned home.

The Attock police earlier recovered Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf lawyer Intizar Punjutha, who had been missing since October 8, from GT Road, Attock.

According to police, the law enforcers signaled a suspicious vehicle to stop on the GT Road but it refused, leading to a brief standoff. The police chased and intercepted the car on which the kidnappers fled, abandoning their vehicle and hostage.

Intizar Punjutha, a senior lawyer who has also represented PTI in different cases, has been rescued by the police.

The police said that efforts are being made to arrest the culprits.

Meanwhile, visibly unwell Intizar Punjutha has been shifted to hospital for medical treatment.

Some people held nation Hostage: says JI supremo

LAHORE (PR): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan Ameer Engr Hafiz Naeemur Rehman has said that a handful of politicians have held the entire nation of 250 million individuals as hostages.

He expressed these views while addressing thousands of aspiring participants of BanoQabil program.

Thousands of students assembled in two grounds at Federal B Area and Gulshan e Memor area of Karachi, here on Sunday, for aptitude test under 4.0 variant of BanoQabil program, offering 50,000 opportunities in 29 disciplines.

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan Ameer Engr Hafiz Naeemur Rehman delivered the keynote address at the graceful ceremony.

Besides JI leadership, famous comedian Ayaz Khan, world famous body-builder Ramiz Ibrahim, YouTuber Danish and several other celebrities visited the venue to encourage the participants. They also shared their views about the initiative and Alkhidmat.

Pakistan is full of resources and bounties by Allah Almighty but unfortunately these resources are in the clutches of corrupt elements in the corridors of power, he said.

Talking about the education sector in Pakistan, he said that quality education has been kept out of the reach of ordinary Pakistani, whereas tens of millions of children in school going age are out of educational institutions due to poverty and flawed policies.

Sikh delegates commends Pakistan's minority rights efforts

LAHORE (APP): Ranjeet Singh Kahloon, leader of a 50-member Sikh delegation from Jamrood Club in Silicon Valley, California, praised Pakistan's efforts to protect the rights of minority communities, particularly the Sikh population.

During a meeting with Mian Kashif Ashfaq, CEO of the Pakistan Furniture Council, here on Sunday, Kahloon expressed appreciation for the secure and

respectful environment afforded to Sikhs in Pakistan.

He emphasized that Sikh community was living peacefully and comfortably across the country, experiencing freedom and protection in their cultural and religious practices. He highlighted that Pakistan's commitment to minority rights strengthens the bonds between different communities, fostering unity and mutual respect.

No durable peace until world's occupied people granted right of self-determination: Pakistan

NEW YORK (APP): Lasting international peace and stability will remain elusive until the people under foreign occupation, like those in Kashmir and Palestine, are allowed to exercise their right to self-determination, acting Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN, Usman Jadoon, told a visiting 23-member delegation from the US War College.

"The right to self-determination is one of the fundamental pillars of the UN Charter," Ambassador Jadoon said at his meeting with the delegation at the Pakistan Mission in New York.

In the course of briefing the delegation members

about Pakistan's role and work at the UN, he apprised them of its stance on the various regional and international issues, highlighting the decades-old Kashmir dispute and efforts to seek its resolution peacefully. The UN Security Council resolutions, which calls for a UN-supervised plebiscite to decide the wishes of the Kashmiri people, provide the framework for the resolution of the Kashmir dispute.

On combating terrorism, the Pakistani envoy referred to the enormous sacrifice made by Pakistan, saying, "Afghanistan has become a hub where the

Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) was using the Afghan soil to consistently target Pakistan."

There were valid concerns about the TTP forming an alliance with other terrorist outfits, principally Al-Qaeda, with its implications for regional peace and security. Pakistan, he said, shared the expectations of the international community about political inclusivity, and provision of educational and employment opportunities to women in Afghanistan, while underscoring that equal attention needed to be paid to the counter-terrorism aspect as well.

Ambassador Jadoon said that developing countries were making efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals, and fight the adverse aspects of climate change if given access global concessional finance. He said that mounting debt liabilities, and increase in fuel and commodity prices had created formidable challenges for the economies of developing countries.

"Pakistan has been advocating the reform of international financial architecture in a manner that is equitable and fair and helps the Global South overcome development deficits," he said.

Lahore's AQI reaches unprecedented levels

LAHORE (APP): Smog reigns in the city of gardens, Lahore is still number one among the most polluted cities in the world.

Air pollution in Lahore soared on Sunday, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) briefly reaching an "unprecedented" level of over 1,000 despite the Punjab government intensified efforts and a "green lockdown" in the city.

Data from a global air quality monitoring platform, AQI, showed air quality at 1,067 between 8am and 9am on Sunday. It was the highest in the world.

The average level of

smog in the provincial capital has also crossed the alarming level, making Lahore's mean air quality index 650. Apart from this, the smog has increased to an alarming level in Multan also, due to which citizens have common complaints of breathing problems and eye irritation.

In terms of air pollution, the Indian city of Delhi is number two. The American space agency NASA has released an aerial image in which it can be seen that smog has intensified due to the burning of crop residues in Indian bordering regions.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf along with prize winners of 17th CNS Amateur Golf Cup 2024 at MGGC, Islamabad.

Maryam to leave for London on 5th

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz is likely to visit London from Nov 5 for the treatment of throat infection. CM official sources told APP that the Punjab CM would leave for London on Nov 5, where she would get treatment from her personal physician.

She has been facing throat infection for a long time and she might get an operation for the infection, sources said. Maryam Nawaz's London visit would be the first foreign visit after assuming office of chief minister. The Punjab CM would stay in London for a one week.

Nov 14 cantonment by-polls ECP directs LEAs to ensure impartiality, fairly law enforcement

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has issued guidelines for law enforcement agencies (LEAs) providing security for the Nov 14 cantonment by-polls, directing them to remain impartial and neutral while preventing intimidation and fairly enforcing the law.

In a comprehensive code of conduct for law enforcers, the electoral watchdog emphasised the need to maintain impartiality and neutrality while fostering a peaceful voting atmosphere, assisting the Presiding Officer, providing guidance to voters, preventing intimidation and

fairly enforcing the law.

As per the ECP's code of conduct for the Cantonment Board bye-elections on November 14, 2024, law enforcement personnel, including police, must ensure free, fair, and transparent atmosphere outside polling stations including in Ward No. 06 of Rawalpindi Cantt, Ward Nos. 04 and 08 of Wah Cantt, and Ward No. 02, 04 of Pano Aqil Cantt, so that voters are not intimidated or obstructed in any way while casting their votes.

Security forces deployed at polling stations must avoid any actions that favor or oppose political parties or candidates.

Two die, six injured van overturns on motorway

ISLAMABAD (APP): Two persons died and six others were injured when a public transport vehicle met an accident on the Motorway near Bheera on Sunday.

According to a Motorway Police spokesman, the passenger van was going to Dir-bala from Raiwand Tablegi Markaz when it overturned due to one of its tyres burst.

Two passengers died on the spot while six others were shifted to Tehsil Headquarter Hospitals (THQ) Bheera and Bhalwal while 15 people were travelling in the van.

Siddiqui, Baig departing for Doha to attend Asian regional parliamentary summit

ISLAMABAD (APP): A two-member parliamentary delegation, comprising Senator Irfan Siddiqui and National Assembly member Mirza Iktiar Baig, is scheduled to depart for Doha on Monday to attend the Asian Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Qatar. The delegation, headed by PML-N parliamentary leader in the Senate and Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Irfan Siddiqui, will participate in the meeting of the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning

of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, scheduled for November 4 to November 7.

The meeting will focus on a two-point agenda concerning the budget and planning of the Parliamentary Assembly. Pakistan is an active member of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, which includes 43 countries such as China, Russia, India, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Iran, Iraq, Malaysia, Indonesia the United Arab Emirates, (UAE) Qatar and Bangladesh, along with 14 countries holding observer status.



QUETTA: Former Deputy Information Secretary PPP Balochistan Malik Zeeshan and Nadeem Khan Afridi greet PPP Parliamentary Secretary for Minority Affairs Sanjay Kumar on eve of Diwali

Ambassador AliSher hints Pak- Uzbekistan direct flights from November

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan AliSher Tukhtaev announced that direct flight operations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan will start at the end of the current month of November 2024, describing it as important for the business community of both countries. At present, the businesses of both countries, including the Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) want to take advantage of the direct flight operation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan and play their role in promoting bilateral economic and trade relations between the two nations, the ambassador said.

Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan

AliSher Tukhtaev said this during his meeting with President Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) Rana Muhammad Siddique Khan at the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Islamabad.

On the occasion, both sides discussed the promotion of bilateral economic and trade relations between the two countries and the possibility of an upcoming visit of the business delegation of GCCCI to Uzbekistan.

The Ambassador said that the Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce should play its due role in bilateral trade and business between Pakistan and Uzbekistan and exchange delegations with Uzbekistan.

He welcomed the decision of the President of the Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce to take a trade delegation to Uzbekistan and assured the business delegation of GCCCI to get full cooperation in Uzbekistan, describing it as important for bilateral trade.

He said that the business community of Pakistan can work in Uzbekistan in textile, Chemicals, IT, wood production and many potential sectors.

Uzbekistan is geographically located in the centre of Central Asia and can play a vital role in connecting the 80 million population of Central Asia with Pakistan, he added.



LAHORE: Members of Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen are holding celebration demonstration on approval of the 26th constitutional amendment, at Lahore press club.